

# REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

## NIGERIA SITUATION



**2019 - 2020**  
UPDATED FOR 2020

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All statistics are provisional and subject to change.

For more information on the Nigeria crisis go to: [Nigeria Information Sharing Portal](#)

**FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH:**

Some of the 133 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon preparing to return by air to Adamawa State in Nigeria, where the security situation has improved.

UNHCR/Xavier Bourgois

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# Foreword



Seven years on, the humanitarian crisis around the Lake Chad Basin is still far from over. Conflict and insecurity continue to cause significant displacement inside Nigeria and to force thousands of people to flee the country into Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Moreover, during 2019, the security situation also deteriorated in North Western Nigeria, forcing more than 35,000 Nigerians to flee to Niger's Maradi Region, and giving rise to a new emergency.



By the end of 2019, Cameroon, Chad and Niger were hosting 276,637 Nigerian refugees. With no foreseeable resolution to these conflicts, the number of refugees is expected to increase even further in 2020. The 2019-2020 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for Nigerian Refugees has been updated for 2020. It contains a revised implementation plan to address the needs of increasing numbers of Nigerian refugees and asylum seekers (including for the situation in the Maradi region of Niger), revised population planning figures and revised financial requirements for Cameroon, Chad and Niger.


The protraction of the crisis is increasingly burdening host countries that are struggling to cope with the mounting needs. Most host populations live below the poverty line in underserved areas and lack adequate access to services, compounding the risk of tensions between refugees and host communities. Since 2015, RRRP partners have scaled up efforts to provide protection and humanitarian assistance, save lives, improve living conditions and reinforce the resilience of Nigerian refugees and their hosts.

As we respond to the current emergency, we also envisage a better tomorrow. Accordingly, in 2020 RRRP Partners will be further strengthening strategic partnerships with development actors, to enable a more comprehensive response that integrates humanitarian and development approaches to refugee protection. In this way, and in keeping with the aspirations of the Global Compact for Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the 2020 RRRP has a greater focus on promoting longer-term solutions, by enhancing self-reliance and supporting host communities, while ensuring strong linkages to local and national development plans.

For 2020, Regional RRP partners are appealing for US\$ 138.4 million to assist 291,700 Nigerian refugees and close to 100,000 host community members. Effective interagency coordination cannot be understated, particularly in light of the complexities brought to bear by the COVID-19 pandemic. Working together through a joint planning framework is essential to effectively addressing the needs of affected populations. Some 40 partners are part of this implementation plan and will be striving together to build on the achievements to date, made possible by the generous support of our donors.

However, despite the collective efforts of so many partners and donors, the level of unmet needs remains staggering. Indeed in 2019, the RRRP received less than half (46 per cent) of total requirements of USD 135.3 million. We therefore call on the international community to maintain the same spirit of solidarity and donate generously in order to enable partners to respond to the needs outlined in this plan.

Forward and onward, let's ensure that no one is left behind!



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2020 PLANNED RESPONSE

292,000

REFUGEE  
POPULATION

98,000

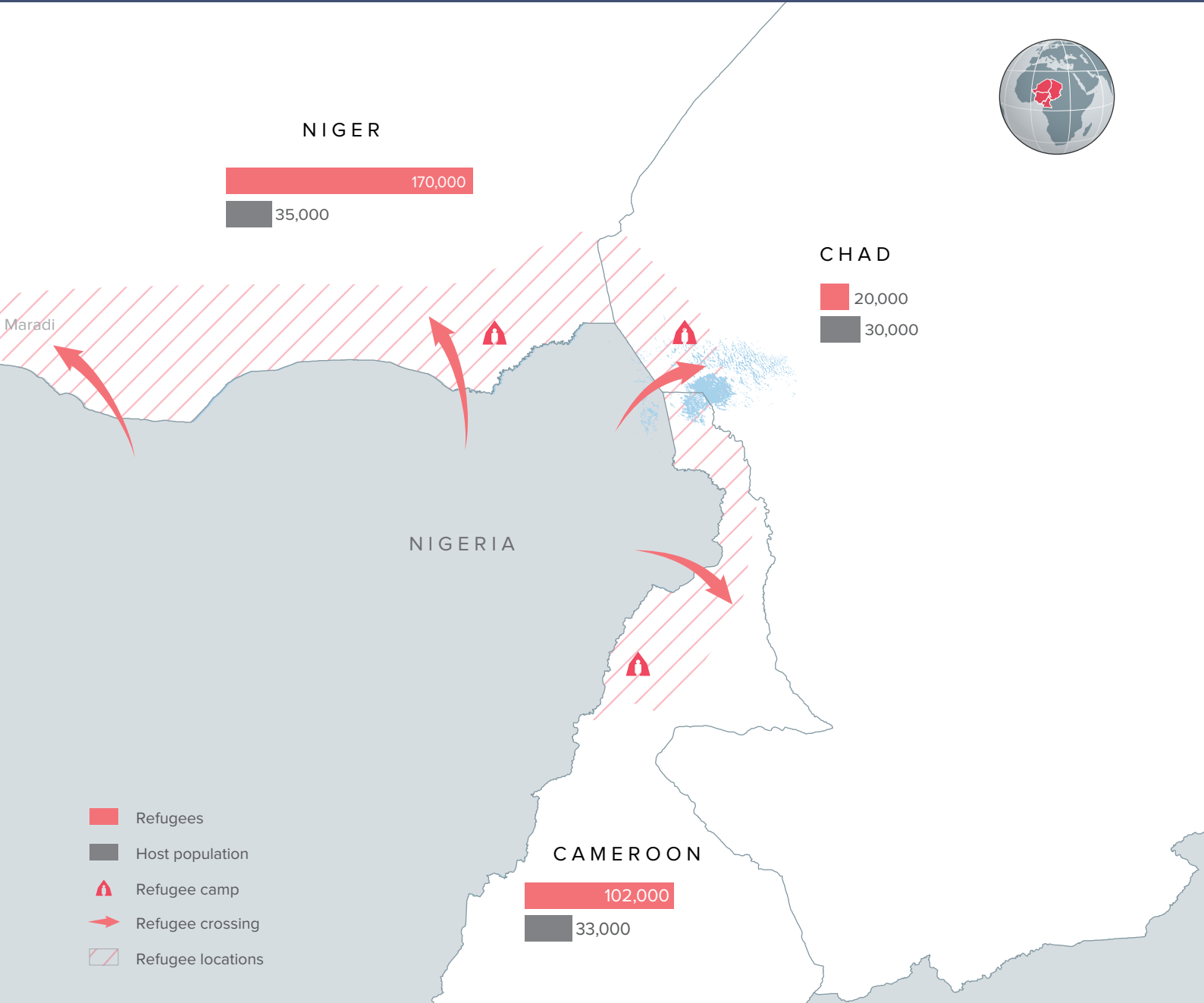
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

US\$ 138M

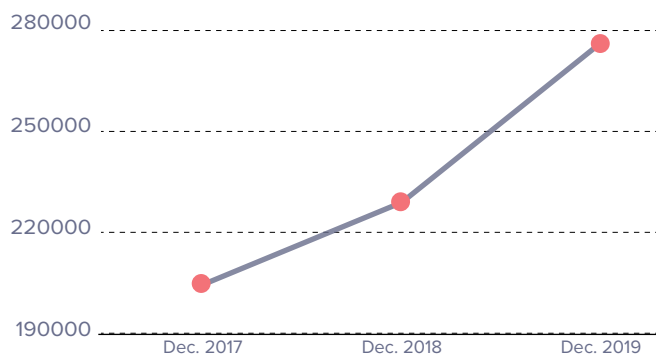
REQUIREMENTS

40

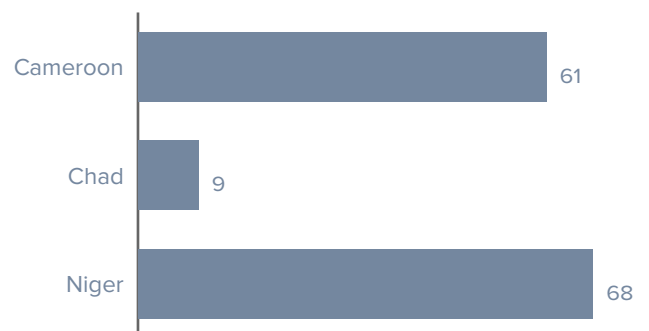
PARTNERS  
INVOLVED



Refugee Population Trends



Requirements | in millions US\$



# Regional Overview

## Introduction

To complement and strengthen government efforts, the 2019-2020 Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) updated for 2020 outlines the inter-agency response and financial requirements for the ongoing needs of 291,700 Nigerian refugees hosted in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The Plan includes refugees fleeing as a result of the Lake Chad Basin crisis as well as the more recent Nigerian refugee arrivals in Niger's Maradi region. The RRRP also seeks to address the needs of impacted 97,600 host populations in the affected areas and includes activities that intend to bridge the humanitarian emergency response to a longer-term perspective that builds resilience at the individual and local insituion levels.

As far as the Lake Chad Basin crisis is concerned, RRRP partners will be entering the seventh year of the response. Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) attacks, kidnappings and related armed conflicts continue to cause civilian casualties and forced displacement within and beyond the borders of Nigeria. Over the years, more than 279,000 Nigerian refugees<sup>1</sup> have been forced to seek protection in neighbouring Lake Chad Basin countries, including in Cameroon's Far North Region, Chad's Lac Region and Niger's Diffa Region.

Across the region, the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) has led military operations, which have resulted in sporadic improvements in the security situation. Yet, the proliferation of different insurgent groups in the Lake Chad Basin has made containment efforts more

challenging, with the second half of 2019 marked by a renewed increase in security incidents. In Cameroon, NSAG attacks and resulting military operations in border areas continue to impede Nigerian refugees' access to asylum. In Chad, the main challenge to assisting refugees living in host villages is restricted humanitarian access. In Niger repeated suicide attacks, assaults, and incursions perpetrated by NSAGs since March 2019 have resulted in secondary movements of tens of thousands of people within the Diffa region. NSAG attacks and military counter-insurgency operations along the Nigerian border are likely to trigger new refugee arrivals in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Overall, the prospects for voluntary return in safety and dignity in 2020 remain limited for most Nigerian refugees.

In this context and as spelled out in the January 2019 Reaffirmation of the Commitments of the Abuja Action Statement, putting the emphasis on protection remains essential in the response to the Lake Chad Basin crisis to ensure that refugees have access to asylum, to protection from refoulement as well as access to registration and civil status documentation. Maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee and IDP sites/hosting areas and effective civil-military coordination are required to reduce protection risks. In addition, it is essential that persons with specific needs – including survivors of violence, children at risk<sup>2</sup> and persons living with disability – can access protection and services. Weak local protection services remain a major challenge in this respect.

1. UNHCR and Government data as of 31 December 2019, available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/fr/situations/nigeriasituation>.

2. The Abuja Declaration puts an emphasize on protection of children at risk of recruitment and, strengthened demobilization and reintegration of children associated with armed groups.

To compound an already complex situation, the Lake Chad Basin faces endemic poverty and lagging economic productivity. Rapid population growth, climate change and extreme weather events have increased the vulnerability of local populations. Insecurity, state of emergency measures as well as mass displacements, have limited agriculture, fisheries, trade, transhumance and other activities – thus depriving the population of income generating opportunities and limiting their access to basic services. In Nigeria, the NSAGs insurgency has deepened the north-south divide with 68 per cent of the population in the most affected states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe being ‘multidimensionally poor’<sup>3</sup> compared to the 51.4 per cent national average. In Cameroon the gap is even greater, with 80 per cent considered ‘multidimensionally poor’ in the Far North region compared to the 45.3 per cent national average. In Chad’s Lac Chad region an alarming 98.2 per cent of the population fall into the category ‘multidimensionally poor’ against a national average of 85.7 per cent. In the Diffa region of Niger, 90.2 per cent of the population are ‘multidimensionally poor’ which is comparable to the overall high national average of 90.5 per cent.<sup>4</sup>

In these structurally weak areas, which are further fragilized by insecurity, host communities struggle to absorb the large number of Nigerian refugees, 63 per cent of whom have settled out of camps alongside host populations and IDPs. As the protracted crisis magnifies social and economic disparities in the Lake Chad region, tensions between refugees and host communities have been growing.

In addition to the Lake Chad crisis, since the first half of 2019 new displacement from Nigeria has affected

Niger’s Maradi region. Escalating violence and tensions between mostly Haoussa farmers and Fulani pastoralists in the Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara states located in north-western Nigeria have forced over 35,000 Nigerians<sup>5</sup> to seek asylum in the Maradi region. The humanitarian needs in the overwhelmed refugee hosting areas, with already weak infrastructure and basic services, are substantial. With ongoing insecurity on the border, RRRP partners are working with the Government of Niger to relocate refugees away from the border to ‘opportunity villages’, in order to mitigate security risks and to provide better living conditions. This scheme contributes to developing rural areas that lack adequate infrastructure and basic services, in line with the humanitarian-development nexus, ensuring that assistance provision is sustainable and reaches the host population as well.

In view of the prolonged character of the Nigeria refugee crisis, humanitarian assistance needs to be complemented by development interventions in the countries of asylum, to strengthen the resilience of refugees and host communities. In accordance with the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees<sup>6</sup>, the Nigeria RRRP is working to strengthen existing national services and social structures and to promote the inclusion of refugees in these systems.

In Chad, education facilities built in refugee camps were officially integrated into the national education system, and RRRP partners advocate for the same approach for health services. In Niger, humanitarian and development actors like the World Bank collaborate on the refugee response, while refugees and host communities will be included in national development plans such as the

<sup>3</sup> Multidimensional poverty encompasses the various deprivations experienced by poor people in their daily lives – such as poor health, lack of education, inadequate living standards, disempowerment, poor quality of work, the threat of violence, and living in areas that are environmentally hazardous, among others.

<sup>4</sup> Global Multi-Dimensional Poverty Index 2019 developed by UNDP Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), available at: <https://ophi.org/multi-dimensional-poverty-index/mpi-country-briefings/>

<sup>5</sup> UNHCR and Government data as of 31 December 2019, available at <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/country/ner>.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/the-global-compact-on-refugees.html>



Crisis Recovery Plan for Diffa, introduced by the National High Authority for the Consolidation of Peace. In Cameroon, UNHCR and partners developed a joint multi-year-multi-partner strategy (MYMPs) as well as operational projects for the Far North region to support

the resilience of refugees, local authorities, and the host community. In 2020, RRRP partners continue to pursue these and similar initiatives to provide more integrated, sustainable programming and results for refugees and host communities.

## Beneficiary Population

	Current population as of 31 December 2019	Planned Population as of end of 2020
<b>ASSISTED REFUGEE POPULATION</b>		
<b>Cameroon</b>	109,000	102,000
<b>Chad</b>	13,000	18,000
<b>Niger</b>	155,000	170,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>277,000</b>	<b>292,000</b>
<b>ASSISTED HOST POPULATION</b>		
<b>Cameroon</b>	20,000	33,000
<b>Chad</b>	20,000	30,000
<b>Niger</b>	30,000	35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>98,000</b>

## Regional Protection and Population Needs

The Lake Chad Basin continues to host one of the gravest refugee crises on the African continent, with 240,000 refugees accommodated in and outside of camps in Cameroon, Chad and Niger – often alongside IDPs. Persistent challenges in the areas of climate change, agro-pastoral conflicts over access to natural resources and socio-economic and political issues compound the effects of the crisis and the ability of displacement-affected communities to recover. Refugees and host communities face endemic conflicts, widespread violence, poverty and malnutrition. Moreover, restricted humanitarian access in some areas, insecurity and the heightened risk of kidnapping both for civilians as well as aid workers makes the provision of assistance and solutions even more complex.

### Protection

As the continued conflict in Nigeria is likely to lead to new refugee arrivals during 2020, maintaining and increasing access to asylum, rapid biometric registration of new arrivals and the provision (and timely renewal) of officially recognized refugee ID documents is essential. This is particularly urgent given the tense security environment in the border areas hosting refugees, which has led to cases of refoulement and detention in Cameroon. Border and detention monitoring are also important tools in this context to enhance access to asylum and protection. Moreover, NSAG attacks and inter-community tensions in the refugee and IDP hosting zones of Chad, Cameroon and Niger draw attention to the necessity of maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, reinforcing civil-military coordination and providing of legal support.

In 2019, 13,535 protection incidents were reported in the Diffa, Lac Chad and Extreme North regions hosting Nigerian refugees – including 5,462 SGBV and 430 child

protection cases. With no improvement in sight, protection monitoring remains a crucial activity to be able to inform prevention and response programming.

Fleeing traumatising violence has taken a social and psychological toll on vulnerable communities. Refugees, especially survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and children, require psychosocial support. Holistic mental health assistance must be made accessible in and outside of camps.

Although registration data shows that about 46 per cent of the refugee population have specific needs – many of whom are persons living with disabilities – services provided to Persons with Specific Needs (PSN) remain limited and thus require to be strengthened. To address the high level of SGBV and risks for children including abuse, child marriage, separation from care-givers due to displacement and idleness among young adults, community-based protection mechanisms need to be strengthened. To reduce risks of statelessness in this situation characterized by multiple and sometimes pendular and/or secondary displacements, specific attention to civil status, identity and nationality documentation is required.

### Education

The lack of education opportunities in the Lake Chad basin is a major challenge for host and refugee children, aggravating already low school enrolment rates. As of November 2019, 64 schools in Cameroon, 13 in Chad and 3 in Niger have been closed, negatively affecting students and teachers. In addition, the affected regions suffer from a lack of adequate infrastructure and trained teachers. In Lac Chad region, for example, there is an average of one teacher per 83 children, while the Diffa region would need an additional 700 teachers

Secondary movements within the country of asylum further reduce school attendance in Diffa. Thus, there is a pressing need to invest in education infrastructure, teacher training and sensitization to increase school attendance.

### Shelter/NFI

In 2020, emergency response capacity needs to be maintained in the shelter and Non-Food Item (NFI) sector to address immediate needs of newly arriving refugees, refugees affected by secondary displacement within the country of asylum and extreme weather events as well as to replace aging material. With the response entering its seventh year, the transition from emergency to transitional/long-term shelters needs to be accelerated.

The construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of infrastructure in the three camps (Dar es Salaam camp in Chad, Minawao camp in Cameroon and Sayam Forage camp in Niger hosting together over 88,000 refugees) as well as in urbanization sites in Diffa are essential to ensure adequate service provision.

### WASH

Water supply remains sub-standard in Niger and Cameroon, with over 100,000 persons (refugees and host community) in Diffa region facing drinking water problems and refugees in Minawao camp receiving only about 16 litres per day per person, instead of the required 20 litres. Thus, investments in water provision are a priority in 2020. Critical needs also persist with regards to sanitation: close to 155,000 people in Diffa region have no access to latrines, only 19 per cent of households have access to latrines in Dar es Salaam camp and Minawao camp lacks over 800 latrines.

### Health and Nutrition

The health and nutrition situation in the refugee hosting zones of Chad, Cameroon and Niger is characterized by the persistence of diseases such as malaria, respiratory

infections, measles and diarrhoea, exacerbated by a precarious overall nutritional situation. Health care facilities are overstretched and under-resourced and heavily dependent on support from humanitarian actors.

### Food security

With the disruption of many livelihood opportunities due to displacement and security restraints in countries of asylum most Nigerian refugees rely heavily on assistance. Overall the 360,000 persons (refugees and host population) are in phase 3 and above and the regions hosting Nigerian refugees are at crisis or stress levels of food insecurity. Thus, continued food assistance (in kind or through cash-based interventions) will remain essential.

### Livelihoods & Environment

In the light of the above, rebuilding self-reliance and strengthening the resilience of refugees and their host communities is a priority. The focus will be on the provision of sustainable livelihood opportunities in collaboration with local authorities and national governments in the host sites, villages and cities.

The desertification of fertile areas of Lake Chad and the Komadougou River is exacerbated by displacement-induced human pressure, which is further degrading the already fragile vegetation cover. Moreover, the heavy use of wood for construction of shelter and domestic energy is also contributing to environmental degradation. Therefore energy-efficient cooking, alternative energy sources and land rehabilitation measures must be put in place

As the regions hosting most of the Nigerian refugees struggle with continued attacks and endemic poverty, aggravated by climate shocks, RRRP partners must strengthen local as well as national government capacities to devise a long-term strategy in support of protection and solutions.

## THE SITUATION IN MARADI, NIGER

Intercommunal violence in Nigeria is likely to continue to lead to new arrivals of Nigerian refugees in Niger's Maradi region during 2020. Supporting the Nigerian Government in maintaining its open-door policy and registration as well as documentation for new arrivals is therefore crucial. With porous borders heightening the risk of incursions of armed elements in the immediate border zones and first spill-overs of violence into Niger observed, the voluntary relocation of Nigerian refugees to host communities at a larger distance of the border has begun. With SGBV and child protection risks having been reported in the refugee-hosting zones, the strengthening of community-based mechanisms are a priority. Services for persons with specific needs (over 40 per cent of the refugee population) and psychosocial support to survivors of violence are scarce.

In line with Niger's approach to settle Nigerian refugees in host "opportunity villages", schools and teaching capacities in these villages need to be reinforced to absorb the additional number of children.

As the refugee situation in Maradi is recent, the need for NFI and emergency shelters to support refugees and their host families is high. In parallel, the relocation and temporary integration in host villages requires the provision of transitional shelter for the most vulnerable households. To ensure adequate provision of drinking water for refugees and host communities existing water systems must be expanded and new hydraulic installations will have to be installed.

Even before the influx of Nigerian refugees, the Maradi region was prone to cholera outbreaks as well as recurrent malnutrition crises, thus the existing health and nutrition centres need to be strengthened to face additional requirements.

Livelihood programmes and measures to reduce the additional pressure on the environment will be a prioritized from the outset, in line with the strong humanitarian-development nexus approach adopted in the Maradi response.



UNHCR / Xavier Bourgois

# Regional Response Strategy and Priorities

## Protection

In line with the January 2019 [Reaffirmation of the Commitments of the Abuja Action Statement](#), the revised [Regional Protection Strategic Framework for the Lake Chad Basin](#) and the [Strategy on protection, return and recovery for North-East Nigeria](#), regional RRP partners will continue to support the Governments of Cameroon, Chad and Niger to improve the protection and solutions environment for affected populations in the Lake Chad Basin as well as in and around the Maradi region in Niger.

### ACCESS TO ASYLUM AND PROTECTION

Regional RRP partners will continue to support governments to strengthen and establish appropriate mechanisms and preventive measures to identify persons entering their territory in a protection and security-sensitive manner, and which is in accordance with their obligations under international law. This is done through border and protection monitoring and protection data analysis; the establishment of transit centres; joint screening processes for new arrivals; and pre-registration, as well as other measures, conducted with an age- and gender-sensitive manner. Moreover, regional RRP actors will step-up engagement with governments, local civil society actors and other stakeholders to strengthen their protection role and ensure enhanced accountability to affected populations.

Partners will encourage national bodies responsible for asylum-seekers and refugees as well as protection actors to increase their presence in border areas with a view to providing dignified treatment of persons in need of international protection. Advocacy and capacity building, including training on key international protection and human rights standards, including the principle of non-refoulement, will be enhanced for

border and defence officials, joint protection committees, national authorities and other government representatives, and traditional leaders. Partners will continue to advocate for national legal frameworks, for example the adoption of a refugee law. They will also support national institutions and structures for refugee protection and assistance and for their host communities in the context of socio-economic inclusion and community-based approaches in out-of-camp settings where possible. Collaboration with communities, government actors and development partners will be further strengthened to contribute to an enhanced protection environment.

### CIVIL REGISTRATION AND DOCUMENTATION FOR REFUGEES

As evidenced in a study on the risk of statelessness conducted in the Diffa region of Niger, most Nigerian refugees do not possess documents to prove their nationality or even to ascertain their legal linkage to Nigeria. At the same time, even before the current conflict-induced population displacements, relatively large cross-border population movements were taking place between Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger. These historical cross-border movements, in addition to weak civil registration systems, which were further fragilized by conflict, have increased the risk of statelessness in Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Cameroon. This also affects refugees' and some host community members' ability to access services.

SDG 16.9 promotes legal identity for all by 2030, and stresses on birth registration. UNHCR's ongoing global campaign against statelessness also highlights access to birth registration as a prerequisite for nationality documentation. The African Union's APAI-CRVS Program which focusses on civil registration on the continent further supports the need to prioritize this sector. In West

Africa, the ECOWAS Declaration of Ministers Against Statelessness and its Banjul Plan of Action are valuable regional tools that are now being translated into National Action Plans. They also incorporate specific pledges for action against statelessness made by Cameroon, Chad and Niger during the High-Level Event on Statelessness/ UNHCR Executive Committee meeting held in Geneva in October 2019. The Central African region's (to which Cameroon and Chad also belong) *N'djamena Initiative* under the auspices of ECCAS also provides an important momentum in the fight against statelessness.

Building on these tools, Regional RRP partners will continue to mobilize a broad range of actors to support the three Governments, in line with the *UN Secretary General's Guidance Note on addressing statelessness*, issued in November 2018. This includes working towards the adoption and implementation of National Action Plans against statelessness. Among others, the Cameroonian, Chadian and Nigerien Governments will be supported in their efforts to provide access to civil registration, identification and documentation (including proof of nationality to those in need and deserving) in a permanent and universal manner.

Accordingly, the response will build on the Niger 2019 Civil status registration Law and the 2019 - 2024 National Action Plan against statelessness. It will also include advocacy for and support to Cameroon in its efforts to ratify and implement the 1954 and 1961 UN Conventions on statelessness, and advocacy and support for Chad to adopt its National Action Plan against statelessness. Prevention and response to statelessness in this the Lake Chad Basin region provide a unique opportunity to bridge the humanitarian response and long-term development policies and initiatives, in line with the *triple nexus* approach and will be managed in that spirit. This encompasses initiatives to simplify birth registration and civil documentation procedures to address administrative hurdles and increase institutional capacities. Advocacy efforts will

also target the creation, strengthening and equipping of mobile registration units as well as the creation of new registration centres (especially in remote areas). Efforts will be made to integrate birth registration into other sectors such as education and health wherever it is feasible. Endeavours will also be made to reduce the cost of/and ensure access to birth registration and documentation, both in exile and in the context of Voluntary Repatriation. Awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of civil registration and the risks of statelessness will be conducted, targeting both refugees and host communities. Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) will be strengthened to support these information campaigns and legal aid.

#### **MAINTENANCE OF THE CIVILIAN AND HUMANITARIAN CHARACTER OF REFUGEE HOSTING AREAS. HUMANITARIAN ACCESS AND CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION**

Regional RRP partners will continue to work with governments to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee-hosting and return areas to facilitate humanitarian access. Partners will also conduct capacity building for security forces, such as the police and other camp-based security personnel, including female staff, on key international protection and human rights standards. SGBV prevention and the prevention of the violation of the rights of the child, such as forced recruitment, will be at the core of this training. Sensitizing refugees and host populations on the importance of maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum and strengthening awareness on their obligations as well as states responsibility will also be key.

Civil-military coordination mechanisms will be maintained to ensure an appropriate distinction between the roles of humanitarian actors and security forces as well as to enable humanitarian actors to access people in need of assistance in hard-to-reach areas. Regional

RRP partners will also continue to promote and advocate for the identification and separation of armed elements in accordance with international standards. Mine risk education will be promoted for affected populations, combined with demining action in areas affected by unexploded organs (UXOs). RRP Partners will also advocate for humanitarian corridors to enable access to affected populations to deliver humanitarian assistance. Likewise, RRP Partners will promote awareness on the UN Action Plan to address violent extremism.

### ACCOUNTABILITY TO AFFECTED POPULATIONS, COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION AND SUPPORT FOR PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

**Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP ) and community-based protection:** Regional RRP partners will work to ensure that affected people are put at the centre of the response. Partners commit to including AAP as a key aspect of their response, guaranteeing ownership of the response to refugees and host communities by considering their perspectives, priorities and needs at all stages of the Nigeria RRRP, including the design, implementation, monitoring and reporting phases. Partners are working together to create or enhance the system-wide culture of accountability by institutionalizing AAP, including Prevention of Sexual Expolotion and Abuse (PSEA), in the functions and resourcing of each of their organizations, alongside system-level cohesion, coordination, and learning. Moreover, a communicating with communities and a complaints and feedback strategy is being developed to ensure that partners can address any concerns and/or

**Child protection** will be enhanced through (among others) strengthened measures to prevent and respond to violence, abuse and exploitation of children, including child labour, forced recruitment and child marriage. Regional RRP partners will ensure that children have access to requisite protection services and support such as psychosocial services. The identification of and

complaints in a timely and adequate manner through the inclusion of activities that improve communication and two-way information sharing, including on rights and entitlement of refugees, the roles and responsibilities of partners and organizations' commitments, programmes and processes. as well as more meaningful participation of host community members and refugees from Nigeria.

**Persons with specific protection risks** need to be safe and receive appropriate preventive, responsive and restorative services. Therefore, partners will ensure that persons of concern enjoy their rights, taking into account age, gender and diversity, and the ability to participate fully in the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their family members and communities. The identification, documentation and monitoring of persons with specific needs, will continue to be strengthened through multi-sectoral needs assessments, collaboration with community-based networks and improved registration and profiling, ensuring that data of persons of concern is protected. Partners will also prioritize protection of survivors of violence and children at risk of recruitment. They will also focus on strengthening demobilization and reintegration of children associated with armed groups. Regional RRP partners will also continue to ensure a coordinated response to persons with specific needs, including through multi-sectoral referrals and response, enhanced community-based protection mechanisms, and access to psychosocial support. Partners will also pay attention to strengthening the identification and response to refugees living in host communities and remote or newly accessible areas.

response to children at risk, will be strengthened through improved Best Interest Assessment and Determination processes and community-based responses. RRRP Partners will also prioritize family reunification of separated or unaccompanied minors via cross-border searches where appropriate.

**SGBV prevention and response** will be strengthened, through enhanced provision of age and gender appropriate multi-sectoral assistance to SGBV survivors (such as medical, safety, psychosocial support and legal aid) and community-based protection mechanisms. Partners will ensure that SGBV is mainstreamed in all aspects of the humanitarian response. Focus will be placed on awareness-raising and capacity building for national, local and traditional authorities, security forces, displaced and host communities while ensuring that relevant SGBV standard operating procedures (SOPs) are rolled out and adhered to. The Nigeria RRP strategy will also focus on including the interagency SGBV strategy into existing national systems. Community groups will be operational for SGBV prevention and response. Partners will specifically target public services, including health centres for SGBV prevention and response interventions. Special attention will be given to population groups at risk of SGBV and to adolescents at reproductive age. In order to facilitate their integration, SGBV survivors will be offered livelihoods opportunities, access to education, and professional training. Increased accountability for violations against affected populations will be prioritised.

**Persons with disabilities** are at heightened risk of violence, exploitation and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence and with few opportunities for quality education and work. Disability considerations are relevant to all sectors and will be reflected across the inter-agency activities and interventions. RRRP partners will focus, among others, on removing and preventing physical barriers to accessing assistance, such as WASH, food and NFI distributions, increasing accessibility of information, feedback and complaints mechanisms, raising public awareness regarding the need to change perceptions of persons with disabilities, so that to eliminate targeted violence, abuse, exploitation and exclusion and addressing legal constraints that impact specifically on persons with disabilities (e.g. denial of birth registration).



## Access to Basic and Social Services

Partners will continue to provide refugee identity cards to help facilitate their access to services and the possibility of obtaining bank credit as a prerequisite to enhancing resilience. The possibility for naturalization as part of the local integration scheme will be explored for refugees who are willing to remain in the country of asylum as a citizen of that country. Greater partnerships, information sharing and programming in line with state solutions strategies will be promoted. The creation of multi-sector and multi-partner platforms in order to build synergies at a global and regional level including the strengthening of the humanitarian and development nexus for the achievement of comprehensive solutions will be prioritized.

### EDUCATION

As of November 2019, 64 schools were closed or non-functional in Cameroon, 13 in Chad and 3 in Niger due to insecurity affecting both students and teachers. Access to primary and secondary education remain a priority. As such, Regional RRP partners will continue to construct and rehabilitate schools and related infrastructure to enhance the protection, wellbeing and development of children and youth by ensuring that their learning environments are secure, safe and protected from attacks and provide for the psychosocial well-being of learners, teachers and other education personnel. They will also continue to provide scholastic materials, while ensuring that teachers and support staff are recruited, deployed and capacitated as necessary to comply with minimum standards for education in emergencies. Some of the main challenges in the education sector include: the lack of teachers; low enrolment of girls in schools as well as truancy and non-completion of schooling due to a multiplicity of reasons including early pregnancies; child labour or unwillingness of parents to expose their children to formal education; lack of remedial programs as well as

school closures due to insecurity.

Further challenges include ensuring the relevance of curricula to the lived experiences of refugees, IDP and returnee children and youth, as well as language differences between refugee children and host communities. Accordingly, partners will conduct community-wide awareness raising campaigns to highlight the importance of formal education for children, the negative effects of school truancy, with attention to girls' education and protection from SGBV at school. Furthermore, they will involve communities in the management of education facilities and in some areas offer livelihoods opportunities to Parent Teacher Associations to support the financial autonomy of schools. They will also set up and maintain pre-school activities, as well as vocational and literacy opportunities and advocate for refugee students to obtain university level scholarships. School-aged children are also in need of humanitarian assistance in education.

Partners will continue to work closely with governments on all of these priorities at both the national, state and local levels to ensure the sustainable inclusion of refugee learners into accredited national educational systems and programmes as soon as possible, including through provision of language support and accelerated learning opportunities, as needed.

### FOOD SECURITY

Regional RRP actors will continue to provide food rations, namely for new refugee arrivals, highly vulnerable refugees and vulnerable host community members. Cash-based interventions (CBI) will be gradually implemented in part to bolster resilience, encourage positive coping mechanisms and to ensure that some benefits are accrued by the local community. At the same time, in collaboration with development actors, partners will continue to address food insecurity

and help refugees to become self-reliant by increasing support to income-generating activities (IGAs), especially for women's groups. This will include capacity building/development and provision of tools and seeds for agropastoral production in communities, support to projects that will create productive assets and support for access of refugees to markets. In close collaboration with government authorities, partners will also explore animal health care and technical training on livestock breeding.

### HEALTH & NUTRITION

Partners in the health and nutrition sector will continue to focus on ensuring that refugees and host communities have access to primary and secondary health care as well as to reproductive health care. They will provide support to HIV/AIDS infected persons, engage in prevention of and response to acute malnutrition, particularly in children. Also, partners will construct/rehabilitate health centres, and equip them with essential personnel and drugs.

Community-based family planning, support for maternal and reproductive health, mental health services, voluntary testing, support to prevent mother-to-child HIV transmission, deworming of children, epidemiological surveillance and vaccinations will also be carried out. Furthermore, partners will advocate for increasing the number of health personnel and providing capacity building/development. In terms of nutrition, the sector will support the treatment of acute malnutrition through the establishment and maintenance of Infant and Young-Child Feeding (IYCF) spaces, expansion of prevention activities, as well as screening and management of malnutrition cases in communities. Moreover, partners will address root causes of malnutrition such as limited access to land and potable water, lack of diversified dietary habits and non-exclusive breastfeeding of infants. To sensitize communities in this regard, partners will support

livelihoods activities, conduct awareness raising on health- and WASH-related issues and promote the empowerment of women. Women empowerment will be mainstreamed across all sectors to both ensure a common understanding and goal.

All health-related initiatives will be conducted in collaboration with the government authorities to ensure sustainability through the mainstreaming of all services provided in refugee hosting areas into national health systems. Accordingly, an end-to-end inclusion of refugees in national health programs and policies will be facilitated. This will include a participatory (including local communities) identification of needs, planning, monitoring and evaluation, maintenance of referral mechanisms for medical cases from primary health care to secondary care and other interventions in the health and nutrition sector. Partners will also explore the possibility of a gradual implementation of a health-cost-reimbursement system for refugees where feasible.

### SHELTER & NON-FOOD ITEMS (NFIs)

While Regional RRP partners will have to continue to provide newly arriving refugees from Nigeria with emergency shelters, they will focus in 2019 on replacing existing emergency shelters with transitional and semi-permanent shelters. To do so, they will provide most refugee households with training, technical assistance, tools and material or cash assistance for the purchase of the required materials. The training will take into consideration local design that minimizes the need for wood which mitigates environmental damage.

However, persons with specific needs, who are not able to build their own shelters, will receive assistance for the construction of their homes, which includes community support. Partners will also ensure the construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of community shelters and infrastructure, including in host villages, with the engagement of communities as a means to contribute to

peaceful co-existence. Furthermore, partners will work with governments and local authorities and in line with national development plans on land allocation for the construction of permanent shelters for refugees. In some countries, they will also construct and rehabilitate roads in refugee camps, to facilitate movement of goods and people.

Regional RRP partners will continue to provide NFIs and hygiene kits to newly arrived refugees and also provide CBIs to those who need to replace used non-food-items.

### **WATER, SANITATION & HYGIENE (WASH)**

Regional RRP partners will continue to maintain and rehabilitate existing water and sanitation infrastructure. They will also extend existing water supply connection networks and increase water supply by constructing more boreholes and fountains in refugee camps and surrounding host community areas. In addition, they will ensure the collection and storage of water, through the distribution of water storage kits, as well as the construction of new, and rehabilitation of existing storage facilities.

In line with the Community-Led Total Sanitation approach, sector partners will construct additional latrines and showers in community buildings such as schools, health centres and markets as well as for families at household level with strong participation of refugees and host communities.

In so far as hygiene promotion is concerned, the emphasis will be on awareness-raising campaigns by trained hygiene promoters on hygiene best practice in order to prevent epidemics.

Solid municipal waste management - from waste collection to treatment and valorisation - will be enhanced with communities' involvement and the use of collection kits. Where possible, waste will be processed

into energy and fertilizer. In addition, partners will continue to provide rubbish bins and pits for the discharge of household waste. Regional RRP partners also plan to gradually implement cost-recovery systems. They will strengthen WASH management committees and support collection agents recognized by the municipalities with collection kits. While partnerships with state services will be further strengthened, municipalities will gradually take over the management and implementation of interventions in the WASH sector.

## Self-reliance and Environmental Protection

### LIVELIHOODS

In line with the Global Compact on Refugees, in addition to the traditional solutions of voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement in a third country, Regional RRP Partners will focus further on economic inclusion and livelihoods. Partners will promote and advocate for equality of opportunity for all members of society to participate in the economic life of their country of residence as employers, entrepreneurs, consumers, and citizens, as everyone, regardless of citizenship, has the right to work. In addition to traditional actors, partners will also approach non-traditional actors, like the private sector, development NGOs, academia and research institutions ensuring a whole-of-society approach. This arrangement to implement the GCR forms a great opportunity to enhance the inclusion of refugees in economic systems and development agendas, becoming one of the most important platforms at the country and regional levels to foster the resilience and self-reliance of refugees in a manner that also benefits host communities. Using their comparative advantages, RRRP partners, providing services under their area of expertise, including access to finance, education at all levels, and to land and inputs as well as training, coaching and job placement services, will work toward the common goal of including refugees and other affected populations into a market system (such as through wage or self-employment). Only market-oriented activities with proven (evidence-based) market linkages will be supported and implemented. Also, to the best extent possible, services and goods will be monetized, empowering beneficiaries, supporting local economic systems and promoting peaceful coexistence. Partners will place a special focus on ensuring refugees and hosting areas are included in national development plans.

### ENVIRONMENT

To mitigate the environmental impact of refugees, sector partners will continue to support community-based mechanisms to promote agroforestry and reforestation, including tree seedling production and planting as well as dune stabilization. Wherever possible, interventions such as food for work and money transfer will be intensified in 2019 to provide an income to refugees participating in environmental protection programmes. Village committees and environmental clubs, with the support of government authorities, will be engaged in awareness raising on environmental issues. Regional RRP partners will further support the use of alternative sources of energy such as energy efficient cooking stoves instead of firewood. To achieve this objective, energy saving stoves will be locally produced and distributed. Trainings and awareness-raising campaigns on the rational use and energy-saving practices for refugees and host populations will be conducted.

## Coordination

In 2020, with the establishment of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa, the functions of the Regional Refugee Coordination for the Nigeria situation have been incorporated into the new structure and will continue to include coordination with inter-agency partners and joint advocacy and resource mobilization.

In keeping with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), the UNHCR Regional Bureau Director for West and Central Africa, together with the Representatives in Cameroon, Chad and Niger, will continue to assist the respective governments in leading and coordinating the inter-agency response and resource mobilization for Nigerian refugees by UN agencies and NGOs. This will complement the different coordination and accountability mechanisms in place in each country, and the accountabilities and authorities of UNHCR and the respective Governments. The coordination among the three countries will also be supported by the outcomes of the Lake Chad Basin Regional Protection Dialogue, which recommended greater national and regional action planning to address protection and solutions in the region.

**In Cameroon**, refugee coordination structures are in place, with working groups for the various sectors. There is also an inter-sector response, which is coordinated in monthly meetings chaired by UNHCR at field and national level. Coordination and collaboration with the Government is ensured through liaison with the Governor's Office as well as with Regional Delegates of the respective ministries. RRRP partners are also working very closely with UNDP and the respective government counterparts to develop resilience programmes and integrated them into the refugee response.

**In Chad**, both the Government and UNHCR coordinate the inter-agency refugee response at field and national level. This coordination is now guided by the formal adoption of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) by the Chadian Government dating back to 3 May 2018. The current application of comprehensive responses, in an all-encompassing and inclusive whole-of-society approach, will result in the adoption and coordination of a larger variety of stakeholders to help Chad cope with the impact of hosting refugees, while bolstering resilience. It will also bolster engagement in development programmes under the overall guidance and leadership of the government and in keeping with already existing national plans. In this context the Government of Chad will continue to work in close collaboration with and be supported by UN agencies, NGOs, the World Bank, development actors, donors and the private sector. To enhance integrated and sustainable programming, regional RRP partners will also continue to engage other key players, such as private sector actors, to inject innovation, support learning, enhance livelihoods and microfinance opportunities for refugees and host communities.

**In Niger**, the Governors of the Diffa and Maradi regions, and regional sectorial working groups, led by technical directorates, coordinate the response at field level. UNHCR and OCHA together lead an inter-agency coordination committee that ensures a liaison between government and humanitarian agencies. UNHCR uses the cluster coordination system and sector working groups in line with the OCHA-UNHCR Note on Coordination in Mixed Situations, while remaining fully accountable for the refugee response in all sectors.

## THE GLOBAL COMPACT ON REFUGEES AND THE APPLICATION OF COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSES

In 2016, all 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, and the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) as part of it, to strengthen international responsibility sharing in situations of large movements of refugees and protracted refugee situations. The New York Declaration set in motion preparations for the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), informed by the practical application of comprehensive responses and a broad range of consultations. The GCR was agreed on by the General Assembly on 17 December 2018.

With the CRRF as an integral part, the global compact on refugees proposes a range of global and context-specific measures for applying comprehensive responses in a more systematic and sustainable ways, as outlined in its programme of action.

The objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees are to:

(i) ease pressures on host countries; (ii) enhance refugee self-reliance; (iii) expand access to third country solutions; and (iv) support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Regional RRP partners will continue to support processes aimed at achieving all durable solutions for refugees: voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement to third countries. They will support governments in ensuring that refugee returns are voluntary, safe and carried out in conditions of dignity. Such returns should also be based on well-informed decisions, conducted once conditions are conducive, and facilitated within the framework of tripartite agreements. Partners will also work with governments to continue upholding the principle of non-refoulement. Resettlement is used as a protection tool, and UNHCR and its partners will continue to proactively identify cases of urgent resettlement and other third country solutions.

Entering the seventh year of the response, partners are increasing focus on longer-term solutions, resilience and self-reliance. This includes improving sustainable livelihood opportunities for refugees and host communities as well as integration of refugees into local and national development systems. Promoting peaceful coexistence with host communities through a community-based approach, resolving communal disputes through local cohesion mechanisms, and addressing the needs of host-communities contribute to these efforts. Based on participatory approaches involving refugees, governments will continue to be supported in developing comprehensive durable solutions plans for refugees in line with national and local development plans. Partners will also work with government counterparts to strengthen their technical and operational capacities.

### REGIONAL RRP PARTNERS

- Action Contre la Faim
- Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
- Agir Plus
- Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré
- Alliance for International Medical Action - Bien Être de la Femme et l'Enfant au Niger
- Association Nigérienne pour le Traitement de la Délinquance et la prévention du crime
- Association de lutte contre les Stupefiants ppur l'Encadrement et l'Integration des Enfants de la Rue au Tchad
- Catholic Agency for Overseas Development
- CARE
- Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement
- Cooperazione Internazionale
- Développement Endogène Durable et Innovation
- Deutsche Welthungerhilfe
- ONG DIKO: Association pour le Secours aux Populations Vulnérables
- Danish Refugee Council
- Food and Agriculture Organisation
- Humanity and Inclusion
- Humanitaires Sans Frontières
- International Aid Services (IAS)
- International Medical Corps
- INTERSOS Organizzazione Umanitaria
- International Organization for Migration
- International Rescue Committee
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Lutheran World Federation
- Mercy Corps
- Micro-Recyc Cooperation
- Norwegian Refugee Council
- Plan International
- Première Urgence Internationale
- Save the Children
- Search for Common Ground
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Population Fund
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- United Nations Children's Fund
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
- World Food Programme
- World Health Organisation
- World Vision International

## Regional Objectives & Indicators

<b>EDUCATION</b>	<p><b>Population has optimal access to education</b>            89,836 students enrolled in primary and secondary education            379 classrooms built and equipped for secondary education</p>
<b>FOOD SECURITY</b>	<p><b>Population's food security improved or strengthened</b>            3,490 persons met consumption needs through seeds and agricultural tools received            20,109 persons met consumption needs through seeds and agricultural tools</p>
<b>HEALTH &amp; NUTRITION</b>	<p><b>Health status of the population improved</b>            32 health centers constructed or rehabilitated</p> <p><b>Prevention of and response to malnutrition strengthened</b>            11,608 children screened, identified, and admitted to MAM and SAM treatments</p>
<b>LIVELIHOODS &amp; ENVIRONMENT</b>	<p><b>Self-reliance and livelihoods improved</b>            60,255 persons met part of households needs through production kits for agricultural/fishery/livestock activities</p> <p><b>Natural resources and shared environment better protected</b>            452,500 tree seedlings planted to mitigate deforestation</p>
<b>PROTECTION</b>	<p><b>Refugees are registered and receive appropriate documentation, and access to civil registration and documentation is enhanced</b>            100% of refugees registered on an individual basis and received appropriate documentation            40,100 refugees aged 18 years+ hold an individual identity document</p> <p><b>Persons with specific needs are safe and receive appropriate preventive, responsive and restorative services</b>            100% of survivors of SGBV/SEA receive response and assistance</p>
<b>SHELTER &amp; NFIS</b>	<p><b>Refugees are assisted through a comprehensive solutions approach</b>            10,250 persons received legal assistance</p> <p><b>Shelter and infrastructures established, improved and maintained</b>            16,543 emergency shelters provided</p> <p><b>Population has sufficient basic items</b>            27,182 households provided with basic domestic items</p>
<b>WASH</b>	<p><b>Supply of potable water increased or maintained</b>            120 boreholes rehabilitated and/or constructed</p> <p><b>Sanitation and hygiene condition enhanced</b>            10,570 family latrines constructed</p>

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization & Country

ORGANIZATION	CAMEROON	CHAD	NIGER	TOTAL
ACF			873,824	<b>873,824</b>
ACTED			1,699,719	<b>1,699,719</b>
Agir Plus			304,150	<b>304,150</b>
ALDEPA	723,250			<b>723,250</b>
ALIMA-BEFEN			340,000	<b>340,000</b>
ANTD			250,000	<b>250,000</b>
ASEIERT		91,632		<b>91,632</b>
CAFOD			1,491,844	<b>1,491,844</b>
CARE		299,956		<b>299,956</b>
CIAUD			410,784	<b>410,784</b>
COOPI			884,097	<b>884,097</b>
DEDI			429,451	<b>429,451</b>
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe			90,811	<b>90,811</b>
DIKO			590,899	<b>590,899</b>
DRC			90,000	<b>90,000</b>
FAO	3,200,000		2,000,000	<b>5,200,000</b>
HI			720,849	<b>720,849</b>
HSF			142,631	<b>142,631</b>
IAS			425,000	<b>425,000</b>
IMC	2,733,500			<b>2,733,500</b>
INTEROS	2,250,000	981,187		<b>3,231,187</b>
IOM			4,999,618	<b>4,999,618</b>
IRC	800,250		1,569,677	<b>2,369,927</b>
Luxembourg Red Cross			421,583	<b>421,583</b>
LWF	238,080			<b>238,080</b>
Mercy Corps			1,089,133	<b>1,089,133</b>
MRC			350,000	<b>350,000</b>
NRC	700,000		339,011	<b>1,039,011</b>
PLAN INTERNATIONAL	758,151			<b>758,151</b>
PUI	3,368,746			<b>3,368,746</b>
Save the Children			337,500	<b>337,500</b>
SFCG			63,590	<b>63,590</b>
UNDP	1,000,000			<b>1,000,000</b>



ORGANIZATION	CAMEROON	CHAD	NIGER	TOTAL
UNFPA	450,000	1,541,786		<b>1,991,786</b>
UNHCR	24,699,587	6,270,032	24,622,904	<b>55,592,523</b>
UNICEF	1,100,000	183,442	1,813,558	<b>3,097,000</b>
UNWOMEN	750,000			<b>750,000</b>
WFP	18,130,614	145,945	20,539,762	<b>38,816,321</b>
WHO			237,888	<b>237,888</b>
World Vision			834,000	<b>834,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>60,902,178</b>	<b>9,513,980</b>	<b>67,962,283</b>	<b>138,378,441</b>

## By Sector & Country

SECTOR	CAMEROON	CHAD	NIGER	TOTAL
Education	4,323,197	1,782,308	5,333,979	<b>11,439,484</b>
Food Security	22,442,062	145,945	21,603,541	<b>44,191,548</b>
Health & Nutrition	4,861,082	2,333,553	3,908,589	<b>11,103,224</b>
Livelihoods & Environment	4,389,920	1,390,124	7,526,859	<b>13,306,903</b>
Protection	18,341,103	1,946,192	11,753,310	<b>32,040,605</b>
Shelter & NFIs	2,786,416	1,269,318	11,702,691	<b>15,758,425</b>
WASH	3,758,398	646,540	6,133,314	<b>10,538,252</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>60,902,178</b>	<b>9,513,980</b>	<b>67,962,283</b>	<b>138,378,441</b>



# CAMEROON REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2020 PLANNED RESPONSE

102,000

REFUGEE  
POPULATION

33,000

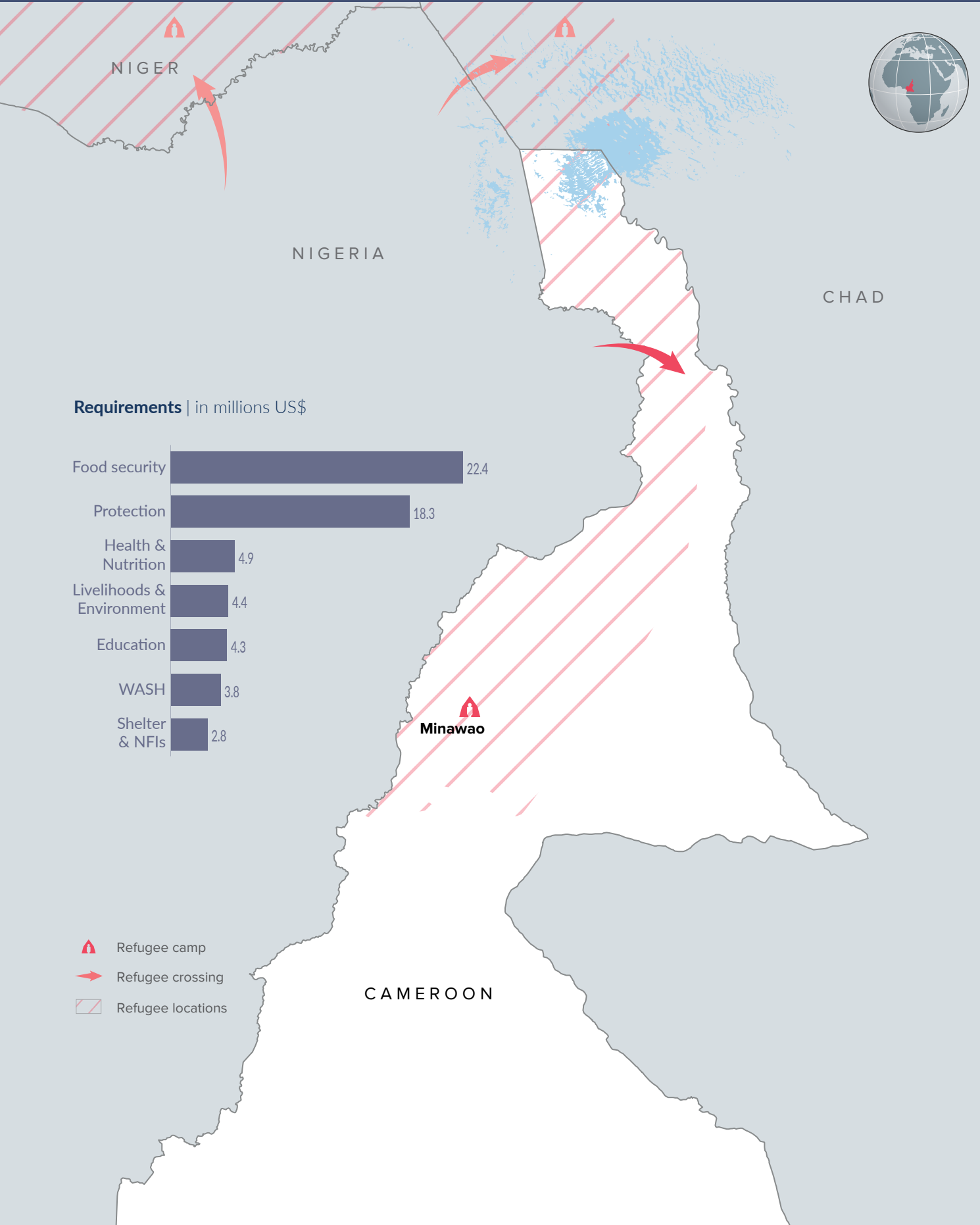
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

US\$ 61M

REQUIREMENTS

15

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED



# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

New refugee arrivals from Nigeria continued in 2019 as a result of the deteriorating security conditions and protection environment in north-east Nigeria. The protracted insurgency and recurrent attacks by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) have caused by the end of December 2019 a total of 108,714 Nigerian refugees to seek refuge in the Far North region of Cameroon. The Gourenghel transit centre continues to receive the newly arriving asylum seekers. Individuals are then assisted and registered before being transferred to Minawao refugee camp or deciding to stay in host communities. Currently, 61,897 refugees are currently hosted in Minawao refugee camp and 46,817 are settled in villages with the local population.

Meanwhile, security conditions within the Far North Region of Cameroon also remain volatile, as sporadic attacks by NSAGs continue to occur, including killings, kidnappings, sexual and gender-based violence, pillaging and the burning of villages. Despite sustained efforts and military operations by Cameroonian, Nigerian and Chadian troops to liberate and secure territory, criminality is on the rise in nearly all regions along the Nigerian border. Insecurity continues to have the most adverse effects on civilian populations and administrative structures in the départements of Logone-Et-Chari, Mayo-Tsanaga and Mayo-Sava in the Far North region. Moreover, poverty and inequality are especially widespread in the Far North region of Cameroon.

In this context of insecurity, socio-political tensions and economic crisis, the Cameroonian authorities collaborate with national and international partners to improve

access to asylum, protection and assistance for Nigerian refugees in the Far North. These efforts are reflected in the remarkable improvement in access to asylum in 2019. Efforts engaged in training security forces, administrative and traditional authorities as well as religious leaders on international protection principles and instruments have largely contributed to this result, as has the biometric registration and provision of documentation to over 40,000 refugees living in villages.

Significant efforts have been made by the humanitarian community in 2019 to ameliorate the protection environment for refugees in Cameroon's Far North. For instance, reception conditions in the Gourenghel transit centre and the security situation for newly arriving refugees in Minawao camp have been improved.

To enhance the legal protection of refugees, protection focal points have been taught about refugees' rights, access to justice for refugees in conflict with the law and referral mechanisms to legal assistance. Furthermore, advocacy was undertaken with judicial authorities to provide civil documentation to refugees living in camps as well as host communities. Mobile court hearings facilitated the delivery of birth certificates to refugee children outside of camps. Capacity building initiatives for judicial, administrative and local actors on civil documentation and the risks of statelessness complemented this process.

In collaboration with development actors, humanitarian organizations have decided to direct action towards

livelihood projects to support refugees' self-reliance. Income generating activities, capacity building, tool distributions, vocational trainings etc. are to be set-up, organized and/or reinforced with the participation of beneficiaries and local authorities. Advocacy is continuing with local authorities and host communities for the access to land be provided to refugees for agricultural and grazing activities.

In addition, refugees have been mainstreamed in developing the National Growth and Employment Strategy Paper (GESP), and UNHCR, in close collaboration with ILO, are currently working with the National Employment Fund (NEF) to ensure that refugees have the same employment opportunities in the country. Overall, together with local institutions and partner ministries, RRRP partners have been supporting livelihoods activities to the benefit of both refugees and host communities.

## Needs and Vulnerabilities

The deteriorating security situation and protection environment in north-eastern Nigeria due to recurrent attacks by NSAGs caused a growing number of refugees to settle in Minawao camp. Nearly 3,500 individuals were transferred to Minawao refugee camp in 2019, increasing the refugee population to close to 109,000 people (around 53.5% per cent women and 46.5% men). This population includes more than 54,100 children out of which 48 per cent are school-aged, 29 per cent have specific needs and two per cent are child heads of households.

Population projections for 2020 predict an increase of about close to 8,150 people, mostly due to births, in conjunction with a decrease of more than 13,605 people, including the voluntary return of about 10,000 individuals bringing the total population planned population to 102,000 for 2020. In addition, given the limited capacity of local communities and their own resources being overstretched as they host refugees some 360,000 members of host communities will be impacted during 2020. It is however crucial to provide them support to improve social cohesion and promote peaceful coexistence between host and displaced communities. As such, 33,000 host community members will be directly targeted by RRRP partners.

About 20 per cent of the refugee population in Minawao camp and previously inaccessible areas still need to be registered and receive refugee identification documents. Meanwhile, registration of newly arriving refugees and renewal of existing documents must be ensured. These procedures are essential to maintain an updated and precise database of refugees' personal data to improve planning, programming and reporting of the response. Biometric registration and documentation of refugees outside of camps remains a fundamental exercise for 2020.

Legal advice and support must be made available to refugees, while advocacy with authorities is important to strengthen access to asylum, especially to prevent refoulement. A lack of state capacity and effective refugee committees currently impede legal protection. Local and traditional authorities, security forces and religious leaders are therefore in continued need of institutional support, as well as training on international protection policies and laws.

A lack of socio-economic opportunities in the Far North exposes the refugee population to heightened risks of exploitation, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and terrorist violence. SGBV prevention and response

remain major challenges, while the persistence of harmful cultural practices combined with a weak judicial system negatively impact on the protection of women. Vulnerable refugees in the Far North, especially refugee children, survivors of SGBV and persons with specific needs (PSN) require holistic psychosocial care. Refugee children are exposed to many protection risks (exploitation and child labour, SGBVs, forced and/or early marriage, etc.). Efforts made by the Government to address these issues have been recognized and must be reinforced and supported.

People with special needs represent at least 29 per cent of the refugee population (30,530) including 1,272 people with disabilities. The specificities of individuals' disabilities will need to be considered in the provision of services, education, and vocational trainings.

The surroundings of Minawao refugee camp are unfavourable to livelihood activities due to widespread poverty and climate change induced environmental degradation. Access to basic services (health care,

adequate nutrition, WASH and education), self-reliance and economic inclusion of refugees therefore pose sincere protection concerns. In the long-term, RRRP partners need to implement durable solutions, such as voluntary return to areas of origin where security conditions are adequate and basic social services function. In its Development Policy Letter to the World Bank on 11 August 2017 as part of the IDA 18 resources, the Government of Cameroon committed to complying with international standards for facilitation of voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees and to ensure protection and assistance to those who do not opt for this sustainable solution. The Tripartite Agreement for Voluntary Repatriation was signed in March 2017. To date, only 133 refugees have been repatriated in August 2019 to Adamawa State, out of about 2,800 refugees who have expressed their intention to return to Nigeria. It should be noted that most refugees residing in Minawao camp are from Borno State where security conditions are not yet favourable. Concurrently, local integration activities for refugees wishing to settle in Cameroon must be supported.



# Response Strategy and Priorities

In 2020, RRRP partners will concentrate on strengthening the protective environment and enabling livelihoods opportunities as well as resilience for refugee and host communities. Focus will be placed on:

**Protection in accordance with international standards** [maintaining asylum space](#), access to territory and fair asylum procedures through border monitoring and advocacy with authorities at central and local levels;  
[Providing ongoing expertise](#) on refugee status determination procedures, and strengthening the capacities of the technical services and extending their geographical coverage through decentralized structures of refugee reception areas;  
[Providing technical assistance](#) to public services for the issuance of identity documents to refugees and asylum seekers to support the implementation of the 2016/373 Decree of 4 August 2016, and the recognition identification documents; and

[Supporting the Government of Cameroon](#) to implement the Refugee Act 2005 through training, awareness and mass information campaigns.

**Strengthening the capacity of basic social services in collaboration with the Government and other stakeholders in refugee reception areas to ensure equitable access to services and public service infrastructure for host and refugee communities**  
[Optimizing access to basic social services](#) (WASH, education, health, energy, etc.) through infrastructure development in collaboration with relevant ministries/ services;  
[Strengthening sexual and gender-based violence \(SGBV\) and child protection activities](#) through community mobilization and enhanced psychosocial care for victims/survivors; and



UNHCR / Xavier Bourgois



[Strengthening the management of community infrastructure](#) in collaboration with the Government and development partners.

**Strengthening empowerment and social cohesion in refugee and IDP reception areas through a community-based approach to sustainable livelihoods, increased environmental protection and conflict management** (see Strengthening Livelihood and Resilience section for details.)

#### **Strengthening livelihoods and resilience**

RRRP partners will focus on strengthening refugee and host community self-reliance and access to livelihoods opportunities while supporting economic inclusion. To ensure that resilience and self-reliance of targeted populations are sustainable, activities will be based on humanitarian and sectoral principles and standards. All interventions will also be in line with the priorities and strategies defined in the Municipal Development Plans of the municipalities that host Nigerian refugees (Mokolo, Mora, Kousseri). These interventions will aim to restore economic structures (infrastructure, organizations, etc.) and refugee and host communities' livelihoods. They will also aim to facilitate access to means of production and funds to develop value chains involving affected communities. Capacity building and monitoring, setting up structures, developing networks and sustainable partnerships through advocacy will also be part of the approach with a focus on:

[Promoting social and economic capacity of refugees and host communities](#) to meet basic needs to reduce their vulnerability and dependency on humanitarian aid in the long term;

[Developing sustainable livelihoods](#) through the implementation of an integrated strategy targeting refugees and host communities, bringing together the Government and development partners, to promote

vocational training, income-generating activities and the main livelihoods (agriculture, livestock, small trade, trade, etc.);

[Promoting environmental protection](#) in refugee reception areas through joint environmental management interventions and committees, including awareness, capacity building for local actors, fuel-saving reforestation initiatives, early warning systems; and [Improving social cohesion and peaceful coexistence](#) by strengthening local mechanisms for preventing and managing conflicts in refugee and IDP reception areas and the systematic involvement of refugees, IDPs and host communities in decision-making, planning and monitoring programmes.

In addition, these actions will integrate cross-cutting themes such as equity, gender, participation, quality, peaceful coexistence, community mobilization, access to financial services, access to microfinance and environmental protection. To achieve these objectives, RRRP partners will use cash-based interventions (CBI), while enhancing communication, visibility, coordination, complaint and feedback mechanisms as well as collaboration with key actors ranging from municipal and sectoral services to humanitarian actors.

Resilience programming is based on the humanitarian-development nexus. The link between humanitarian aid and development must be strengthened for all subsistence activities and local socio-economic integration projects for refugees in Minawao camp as well as villages as they will benefit both refugee and host communities. Furthermore, social cohesion projects will enhance the prevention and resolution of community conflicts and the promotion of peaceful coexistence. RRRP partners will ensure that the needs of Nigerian refugees are included in national development programmes/projects (World Bank, IDA, AFD, JICA, etc.), while advocating for the inclusion of refugees in local structures and social support mechanisms.

## Coordination and Partnerships

The Government continues to take the lead in coordinating the Nigerian refugee response in Cameroon. At the regional level, government entities lead sectors with UN agency co-leads. UNHCR chairs a Multisectoral Operations Team that brings together all sector leads and co-leads as well as key partners operating in the region to give strategic and operational guidance. UNHCR also continues to lead the Multisectoral Operations Team for the overall refugee response in the country as well as the national Protection Working Group in the capital, Yaounde.

In accordance with the “OCHA - UNHCR Joint Note on Mixed Situations - Coordination in Practice”, responsibility for coordinating the overall humanitarian response in the Far North has been delegated to the OCHA Maroua Office. The Humanitarian Coordinator remains accountable for non-refugee-related responses, while UNHCR maintains its accountability for the refugee response. Clusters are not active in the Far North region. Field-based coordination is complemented at the national level by inter-sector working group meetings in collaboration in the office of the Governor and Regional Delegates of the ministries in charge of infrastructure, water resource development, and security.

At the national level, an inter-ministerial working group has been set up to monitor the objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees. This group is coordinated by the Ministry of External Relations and brings together not only official administrations involved in the management of refugees, but also civil society actors and the private sector. In addition, the government has chosen the option of integrating refugees into its socio-economic planning mechanisms in the same way as nationals. This appears clearly in the ongoing National Post-Document for Growth and Employment Strategy formulation

process for the next ten years. Likewise, the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus is being implemented and gradually takes shape.

Nigeria refugee programme planning, implementation and monitoring will be coordinated both at the national and local levels. Stakeholders’ participation in the inter-agency, Humanitarian Country Team and other coordination mechanisms will be supported and reinforced with reports on achievements, experiences, challenges and lessons learned. The harmonization and coordination of different interventions is essential to maximize benefits for beneficiaries, and to avoid ineffective duplication of actions.

Thanks to the partnership between UNHCR and the World Bank, Cameroon was one of the first countries to benefit from the World Bank’s International Development Association 2018 (IDA 18) projects to support the development of areas hosting refugees and will continue in 2020. Further development partnerships will be explored and implemented in 2020.

**RRP PARTNERS**

- ALDEPA
- PUI
- FAO
- UNDP
- IMC
- UNFPA
- INTERSOS
- UNHCR
- IRC
- UNICEF
- LWF
- UNWOMEN
- NRC
- WFP
- PLAN INTERNATIONAL

# Planned Response

## Protection

RRRP partners will closely collaborate with the Cameroonian authorities and other partners to respond to Nigerian refugees' protection needs in the Far North region. Reliable data collection and analysis are at the centre of the protection response strategy.

### ACCESS TO TERRITORY AND REDUCTION OF REFOULEMENT

RRRP partners will advocate with Cameroonian authorities to strengthen compliance with non-refoulement and decriminalise asylum seekers entering the country, who are currently subject to detention if they lack documentation. In collaboration with the Joint Protection Committee, including local authority delegates, RRRP partners will monitor the situation of refugees in the camp as well as host communities, while setting up an alert system at the border. This monitoring system will aim to, on the one hand, identify vulnerable refugees and asylum-seekers for emergency response services and, on the other hand, document alleged violations of the right to seek asylum in Cameroon. Collaboration with government partner Emmi Immigration is pursued to document refugee entry and exit movements in Cameroon's Far North. This will enable the Government to know refugee movements in and out of the camps due to spontaneous departures but also new arrivals that will continue to be registered. At the Gourenquel transit center, security controls, needs assessment and management of protection cases will continue, while strengthening the security committees in the departments of Logone and Chari, Mayo Sava and Mayo Tsanaga. New refugees are likely to settle in Minawao refugee camp.

#### OBJECTIVE 1:

**Access to asylum and protection is enhanced**

1,000 representatives of Government authorities, international organizations and civil society trained on refugee protection

#### OBJECTIVE 2:

**Refugees are registered and receive appropriate documentation, and access to civil registration and documentation is enhanced**

40,000 refugees received civil documents

#### OBJECTIVE 3:

**Persons with specific needs are safe and receive appropriate preventive, responsive and restorative services**

10,000 persons received legal assistance

RRP partners aim to train border authorities in international protection in order to significantly reduce the risk of refoulement and enforce the principle of civil and humanitarian character of asylum and camps / sites, in short, respect for the rights of refugees. Legal and judicial assistance will be provided to refugees in conflict with the law, those prosecuted for acts related to terrorism as well as those prosecuted for crimes under ordinary law. Survivors of terrorist violence will receive legal and psychosocial support to facilitate their care as needed and their resilience within the host community for their empowerment.

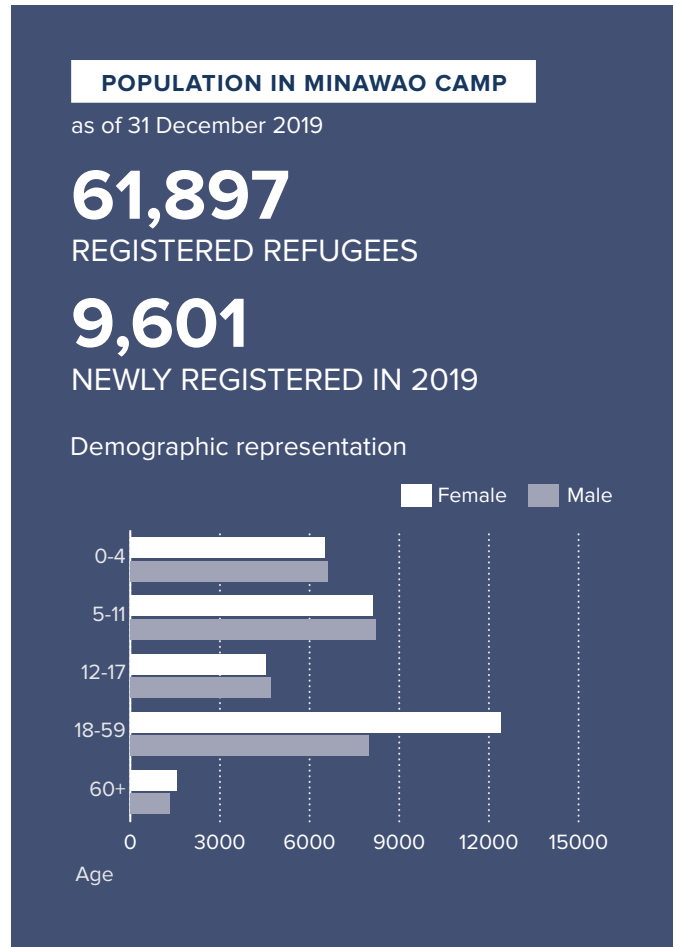
**COMMUNITY-BASED PROTECTION**

The Protection Sector will work with affected populations to set up and strengthen community structures. Sensitization sessions will be organized to inform and communicate with members of the community on protection issues of the most vulnerable segments of the Nigerian refugee population (women, children heads of household, the elderly, people living with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, etc.). Beneficiaries’ access to legal assistance will also be strengthened through tribunals and visits to detention centres. Capacity building workshops will be held for administrative authorities, security forces, court officials, refugee and host communities to facilitate access to justice and combat impunity.

**SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV)**

The prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remain major challenges. New cases of rape and forced and child marriage are regularly reported and recorded. The persistence of harmful cultural practices combined with the weakness of the judicial system impede the protection of women especially, while the ensuing impunity of perpetrators and the complicity of traditional leaders pose serious protection concerns. All stakeholders (humanitarian and development actors, refugees and national as well as local authorities) therefore plan to strengthen community support structures with a gender and diversity approach via awareness-raising trainings.

Prevention and protection response mechanisms will aim to ensure holistic care for survivors in collaboration with Cameroonian authorities (MINAS and MINPROFF) and increase Safe and Secure Spaces for women and girls. To strengthen the legal fight against SGBV, RRRP partners will involve judicial, religious and traditional authorities as well as community leaders, while seeking the support of protection services (police/gendarmerie)



in prosecuting perpetrators. SGBV survivors and women at risk will be assisted through livelihood activities, including being provided professional training.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

Children represent 61 per cent of the Nigerian refugee population and are especially vulnerable to protection risks including sexual and gender-based or physical violence, early or forced marriage, family separation, exploitation and child labour, a lack of education opportunities and civil documentation. RRRP partners will organize awareness-raising activities on children’s rights to respond to these child protection risks. Family reunification is another priority to support unaccompanied and separated children. Moreover, RRRP partners will expand vocational training for

refugee children who have never attended or dropped out of school in order to enable access to socio-economic activities and facilitate self-reliance.

#### PERSONS WITH SPECIFIC NEEDS

People with specific needs represent close to 29 per cent of the Nigerian refugee population in the Far North and are exposed to additional vulnerabilities. To respond to these vulnerabilities, based on specialized assessments, RRRP partners will provide additional NFI support, organize and promote Income Generating Activities (IGAs), provide cash support (CBI/voucher) and assist with alternative energy equipment. People with disabilities will be provided with orthopaedic devices and tailored care will be made available for mental health cases. Furthermore, needs-based education will be strengthened.

#### PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

With 1,272 refugees recognized to have disabilities in this area, RRRP actors will aim to assist them specifically through community groups, associations, and community services. Actors will ensure that their specific disabilities are considered when services are (food

distribution, WASH, health, etc) and education are provided. Community groups in collaboration with other stakeholders will ensure the integration of people with disabilities in vocational trainings and in health services for the mentally disabled.

#### COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE

Local integration of Nigerian refugees in the Far North remains one of the most feasible durable solutions. However, peaceful coexistence must be encouraged, supported and strengthened via joint community leadership for conflict resolution. To build the capacities of women and community leaders and increase community participation, (inter-)community meetings and trainings on conflict prevention will be organized in addition to socio-cultural events.

#### DURABLE SOLUTIONS

Humanitarian actors will continue to advocate for durable solutions for refugees. Regarding resettlement, RRRP partners will continue to work with resettlement countries to increase resettlement opportunities in the most vulnerable cases.



## Education

In Minawao camp, a total of 11,461 pupils (5,162 girls and 6,299 boys) out of the 16,429 children (8,173 girls and 8,256 boys) of primary school age were enrolled in school following actions undertaken by RRRP partners during the first semester of 2019. This represents an enrolment rate of close to 70 per cent compared to 83 per cent in 2018. The drop in school enrolment rates is linked to reduced funding for infrastructure (classrooms, latrines, water points), school and teaching equipment (tables, books, notebooks, table-beds, mats, writing boards, etc.), human resources (teachers and administrative staff), as well as hygiene kits.

A monitoring exercise jointly conducted with the Ministry of Education in and outside the camp showed that only 20 per cent of refugee children living outside Minawao refugee camp attend school. Refugee children’s education in host communities hence remains a major protection risk due to insecurity of schools especially in border villages, the lack of qualified and English-speaking teachers, inadequate infrastructure (lack of school and teaching kits, multimedia equipment, appropriate classrooms) and school fees.

Education activities for Nigerian refugees in the Far North of Cameroon will be strengthened during 2020 to enroll 20,722 students (5,767 in pre-school, 14,800 in elementary school and 155 in secondary schools) in Minawao refugee camp and 26,476 students (7,398 in preschool, 16,844 in primary, 1,124 in secondary and 1,110 for literacy) in community villages out-of-camps.

Improving the quality of education and promoting a safe learning environment will enable the implementation of empowerment and resilience activities. To this end, RRRP partners will continue to support the construction of schools as well as maintenance and rehabilitation of

**OBJECTIVE 1:**  
**Population has optimal access to education**

46,000 refugee students enrolled in pre, primary or secondary school in and out-of-camp

275 primary school classrooms constructed and/or rehabilitated in camp and host communities

school infrastructure. As the Cameroonian Ministry of Education lacks teachers to be sent to refugee-hosting areas, RRRP partners will help recruit, pay and equip teachers. Early childhood education and secondary education will also be reinforced. Particular attention will be paid to girls and children with specific needs. All educational activities will also continue to target the local community, both in camps and host communities. Education stakeholders will focus on facilitating access to education and improving retention rates through additional financial resources.



UNHCR / Xavier Bourgois

## Food security

Severe budget cuts have forced RRRP partners, including the World Food Programme (WFP), to drastically reduce their food assistance to Nigerian refugees in the Far North. Aggravating nutritional issues in the wider Sahel region, this exposes the most vulnerable refugees in Minawao camp and host communities to increased food insecurity and malnutrition. Food insecurity undermines the progress already made to stabilize the nutritional status of this population. It should be noted that the monthly food ration currently covers only about 80 per cent of the food basket (2,100 kcal/person/day) of at least 56,000 refugees in Minawao camp. Due to funding shortages, neither refugees living in host communities nor asylum seekers in transit centres receive any food assistance.



### **OBJECTIVE 1:** Food security improved

80,000 persons received food assistance

### **OBJECTIVE 2:** Food security strengthened

17,500 persons receiving cash grants

In collaboration with development actors, the Sector, guided by UNHCR and WFP's socio-economic profiling exercise, will develop a multi-year livelihood and resilience programme. A gradual approach to household empowerment will be implemented from 2020 onwards. Food aid to the most vulnerable households will be considered as a social safety net for multisectoral protection. In the meantime, the Sector will carefully examine the support and assistance to be provided to refugees who are becoming self-sufficient, to ensure that the livelihood programme is as attractive as possible. Investments in livelihoods programming must be significant in order to have a meaningful impact and to avoid letting the least vulnerable groups fall back into poverty.

Partners will consider the effects of climate change on refugee-receiving regions such as the Far North that are often neglected as they are perceived as unpromising for local development. They will, furthermore, continue to advocate for access to farmland for refugees. To strengthen already existing opportunities, small businesses will benefit from cash-based interventions (CBI), such as micro loans. An emphasis will be placed on monitoring and assessing the impact of current activities to guide future interventions.



## Health & Nutrition

Access to primary and secondary health care for Nigerian refugees hosted in Minawao camp as well as outside the camp remains a challenge, as health structures in Cameroon’s Far North are ill-equipped. The unmet needs remain significant in this sector despite the efforts made by the various actors in the health sector over the past years.

To date, most out-of-camp refugees are hosted in the departments of Mayo Tsanaga, Logone-et-Chari and Mayo Sava, where many of them do not benefit from free access to health care due to insufficient resources.

As part of the humanitarian response for Nigerian refugees in 2020, the health and nutrition sector identified three main areas of intervention: access to primary and secondary health care, access to reproductive health care and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment, and management of acute malnutrition coupled with Infant and Young-Child-Feeding (IYCF). RRRP partners in this sector are working in close collaboration with governmental authorities, furthermore, the planning, implementation and evaluation of the activities will involve beneficiaries and host communities. In 2020, health and nutritional support activities will focus on the rehabilitation of health facilities, including the provision of equipment and essential drugs. Family planning activities will be integrated through a community-based approach. Also, RRRP partners will support and strengthen voluntary HIV testing and address mother-to-child HIV transmission. The sector will promote the establishment of IYCF spaces and organize community support groups.

Prevention, screening and management of malnutrition cases in the community will be enhanced. Screening for acute malnutrition using the MUAC by mothers or

**OBJECTIVE 1:**  
Health status improved

4 health facilities rehabilitated, equipped, supplied and locally staffed

**OBJECTIVE 2:**  
Population has optimal access to reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services

2,000 livebirths attended by skilled personnel

**OBJECTIVE 3:**  
Implementation of integrated management of acute malnutrition programmes ensured

2,650 children screened, identified, and admitted to MAM and SAM treatments

caregivers allows rapid screening of malnourished children at the community level. In addition, vegetable gardens will be promoted in order to help prevent malnutrition and family planning sessions will complement the programme. The identification of needs in health facilities as well as the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of all activities will be done in close collaboration with government authorities. A special emphasis will be placed on advocating for a study on health care cost recovery mechanisms involving government and other health sector stakeholders.



## Livelihoods & Environment

### LIVELIHOODS

In line with the humanitarian-development nexus, RRRP partners will focus on the sustainable, long-term integration of Nigerian refugees into Cameroon's economy, while strengthening peaceful coexistence and social cohesion between refugees and host communities. Inclusion of refugees in national development plans and projects, including World Bank IDA, AFD, JICA, etc. is a priority.

To enhance agricultural development in the valleys, refugees should have access to arable land and pastures. RRRP partners will work closely with local authorities to provide sufficient water supply. Agricultural activities and home gardens based on rainfed and off-season crops such as sorghum, peanuts, onions, tomatoes and vegetables will be multiplied. To promote sustainability and local ownership, beneficiaries will be trained in agricultural infrastructure and marketing in collaboration with the Ministry for Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as animal production cycles and livestock management with support of the Ministry of Fisheries and Animal Industries.

Agricultural innovations will be introduced through the promotion of irrigated vegetable crops under glass. Yields will be optimized through the control of production factors (water, seeds and fertilizers, etc.), environmental control and plant development, and the recovery of liquid waste for the production of organic composts.

To promote the financial inclusion of refugees, RRRP partners will facilitate access to funding for microenterprises as well as vocational training and employment-generating occupations via the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training. Partnerships with

### OBJECTIVE 1:

#### Self reliance and livelihoods improved

21,022 persons met household needs through production kits received for agriculture/livestock/fisheries commercial activities

2,294 small business associations formed/supported

### OBJECTIVE 2:

#### Natural resources and shared environment better protected

450,000 tree seedlings planted to mitigate deforestation

financial institutions will be built to support joint initiative groups (JIGs) of producers, breeders and entrepreneurs. In addition, vocational training opportunities will be diversified with an emphasis on capacity assessment, market research on promising training sectors and access to labour markets.

Negotiations will be undertaken for partnerships with national institutions that offer the requested skills training for local, regional and national work opportunities. Sectors to be covered include sewing, carpentry, embroidery, mechanics, electronics, computer science, etc.

### ENVIRONMENT

To mitigate the impact of refugees' presence on the environment in the arid Far North, RRRP partners will continue to support community-based mechanisms for the management of woodlands and reforestation and promote best agricultural and agroforestry practices. Youth JIGs will be trained in the production of fruit, nutritious and forest plants, while joint refugee and host community committees will aim to raise environmental awareness. Existing environment protection committees in the camp will be supported and others will be set-up

in host communities. All protection stakeholders at the local as well as regional level will be involved in the monitoring of environmental activities (plant production, reforestation, natural regeneration and protected areas) in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development.

Alternative energies, including ecological briquettes and firelighter cubes, will be provided to refugees to reduce

the consumption of firewood. Energy saving equipment, such as improved stoves in mud bricks, improved traditional stoves and solar cookers, will be manufactured locally for distribution and marketing.

In addition, the synergy between the environmental sector and WASH on the waste collection and sorting system will be strengthened via, for instance, recycling of briquettes.



UNHCR / Xavier Bourgois

## Shelter & NFIs

In response to challenges, such as destructive rainfalls and winds, the lack of water for shelter construction during the dry season, the impassibility of roads and insufficient crossings, RRRP partners plan to improve infrastructure inside Minawao camp and in hosting communities. Emergency and transitional shelters will be built for vulnerable households, supported by the distribution of shelter and community toolkits. NFI kits will be given to newly arriving refugees and renewed, if they have spent over two years in the camp. Moreover, partners will advocate for maintenance of the road to access the camp and rehabilitate roads and crossing structure inside the camp. Social infrastructure, including schools, health and community centres will also be (re) built. Cash-based interventions (CBI) will be used to carry out most of these activities.

To improve camp management and management outside of the camps, RRRP partners intend to develop and implement a coordination strategy and improve the camp management information system to follow up on the CCCM report. Partners will ensure population movement monitoring and multisectoral assistance. New asylum seekers will be accommodated in the transit centre. Advocating for the inclusion of refugee communities in national infrastructure plans will be a priority, while strengthening the capacities of governance structures through training, provision of equipment, etc. remain strategically important. Renewing community-led governance structures (women's committees, youth committees, etc.) to promote participation and self-reliance, in combination with socio-cultural activities, will promote peaceful coexistence.

### OBJECTIVE 1:

**Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained**

4,000 emergency shelters provided

4,800 transitional shelters provided through cash grants/ vouchers

### OBJECTIVE 2:

**Population has sufficient basic domestic items**

8,100 households provided with basic domestic items

14,000 dignitary kits provided



Despite an increased population figures in Minawao refugee camp, the number of water facilities has remained the same due to a lack of funding. Currently, refugees are receiving about 16 litres per day per person, instead of the required 20 litres. Although WASH activities are regularly implemented in Minawao camp and in host communities, WASH infrastructures are insufficient, and standards can not be met.

Hygiene promotion and awareness play a big role in the camp with 82 hygiene assistants facilitating a wide range of sensitization campaigns on water hygiene, maintenance of latrines and sorting of household waste, cleaning of public spaces, sanitary corridors, as well as maintenance of water points. In addition, they distribute hygiene kits and organize WASH committee sessions.

For 2020, RRRP partners aim to increase drinking water supply to 20 litres per day per person. The water supply network will be expanded via drilling in- and outside of camps to build an additional 44 wells and rehabilitate 50 non-functional wells. Storage facilities will be improved, and the camp’s pumping system will be changed to use solar energy and high-flow wells. The quality of the water will continue to be monitored.

To ensure satisfactory hygiene and sanitation, 408 latrines and 408 emergency latrines will be constructed, highlighting the development of ecological and sanitary (ECOSAN) latrines in the camp. RRRP partners aim to enhance solid and liquid waste management via the construction of four sewage sludge treatment plants and a plastic waste recovery process. Refugees will be encouraged to construct family latrines to enhance awareness, while WASH programmes will equally be implemented in schools in the camp and host communities.

**OBJECTIVE 1:**  
**Supply of potable water increased or maintained**

- 20 litres of potable water available per person per day
- 44 boreholes rehabilitated and/or constructed

**OBJECTIVE 2:**  
**Population lives in satisfactory conditions of sanitation and hygiene**

- 408 emergency latrines constructed
- 6,162 household sanitary latrines constructed

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization & Sector

ORGANIZATION	EDUCATION	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & ENVIRONMENT	PROTECTION	SHELTER & NFI	WASH	TOTAL
ALDEPA					723,250			723,250
FAO		1,600,000		1,600,000				3,200,000
IMC			1,400,000		1,333,500			2,733,500
INTERSOS	350,000	400,000			1,200,000	300,000		2,250,000
IRC					800,250			800,250
LWF					88,080		150,000	238,080
NRC	700,000							700,000
PLAN INTERNATIONAL	520,508			237,643				758,151
PUI		1,542,738		283,270			1,542,738	3,368,746
UNDP				1,000,000				1,000,000
UNFPA					450,000			450,000
UNHCR	1,402,689	768,710	3,461,082	1,269,007	13,246,023	2,486,416	2,065,660	24,699,587
UNICEF	1,100,000							1,100,000
UNWOMEN	250,000				500,000			750,000
WFP		18,130,614						18,130,614
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4,323,197</b>	<b>22,442,062</b>	<b>4,861,082</b>	<b>4,389,920</b>	<b>18,341,103</b>	<b>2,786,416</b>	<b>3,758,398</b>	<b>60,902,178</b>



# CHAD REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2020 PLANNED RESPONSE

20,000

REFUGEE  
POPULATION

30,000




HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

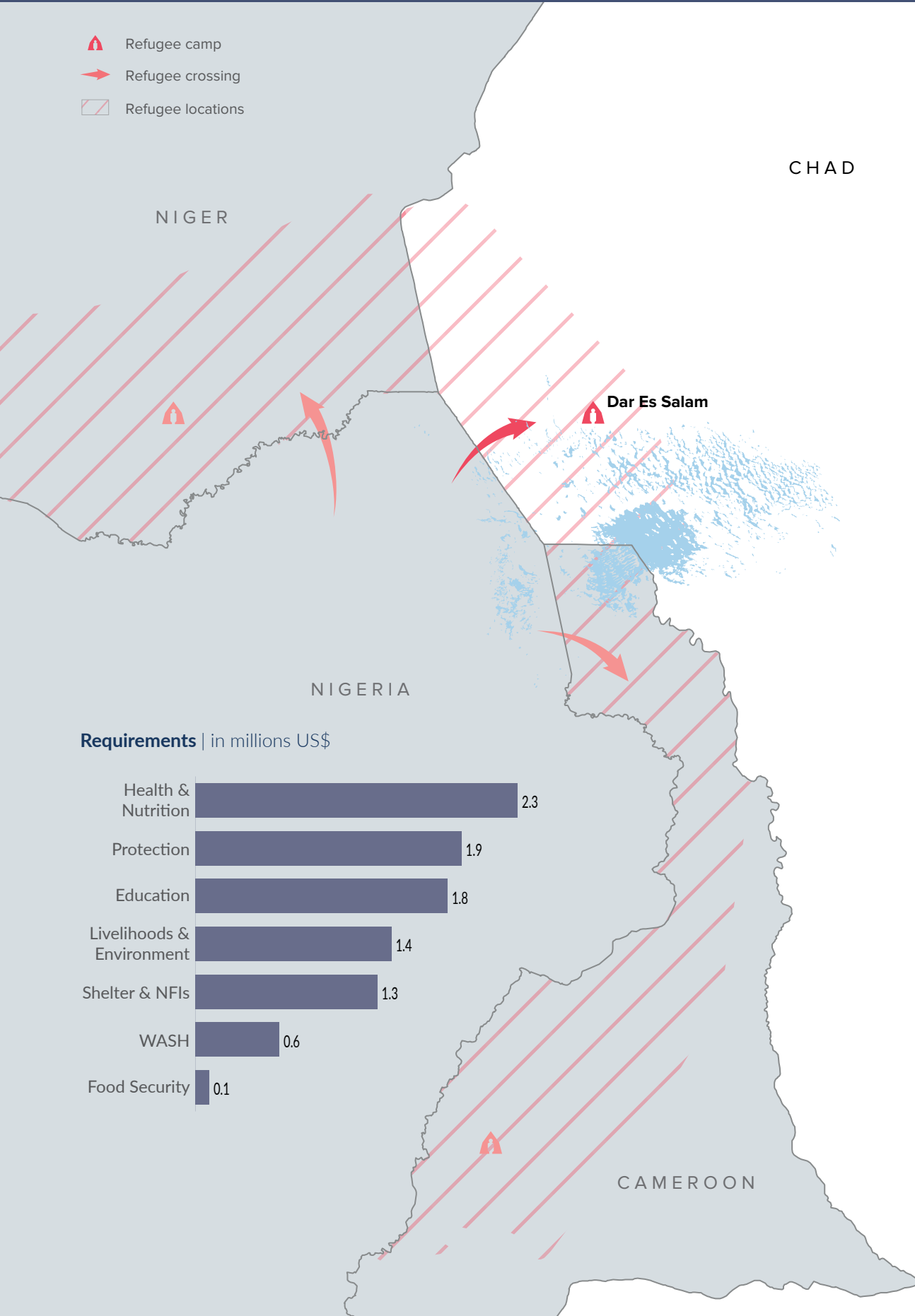
US\$ 9M

REQUIREMENTS

7

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED

-  Refugee camp
-  Refugee crossing
-  Refugee locations



CHAD

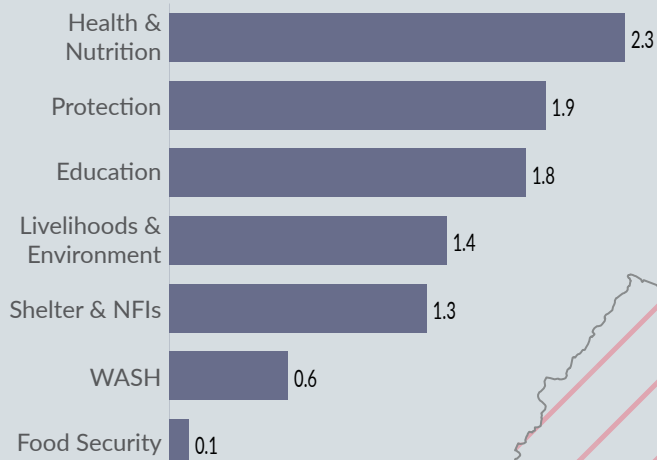
NIGER

Dar Es Salam

NIGERIA

CAMEROON

Requirements | in millions US\$





# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

Chad hosts 12,532 registered Nigerian refugees in its south-western Lake Province as of end of December 2019. They are part of the overall 446,431 refugees in eastern and southern Chad, most of whom are from Darfur in Sudan and the Central African Republic (CAR). The tensions arising from terrorist violence perpetrated by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) prompted the Chadian government to apply security measures, including a state of emergency as well as curfews and restrictions of movement. While these restrictions have not impacted the quality of asylum, they severely affected the local economy, disrupting seasonal migratory movements and the cattle trade, as well as hindering cross-border commerce with CAR and Nigeria.

Despite the lack of national legal clarity on the situation and rights of refugees, Chad continues to pursue an open-door policy which safeguards the asylum institution. Adopting national asylum legislation will facilitate access to opportunities and allow refugees to participate in the economic life of the country. Also, Chad is in the process of domesticating the Kampala Convention on internal displacement. This will contribute to creating a stronger national legal framework on displacement.

Enabling refugees to become self-reliant pending the realization of appropriate long-term solutions is an important first step towards achieving any of the three durable solutions. Working towards solutions can also reduce the need for irregular onward movements by refugees. However, the most pertinent and widespread challenges refugees encounter in Chad relate to a lack

Initiatives such as the **European Union**-supported *Développement Intégré des Zones d'Accueil* (DIZA) project and **UNDP's** *Programme d'Appui au Développement Local et à la Finance Inclusive au Tchad* (PADLFIT), will facilitate the inclusion of refugees in the National Development Plan 2017-2021. The **Government of Chad** has adopted its **National Development Plan (NDP) 2017-2021** as part of its *Strategic Vision* paper "*The Chad that we want in 2030*", which is in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030.

Meanwhile, the United Nations **UNDAF 2017-2021** is also aligned with the Government's NDP 2017-2021 and the *Strategic Vision 2030*.

Refugees have been included in the UNDAF, particularly in the following three Strategic Outcomes:

- (1) Development of human capital, which includes equitable access to universal and quality education and health care services;
  - (2) Social protection; crisis management and sustainability;
  - (3) Governance, peace and security (which includes child protection), a social protection system, emergency preparedness, a response to crises and disasters, and early recovery.
- The Country Team estimates that some US\$ 1.3 billion will be needed in the period 2017-2021 to achieve UNDAF outcomes.

of job opportunities to help meet basic needs and limited access to vocational training. Refugees are, for instance, not granted work permits to counteract Chad's labour shortage.

Meanwhile, the biometric identification and management system (BIMS) significantly improved the reliability of data collection regarding refugees. A countrywide verification exercise was held in 2019 to verify and update current refugee information, prior to the roll out of a Global Distribution Tool (GDT). This tool, linking biometric registration with distribution, will prevent identity theft and double assistance risks, notably in view of increasing the use of cash-based interventions (CBI) where appropriate.

Building on the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), which promotes development initiatives for refugee-hosting areas and aims to include

refugees in existing social structures, the Government of Chad pledged further support for refugees at the Global Refugee Forum in December 2019. In addition to references to the national asylum law and prevention of statelessness, commitments were made to build on the 2017 national forum on socio-economic inclusion of refugees, during which participants drew up 42 recommendations to promote social inclusion of refugees. In terms of education, the Government and partners agreed on the need to improve access to quality education for all children. Education facilities in refugee camps have followed the Chadian curriculum since 2014. In 2018, 108 schools and 10 vocational training centers (VTC) were officially integrated into the Chadian national education system. In 2019, RRRP partners and the Government extended the same approach to other sectors such as healthcare and will continue with this strategy in 2020.

## Needs and Vulnerabilities

According to the biometric registration exercise conducted in 2019, as of 31 December 2019 Chad is hosting 12,532 registered Nigerian refugees, 11,307 of whom were physically verified by the *Commission Nationale pour l'Accueil et la Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR) and UNHCR in Dar Es Salaam refugee camp. Meanwhile, another 1,228 live in host villages in Ngouboua (849) and Tchoukoutalia (379) areas.

Most of the registered refugees reside in Dar Es Salam camp near Baga Sola. Despite new refugee arrivals in 2019, representing a 60 per cent increase in the camp population in Dar Es Salam, the protection and assistance situation is stable. RRRP partners worked with the Government to quickly transition from an emergency response to stabilization, in keeping with the Refugee Coordination Model.

The situation of the remaining registered refugees living in the villages of Ngouboua and Tchoukoutalia, as well as around 5,500 refugees living in difficult to access areas of Litré, Koufoua and Kaiga Kindjiria that were not yet registered in 2019 is dire, and mirrors that of the host population. In addition to difficult living conditions, these refugees are exposed to attacks by armed groups and do not receive humanitarian assistance due to security constraints. A relocation exercise was undertaken in the last months of 2019 with 1,000 refugees transferred from Kaiga Kindjiria to the Dar Es Salam camp. Strengthened sensitization campaigns are ongoing to encourage the remaining group to leave these difficult to access areas, which have been declared a red zone by the National Security Forces. With the finalization of refugee verification and registration, 19,700 will need assistance in 2020.

According to the 2020 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), in Chad's Lake region, as in the rest of the country, around 30 per cent of the population require humanitarian assistance. The humanitarian needs and protection challenges faced by refugees and host communities are vast and seemingly intractable.

Humanitarian crises in Chad are linked to a lack of development, inadequate investment in human capital, illiteracy, a precarious regional security environment, and chronic poverty affecting approximately half of the population. Both Chadians and refugees have limited access to basic services, the unemployment rate is high, and the effects of climate change continue to ravage the country. This has led to widespread food insecurity, disproportionate levels of malnutrition, and weakened resilience at both family and community level for refugees and Chadians alike.

Health and education remain among the most ill-equipped sectors in Chad, and nationwide strikes among workers in both sectors continue to impact the population, including refugees. Much remains to be done to provide children - including children at risk of statelessness and children associated with armed forces - with adequate levels of protection. Due to the limited access to social services, poverty, and the gradual reduction of humanitarian assistance, child labour is common as a family support mechanism. Children also face several other protection risks. The persistence of traditional practices hindering gender equality such as child marriages, despite sensitization programmes and national legislation that prohibit such practices, as well as the weakness of the judicial system and local institutions, especially in remote areas, are a barrier to a conducive protection environment and for the safeguarding of human rights in general. Communities

prefer the use of traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, which often disregard the views of women and girls. Despite the above mentioned weaknesses and the volatility of the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin, the government of Chad continues to maintain an open-door policy which safeguards asylum institutions. The adherence of the country to Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and its firm commitments made during the 2019 Global Refugee Forum are testaments to the country's solidarity towards the protection of refugees.

In view of achieving the provision of integrated health services and equitable access for both refugee and host communities, there is an urgent need to strengthen the health care system at national, district and local levels through investments and measures that enhance its capacity to respond to current needs and future shocks. With an increasing refugee population and anticipated refugee influxes through to 2020, the capacity and resources of primary healthcare institutions remain at a constant risk of being overstretched. Chad's healthcare system is one of the most fragile globally according to the World Bank. The mortality rates among both population groups remain within the SPHERE minimum standard of <math><1/1,000</math> population/month for the crude mortality rate and <math><3/1,000</math> population/month for the under-five mortality rate. The risk of increasing mortality remains significantly high due to the infectious disease burden, high rates of malnutrition and anaemia among children, low birth weight, and inadequate WASH.

There are also major gaps in the health services currently available in the camps, including the quality and quantity of staff, poor infrastructure, limited supplies of essential drugs and equipment. The lack of a Comprehensive Emergency Obstetric and Newborn Care (CEmONC) facility in Bagasola district hospital is another challenge, which puts additional strain on the nearby Bol regional hospital. There is a critical need to

improve health service provision by better equipping the various health facilities and ensuring there is a sufficient supply of qualified staff. A dedicated blood bank for emergencies transfusion in Bagasola is a major priority as well as additional isolation facilities in the Dar Es Salam health facility. Life-saving equipment such as incubators, paediatric vital sign monitors, automated external defibrillators and x-ray machines are also needed. A continuous supply of essential drugs and increased psychosocial health services are other priorities. There is a need to conduct further assessments to ensure reproductive health and safety considering the high birth rates and limited use of contraceptives. Although maternal mortality rate is lower than in the host community, findings from recent maternal deaths confirm the need for more investments in capacity training and service quality.

Cultural factors continue to exacerbate high levels of stigma and low rates of HIV service buy-in, particularly among adolescents and young people. There is a need to improve community awareness as well as adolescent and youth friendly HIV service provision. This requires investment in staffing, medical and nutrition supplies, infrastructure, equipment, referral services as well as skills training of existing medical personnel. There is an additional need to expand family planning, adolescent sexual and reproductive health (ASRH), cervical cancer screening and comprehensive HIV/AIDS services. Preventive approaches to address acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies are needed to complement the existing curative measures.

The proximity of Dar Es Salam camp to a military barrack remains a complicated challenge for the maintenance of the civilian character of this refugee settlement especially as the number of security personnel designated to reinforce refugees' physical protection in the camps is insufficient, exposing refugees and host community populations to the risk of Sexual and Gender-

Based Violence (SGBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA).

Participatory needs assessments conducted during the last quarter of 2019 continue to highlight among other things access to livelihoods, arable land and energy as some of the most urgent needs. Access to informal

employment is limited in refugee hosting areas because of a lack of job opportunities in general.

Furthermore, given the prevailing instability in the north-east of Nigeria (in particular in Borno State), prospects for a safe and dignified return in 2020 remain limited for the vast majority of Nigerian refugees.



UNHCR / Aristophane Ngargoune

## Response Strategy and Priorities

The RRRP response strategy for the Nigerian refugees in Chad is designed based on the assumption that the general situation will be exacerbated due to the intensification of armed conflicts in the Lake Chad region. It is also assumed that the instability of Borno State in north-east Nigeria will continue to generate forced displacement. This displacement of population causes increased risks of violence and abuse of human rights, especially against women and children.

Reinforcement of monitoring and protection response is therefore a key element of the response. The lack of adequate shelter and basic household items and the lack of access to clean water are all protection risks, which can push the most vulnerable to harmful survival strategies. As such RRRP partners will respond to these basic needs, while strengthening community management mechanisms which make it possible to monitor the distribution of protection assistance and to report any incidents or risks of protection.

The humanitarian needs and protection challenges faced by refugees are vast, multidimensional and complex, as are those facing host communities. The protracted economic crisis, the ban on circulation in the red zones preventing access to livelihoods, the lack of development and the growing insecurity are all factors that weaken the resilience of populations. For refugees, an added difficulty is the absence of a clear legislative framework, which exposes them to the risk of becoming stateless but also simply prevents them from accessing certain basic services. Therefore, RRRP actors will focus on the registration and documentation of refugees in order to reduce the risk of statelessness, facilitate access to education, health and water (which also benefits local populations in the area around the camp and therefore reinforces peaceful coexistence), while paying particular attention to the most vulnerable categories (women and girls heads of families etc.).

In this context, RRRP partners actions will be steered by the following strategic directives:

**Promotion of a multisectoral and integrated approach** with regard to strengthening the implementation of humanitarian and development programming as part of the “new way of working” around collective results; **Strengthening of protection of civilians** via a community-based approach to prevent protection risks and meet the most urgent protection needs. Faced with the upsurge in violence and the insufficiency of referral structures allowing holistic care for survivors, a mapping of existing structures will be undertaken to set up a coherent referral system for the care of survivors of violence;

**Promotion of planning based on vulnerabilities** and those related to gender, people living with disabilities, children. RRRP partners will build on the results of joint assessments which take into account the specific risks of each of the most vulnerable groups;

**Strengthening of government leadership** in planning and coordinating the Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Nigerian situation and monitoring the achievement of collective results. This leadership will be reinforced in the coordination mechanisms where state officials will play a decisive role in monitoring the response through an appropriate body;

**Strengthening of preparedness and rapid response** to emergencies. Faced with the instability of the Lake Chad Province, RRRP partners will enhance the existing contingency plan in order to boost their capacities to deal with sudden crises and to ensure readiness and predictability in the emergency response.

With the aim of assisting 19,700 Nigerian refugees during 2020 in Chad, RRRP partners will prioritize education, SGBV prevention and response, and child protection. They will support improvement of education and health infrastructure facilities with an emphasis on

access to education and healthcare for both refugees and local populations. In addition, they will also continue to focus on strengthening the self-sufficiency of refugees by supporting food security and livelihoods in order to mitigate malnutrition and improve refugee access to health, education and shelter. Where possible, cash-based interventions will be initiated to empower refugees and to contribute to the local economy.

RRRP partners will also focus on advocacy and strategic development partnerships for inclusion of all refugees in national systems for health care and education, in line with Government policy and the signed Memorandum of Understanding between the government of Chad and UNHCR.

### **Strengthening livelihoods and resilience**

The New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and its Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), including the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), call for strengthening the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, as well as the need and advantage of adopting a whole of society approach.

Improving livelihoods through economic inclusion is a key element in achieving protection outcomes and finding solutions for refugees. Economic inclusion contributes to the empowerment and resilience of refugees, enabling them to meet their needs safely in a sustainable and dignified manner, avoids aid dependence and risky coping mechanisms, contributes to their hospitality savings, and prepares refugees for their future, whether they return home, integrate into their country of asylum or resettle in a third country. It is however important to recognize that positive results in terms of livelihoods and economic inclusion require multi-year strategic planning.

In Chad, refugees continue to benefit from international protection and humanitarian assistance in essential and

vital sectors such as water, health, nutrition, education and livelihoods. However, after several years of humanitarian assistance, the response faces challenges of various kinds, in particular: (1) the decrease of financial resources following the reduction in the level of contribution from donors; (2) the necessity for transition from humanitarian aid to development; (3) the pressure of promoting resilience dictated by a dynamic operational context; and (4) stabilization and crisis prevention at the expense of humanitarian assistance. In this new operational environment, empowerment remains a viable solution for refugees and a bulwark for their survival, hence the importance of implementing activities aimed at improving their livelihoods. According to this perspective, strengthening livelihoods is a necessary component to promote the self-sufficiency of refugees in the Lake Chad region.

To achieve this objective RRRP partners are working together to improve refugee and host community self-sufficiency in host areas and villages by promoting sustainable livelihoods through the following strategic orientations:

[Support for the means of production and subsistence](#) for refugees and host populations;

[Promotion of innovative mechanisms](#) to strengthen refugees' economic self-sufficiency;

[Promotion of the right to work and to development](#); and [Improved planning, training and implementation](#) of approaches that effectively contribute to livelihood development for the empowerment of people.

Nigerian refugees hosted in Dar Es Salaam refugee camp in the Lake Chad region have expressed a willingness to break their dependency on humanitarian assistance, thereby seeking self-sufficiency activities. Access to resources to attain this objective is a lasting solution to their progressive empowerment. The socio-economic profile of these refugees is mostly oriented towards agriculture, stockbreeding, fishing and petty

trade. The development of cultivable land such as polders, wadis, the provision of fishing kits and the enhancement of financial means for those opting for small trade, is an alternative to avoid the development of assistantship syndrome of the majority refugees hosted in Dar es Salaam refugee camp.

In its quest for durable solutions for refugees living on Chadian territory, the government in close collaboration with RRRP partners organized a forum on the socio-economic inclusion of refugees which made 42 practical recommendations grouped into 5 strategic areas including:

[Recognition of the documentation](#) given to refugees and freedom of movement;

[Access to naturalization for refugees;](#)

[Access to and security of the land;](#)

[Access to employment for refugees;](#) and

[Access to financial institutions.](#)

During the Global Refugee Forum held in December 2019 in Geneva, the Government of Chad also made 8 firm commitments, the most important one concerning access to employment and the enhancement of livelihoods.

Although the application of the above recommendations and commitments are still delayed due to the lack of a national law on refugees, in the Lake Chad region, the ethnic and cultural similarities with Nigerian refugees as well as long-standing cross-border relations between the communities are helpful in supporting peaceful coexistence and mutual understanding. However, scarcity of natural resources combined with the ravages of climate change, led to new undercurrents which threaten to give rise to tensions that go beyond the recurrent conflicts between farmers and herders. In order to mitigate these risks, partners will use community-based approaches of programme implementation, devise community-based solutions and

empower refugees host communities. Social services within the camp, such as health centres and schools, are open to both refugees and host communities.

Livelihoods activities for refugees will also target host community populations.

To complement the existing mechanisms, RRRP partners will develop interventions to strengthen the resilience of refugees and host communities alongside life-saving humanitarian assistance and protection. RRRP partners should create new initiatives to improve and strengthen collaboration between humanitarian and development actors. For instance, the application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) by the Chadian government initiated in September 2018 will promote development initiatives for refugee-hosting areas, and the inclusion of refugees in existing national services and social structures.

Partners will continue to work closely with the government and development partners, particularly the World Bank and its Refugee and Host Community Support Project (PARCA) through the IDA-19 allocation, and with UNDP through its Support Programme to Local Development and Inclusive Finance (PADLFIT) and the Stabilisation Facility launched during the second Lake Chad Basin Governors Forum on stabilization, peace building and sustainable development. Through these actions, partners envisage increased socio-economic inclusion of refugees in Chadian national development programmes. The early implementation of livelihood activities has so far enabled RRRP partners to reach 11 per cent of the refugee population and to develop a self-reliance approach that tends to reduce the dependence of refugees on humanitarian assistance. Through the 2020 RRRP, despite difficulties linked to the lack of real economic opportunities, the aim is to reach approximately 25 per cent of persons with potential to develop economic activities in a sustainable manner.



## Coordination and Partnerships

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, the Government of Chad, mainly through the CNARR and with the support of UNHCR, continues to lead and coordinate the inter-agency refugee response at field and national levels. This includes the coordination of all sector responses by government counterparts, UNHCR, and the other RRRP partners. The IDP response is coordinated through the clusters.

The established coordination mechanism is largely influenced by the CRRF, which espouses a multi-stakeholder approach. A diverse array of RRRP partners, under the leadership of the Government and assisted by UNHCR that works, designs and implements to help Chad cope with the impact of hosting refugees and pursue sustainable solutions. Accordingly, RRRP Partners will continue to work with the Government to enhance resilience and to engage in development programmes in line with existing national plans. In addition to working with the Government, RRRP Partners are working with the World Bank, other development actors, the donor community and the private sector.

To ensure sustainability of humanitarian-development nexus coordination, the Government has created HCDRCA, a high committee in charge of all matters related to development for refugees and host communities. This platform will be instrumental in coordinating activities in the CRRF plan of action and the follow-up of the commitments made recently during the Global Refugees Forum. In the meantime, UNHCR is working with the World Bank, Cellule des Filets Sociaux, UE-DIZA, UNDP and NGO Consortia (East and South) to coordinate projects in areas hosting refugees. It is also working to enhance interactions between humanitarian and development spheres countrywide and particularly in the Lake Chad region.

In 2020, RRRP partners will continue work towards broadening partnerships by, among other initiatives, engaging the private sector, including technology companies (Express Union, AirTel and TIGO) and microfinance institutions, to provide learning and livelihood activities and microfinance programmes to enhance resilience in refugee-hosting areas. The objective is to also reach actors such as TIKA (Turkish Aid Agency), Qatar Charity etc. and to extend cooperation with them through non-transactional partnerships.

### RRP PARTNERS

- INTERSOS
- ASEIERT
- CARE
- UNFPA
- UNHCR
- UNICEF
- WFP

# Planned Response

## Protection

In the absence of a national asylum law, RRRP partners will continue to advocate for its adoption in 2020.

### SGBV/SEA PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

In 2020, partners will continue to conduct community awareness and sensitization campaigns on women and girls’ rights and on SGBV and SEA prevention and response among refugees and host communities. RRRP partners will also prioritize providing a comprehensive response to SGBV and SEA survivors, which will include legal, psychosocial, material and livelihoods support, access to education, and professional training. Moreover, in collaboration with CNARR, the Protection Sector will continue to conduct joint training and sensitization sessions for the military. They will also advocate for continued and increased presence of female gendarmes as they have proven instrumental in providing reassurance to refugee women and girls.

### CHILD PROTECTION

Partners will focus on raising community awareness on children’s rights to prevent child abuse and exploitation, child labour, child marriages and violence against children, as well as prevention of radicalization of children and youth.

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE AND LEGAL REMEDIES

In order to raise awareness on protection issues and to support the most vulnerable refugees and host community members, partners will also work towards capacity building/development of communities to

**OBJECTIVE 1:**  
**Access to legal assistance and legal remedies is enhanced**

250 persons receive legal assistance

**OBJECTIVE 2:**  
**Refugees are registered and receive appropriate documentation, and access to civil registration and documentation is enhanced**

100% of refugees registered on an individual basis and received appropriate documentation

**OBJECTIVE 3:**  
**Risks of SGBV/SEA are reduced and survivors are supported**

100% of survivors of SGBV/SEA receive response and assistance

identify and seek solutions to protection risks and violations. In this regard, access to legal remedies and assistance will also be enhanced.

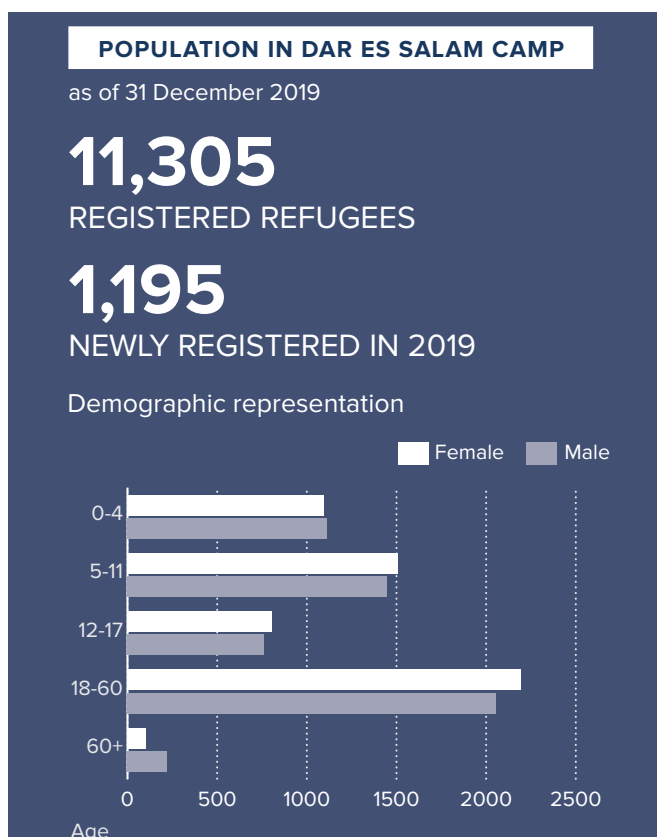
### CIVIL REGISTRATION AND CIVIL STATUS DOCUMENTATION

RRRP Partners will work closely with and in support of the Government to strengthen mechanisms for registration and civil status documentation. They will also advocate for social economic inclusion through freedom of movement, equitable access to resources (land), access to opportunity (work and financial services) all of which are expected to enhance resilience and self-reliance for both refugees and host communities.

**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

Refugees with disabilities of all ages are among the most vulnerable, with greater exposure to risk and fewer opportunities for access to socio-economic activities. To reduce these risks, RRRP partners will continue awareness-raising and information campaigns on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 December 2006.

Regarding opportunities, the socio-economic and security environment in the Lake Chad region will be considered with the vision of promoting and protecting the civil, political, economic, cultural and social rights of people with disabilities, on the basis of equality and equity with other refugees. To this end, the logic of “accompanied inclusion” will be promoted. This is sorely lacking in the Dar Es Salaam camp and in Lake Chad Province in general.



## Education

Education Sector partners will continue to support the authorities management of education as schools built in camps and sites are integrated into the Chadian education system.

During the 2018-2019 school year, enrolment in primary schools increased by 47 per cent and most of the new pupils were refugees following the latest influx early in 2019. Education infrastructure is currently operating at full capacity in Dar Es Salam camp. To keep up with an acceptable ratio of 60 pupils per classroom, 10 additional temporary learning spaces were built in response. The ratio of pupils in durable classrooms is 1:273, and the 250 children currently attending the child-friendly space (out of a total 991 children aged 3 to 5) share a single tent.

In September 2018, a secondary school opened in Dar Es Salam camp with only one classroom, which also hosted the first cohort of Chadian students. At minimum, three additional classrooms, equipment, and an office are still required. One durable classroom and two temporary learning space were built.

There is currently an average of one teacher per 80 children, which is far below the national standard of 40 students per teacher. There is a high turnover of government-employed teachers due in part to the hard-living conditions in the camp and its environs. Consequently, significant needs remain.

RRP partners will facilitate access to education and improve retention rates by providing children with more and better equipped classrooms, learning materials, and school feeding program. It will also include conducting

**OBJECTIVE 1:**  
**Population has optimal access to education**

2,000 students enrolled in primary education

21 teachers trained for capacity strengthening

awareness-raising campaigns on the importance of education with special attention to girls and children with specific needs.

Literacy classes of out-of-school children and adults, notably women, is also a priority to facilitate their professional inclusion.



## Food security

Most refugees still heavily rely on food assistance; however, funding cuts have hampered the efforts of Food Security Sector partners to deliver. Although not recent WFP, UNHCR, and CNARR conducted a socio-economic profiling exercise for refugees in Chad in 2017 that found that 83.5 per cent of Nigerian refugees were highly vulnerable, 9.6 per cent were moderately vulnerable and 6.9 per cent less vulnerable. Following the definition of different vulnerability categories, a consumption gap analysis was carried out, firstly, to identify the gaps within each of the different vulnerability categories, and secondly, to propose adjustments in food rations for each vulnerability category.

Based on this analysis and available resources, the proposed ration for highly vulnerable refugees stands at 1,279 kcal per person per day (40 percent less than the minimum daily requirement of 2,100 kcal per person per day) and at 1,065 kcal for moderately vulnerable refugees (49 per cent less than the minimum daily requirement). Less vulnerable refugees have been moved off the priority list for unconditional food assistance.

As such, more than nine out of ten Nigerian refugees are exposed to a heightened risk of food insecurity and malnutrition. This threatens to jeopardize or even reverse the gains made in stabilizing the nutritional status of refugees. Food and malnutrition prevention support initiatives coupled with targeted livelihoods programmes are therefore urgently required.

RRP partners, in collaboration with development actors and practitioners, will therefore develop a multiyear livelihoods and resilience programme, based on WFP-UNHCR-CNARR socio-economic profiling, to provide a resilience framework. Partners will adopt a gradual

### OBJECTIVE 1: Food security improved

15,000 persons received food assistance

### OBJECTIVE 2: Food security strengthened

10,000 persons met consumption needs through seeds and agricultural tools received

approach to household empowerment by which food assistance will be prioritized for households considered less likely to become self-reliant. Meanwhile, livelihoods activities will target the least vulnerable refugees, whose pathway to self-reliance is expected to be easier.

Food assistance will be deployed as a social safety net and a protection tool for the most vulnerable households. In the meantime, the Sector will carefully review the support and assistance given to refugees who are expected to become self-reliant, to document the transition process and build a model for tailored support. Investment in livelihoods must be significant in order to have a meaningful impact and avoid leaving the least vulnerable categories sliding back into poverty.

Cash-based interventions will be judiciously applied, and monitoring tools institutionalized to more systematically evaluate the impact of current activities and help design future interventions.



## Health & Nutrition

The health and nutrition situation in Chad is characterized by the persistence of diseases such as malaria, respiratory infections, measles and diarrhoea, exacerbated by a precarious overall nutritional situation.

The number of disease outbreaks (polio and measles) increased in 2019 due to poor disease surveillance systems and low vaccination coverage. While RRRP partners have supported the Government to respond to these outbreaks, they are not yet fully under control.

Malnutrition is on the rise as exemplified by the fact that 9<sup>1</sup> out of 23 regions across the country were declared a nutritional emergency in 2019 because of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates above the WHO Emergency threshold of 15 per cent. Nevertheless, the nutritional situation in refugee camps remains considerably better than that of host communities.

Health care facilities in the Lake Region are still unable to cope with the demand, as they are overstretched and underresourced. More than half of the patients using the Dar Es Salam camp's health centre are still coming from surrounding villages and IDP sites.

Given the entrenched challenges, partners continued to support the national health care system as well as health facilities and referral services in and around refugee settlements, helping maintain the crude mortality rate and under five mortality rate at 0.1 death every 1,000 people per month – below the nonemergency standard of 1 death every 1,000 people per month. Partners will focus on building technical capacity and increasing the number of qualified personnel to transition the response to the Government. As part of this transition,

<sup>1</sup> 2019 SMART Surveys results Chad

### OBJECTIVE 1: Health status improved

500 children vaccinated against measles

### OBJECTIVE 2: Implementation of integrated management of acute malnutrition programmes ensured

1,400 children screened, identified, and admitted to MAM and SAM treatments

strengthening national health facilities to enable them to respond to the diverse needs of refugees and host populations is also an imperative.

A cost-reimbursement system is gradually being implemented, with refugees already paying a small contribution (USD 0.20) to access the health care system. The contributions, which are managed by a committee, cover some maintenance and repairs costs. This will be replaced by a contribution-based system by 2020, in which refugees and host communities will have equal access to the health care system. The Health Sector will pay specific attention to maternal and reproductive health, mental health as well as the HIV/AIDS programme for communities in general and for pregnant women and children under five.

In addition to the low GAM rates, the stunting rate is also on the rise throughout Chad with 32.0 per cent (2019 SMART national survey) compared to 18.8 in 2018 and to 32.4 in 2017.

Stunting in early life can have adverse functional consequences on child development including poor educational performance and lost productivity among

other things. At 63.6 percent, anaemia is also widespread in Chad (2019 national survey). The rate in 2018 was to 65.6 per cent which signifies a negative trend. These findings are consistent with the overall nutritional situation in the Sahelian belt region.

Considering these severe health indicators, partners continue to support treatment of acute malnutrition while also addressing root causes using a multi-sectoral approach. Such an approach will inter alia include addressing issues surrounding limited access to land and potable water, and cultural inhibitions such as the lack of diversified dietary habits and irregular

breastfeeding of infants. The sector response will be done side by side with livelihoods activities, community awareness and sensitization on health and WASH. The response plan will also focus on women empowerment through education, awareness and livelihoods among other things because of the central role of women in nutritional activities. Food production is restricted by limited access to arable land, frequent droughts, limited access to seeds and tools and limited access to livelihoods opportunities. Considering this and as highlighted above, a comprehensive food assistance programme will be institutionalized to cover the broader aspects of and root causes of acute malnutrition.



UNHCR / Aristophane Ngargoune

# Livelihoods & Environment

## LIVELIHOODS

Traditionally livelihood activities that were implemented to support refugees related to agriculture, vocational training and support income generating activities (IGA). Following the CRRF, the launch of UNHCR’s new Global Strategy on Socio-Economic Inclusion and the Chadian Government’s pledges at the GFR, the Livelihoods and Environment work has been reviewed to be able to take advantage of the favourable political setting. The socio-economic inclusion of refugees into National and Local Development Plans as well as multi-year development-oriented programmes and projects will be prioritized.

A more targeted approach will be promoted, and advocacy, policy and coordination work will be enhanced. Market-driven interventions based on skills and capacities of refugees and existing promising sectors will be carried out. Context-specific financial inclusion efforts are going to be strengthened and will be supported through training and sensitization on savings, household budget management, financial literacy and access to local formal and informal financial institutions.

The livelihoods response is moving towards a more medium-term approach linked to the existing longer-term planning and to the broader humanitarian-development nexus implemented by key stakeholders such as the government of Chad, the World Bank and the European Union.

## ENVIRONMENT

To mitigate the negative impact of refugee settlements and higher demographic pressure on the environment, training and sensitization on mainstreaming issues

### **OBJECTIVE 1:** **Self reliance and livelihoods improved**

3,500 persons meet part of households needs through production kits for agricultural/fishery/livestock activities

400 persons supported to start an income-generating activity

### **OBJECTIVE 2:** **Natural resources and shared environment better protected**

2,500 tree seedlings planted to mitigate deforestation

around environment are being promoted. Reforestation mechanisms are being explored with key environmental actors and the Government of Chad.

Applying innovative approaches and technologies to identify new sources of energy are being considered, with innovative waste management projects being tested. The current work on energy-saving stoves such as Banco and AFRAH will be expanded within and around refugee hosting areas, along with solar-powered irrigation systems.



## Shelter & NFIs

The sectoral response for 2020 will aim at covering the shelter needs of newly arrived refugees and improving the shelter conditions of those already settled in the camp. It will be aligned to the Security and Development Plan for the Lake Region which is currently being prepared by the government. RRRP partners will harmonize planning CCCM/Shelter/ NFI cluster strategy, which focuses on shelter and NFI needs of IDPs and Chadian returned nationals in Chad's Lake region.

In addition, RRP actors will continue to provide newly arrived refugees with emergency shelter and core relief items, either through in-kind distribution or cash-based interventions. As part of a phased response strategy, they will also focus on transitioning from emergency shelters to locally adapted, semi-permanent shelters that resemble those of the host population.

The shelter strategy will focus on empowering communities, using cash-based interventions and capacity building/development by way of distribution of tool kits and training on best practices. In this way,

### OBJECTIVE 1:

**Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained**

33 persons trained and equipped for shelter construction

2,270 households living in adequate dwellings

### OBJECTIVE 2:

**Population has sufficient basic and domestic items**

100% of domestic item needs in the camp met

2,697 dignity kits provided

refugees will be able to construct their own shelters. Persons with specific needs will however be assisted to build their shelter through community-based support committees. Communal infrastructure such as schools, health centres, training centres, women and youth centres, distribution points and child-friendly spaces will be constructed, rehabilitated and maintained with the involvement of the local community. RRP Partners will distribute dignity kits to women of reproductive age.



The amount of drinking water available per person per day in Chad’s Lake region has consistently remained above emergency standards – unlike in the rest of the country. In Dar Es Salam camp, refugees have access to 27 litres per person per day on average, which is above the SPHERE standard of 20 litres per person per day. Throughout 2019, through CRRF initiatives the number of water committees managing the water systems grew from 19 to 30. The WASH Sector will work hand in hand with the committees to ensure that the average amount of water supplied to refugees stays above the global standard. In addition, a cost-recovery system is gradually being rolled out in part to both empower the recipients and to give them ownership over the water systems. RRP Partners also envisage a move towards a more sustainable water supply system that relies on gravitation and hand pumps. This will cater to both human needs as well as livestock and agricultural needs. Meanwhile, when it comes to sanitation, Dar Es Salam camp falls well below the global sanitation standards.

**OBJECTIVE 1:**  
**Supply of potable water increased or maintained**

46 boreholes rehabilitated and/or constructed

**OBJECTIVE 2:**  
**Sanitation and hygiene condition enhanced**

2,000 household sanitary latrines constructed

Only 19 per cent of households have access to latrines. The soil texture makes it difficult to construct durable latrines. The latrines that do exist fill up quickly. Consequently, RRP partners plan to construct an additional 2,270 drainable latrines using local materials, which would boost the access to latrines to 55 per cent of households. Partners will focus on expanding access to sanitation by building family and institutional latrines while improving solid waste management to avoid epidemics and degradation of the environment.

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization & Sector

ORGANIZATION	EDUCATION	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & ENVIRONMENT	PROTECTION	SHELTER & NFI	WASH	TOTAL
ASEIERT	24,348				67,284			91,632
CARE				299,956				299,956
INTERSOS			381,187		600,000			981,187
UNFPA	841,786			700,000				1,541,786
UNHCR	732,732	-	1,952,366	390,168	1,278,908	1,269,318	646,540	6,270,032
UNICEF	183,442							183,442
WFP		145,945						145,945
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,782,308</b>	<b>145,945</b>	<b>2,333,553</b>	<b>1,390,124</b>	<b>1,946,192</b>	<b>1,269,318</b>	<b>646,540</b>	<b>9,513,980</b>



# NIGER REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2020 PLANNED RESPONSE

170,000

REFUGEE  
POPULATION

35,000




HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

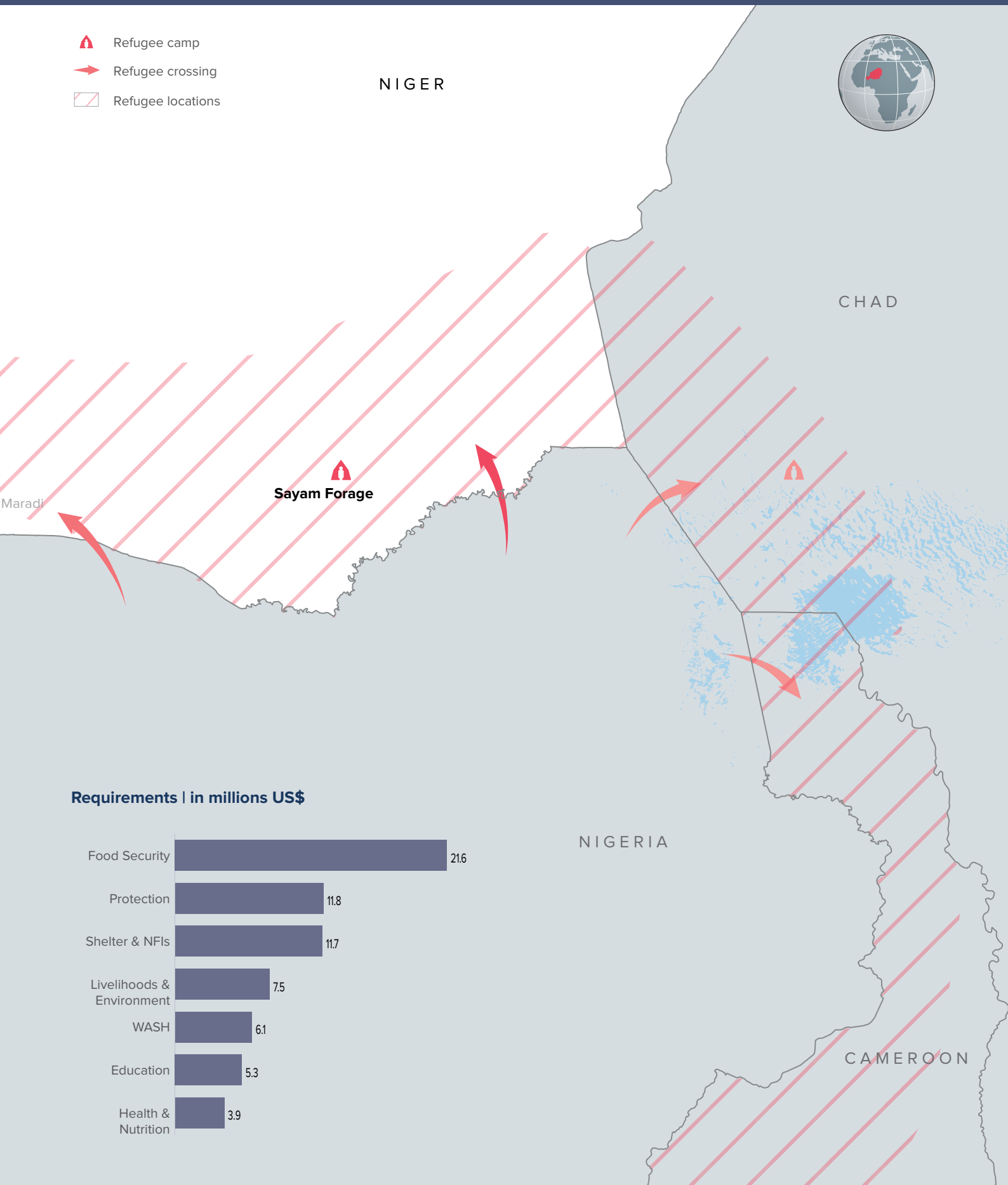
US\$ 68M

REQUIREMENTS

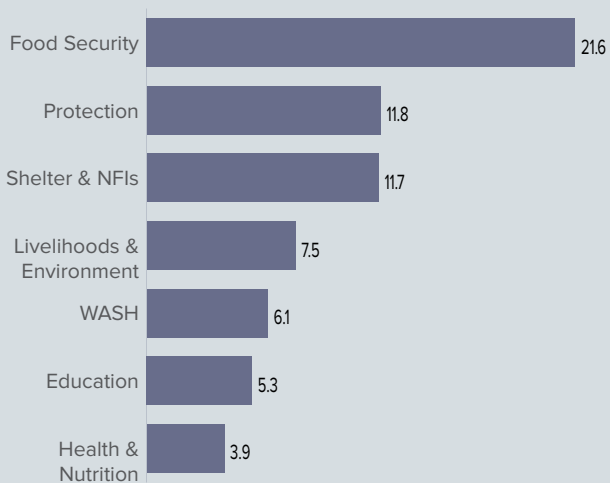
29

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED

-  Refugee camp
-  Refugee crossing
-  Refugee locations



Requirements | in millions US\$



# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

Throughout 2019, Niger continued to be affected by conflict and displacement and is currently facing a complex security situation all along its border with Nigeria. As a result, close to 120,000 Nigerian refugees have fled to Diffa over the years and more recently more than 35,000 to Maradi. In the Diffa region, the state of emergency that was declared in February 2015 to beef up security measures and troop presence is still in effect. While there has been a timid economic recovery, the repeated attacks and incursions perpetrated by Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) since March 2019 have caused unprecedented secondary displacements of tens of thousands of people within the region and continue to disrupt livelihoods.

Moreover, new threats are being added to ongoing challenges. NSAGs are increasingly turning to kidnappings for ransom, notably in villages bordering the Komadougou river, on the islands and along main routes leading to markets, and women and girls are being abducted on a more frequent basis. NSAG attacks on civilian workers and humanitarians are also on the rise, for instance seven Foraco employees in Toumour were killed in October 2018; the Médecins Sans Frontière Office in Maine Soroa was attacked in April 2019; and two IRC staff died as the result of an attack in June 2019. While these events have impeded access to areas of concern, humanitarian actors are still maintaining a strong presence in the Diffa region and important recovery and development initiatives have been put in place.

### OPPORTUNITY VILLAGES

Faced with this forced displacement crisis, the Government of Niger continues to promote a pragmatic and proactive alternative to camps policy. The concept of “opportunity villages” serves as a basis for reflection and planning in the framework of the voluntary relocation of refugees.

The concept of opportunity villages must be understood through three prisms:

- Catching up with the development needs of the host communities facilitated through solidarity with refugees;
- Strengthening existing mechanisms in terms basic services provision (water, health and education) and economic opportunities to absorb the additional population represented by refugees and thus facilitate their integration in an inclusive approach;
- Anticipation of additional movements which requires stabilizing current responses to better respond to future ones.

These three prisms tend towards the same objective: to quickly normalize the presence of refugees at the level of opportunity villages.

In addition, since early May 2019, a new emergency has arisen in the Maradi region. An increase in tensions and fighting between farmers and pastoralists – Haoussa and Fulani – in the north-western Nigerian States of Katsina, Sokoto and Zamfara has spiralled into an escalation of violence where armed groups have resorted to kidnappings, sexual violence and killings. This has forced over 35,000 Nigerians, mainly women and children, to seek asylum in Niger's Maradi region. While the situation along the border remains precarious, the Government of Niger still maintains an open-door policy and, as in Diffa, promotes an out-of-camp approach hosting displaced persons among local communities. With the ongoing violence the likelihood for further displacement remains high. Moreover, violence has spilled over into Niger, posing a threat to refugees and host populations alike, and heightening the risk of additional internal displacements and secondary movements.

Nonetheless, even with the precarious security environment and protracted crisis, throughout the different affected regions of Niger the populations and

local authorities remain particularly resilient. The challenge in Diffa today is to implement transformative development activities in an efficient, rapid and coordinated way. Expectations are high on several of the initiatives RRP actors are working on such as UNHCR's urbanization programme, the PARCA project (Projet d'Appui aux Réfugiés et Communautés d'Accueil) developed by the Government of Niger, UNHCR and the World Bank, and the implementation of the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and Resilience in the Lake Chad Basin areas. Meanwhile, in the Maradi region, the Government, and RRP partners are delivering an emergency response focused on protection and life-saving activities. An important component of the response is the relocation of refugees to "opportunity villages" away from the border. This is done to ensure their safety and ease pressure on the host population. At the same time, this scheme contributes to developing rural areas that lack adequate infrastructure and basic services, in line with the humanitarian-development nexus, as well as ensuring that assistance provision is sustainable and reaches the host population as well.



## Needs and Vulnerabilities

In 2019, the deteriorating security situation along the Nigerian border has led to new displacements and secondary movements in Niger, notably in zones that were already structurally vulnerable. Following current trends, it is expected that more than 170,000 Nigerian refugees will be hosted in Niger by the end of 2020, of which 50,000 in the Maradi region.

The humanitarian crisis in Diffa is a mixed situation - it affects more than 260,000 individuals who were forced to flee their homes. This includes close to 120,000 refugees, 110,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 29,954 Nigerian returnees and 1,454 asylum seekers. Most of these populations live in spontaneous sites or side-by-side within the local host populations, while over 15,000 of the refugees live in the UNHCR-managed Sayam Forage refugee camp. Given the volume of displacement that has already occurred, new large-scale refugee movements are not expected in the Diffa region; however, regular and significant secondary movements will likely to continue to occur in this context of insecurity and attacks. Secondary displacements create additional pressure on already overstretched services and infrastructure in hosting sites. At the same time these movements create the need for ongoing emergency response capacity in terms of food security, NFI and shelter.

Protection remains one of the most serious challenges in the Diffa region with incidents being recorded on a constant basis. In fact, during 2019, more than six hundred protection incidents were logged linked to: armed attacks targeting civilians; abductions; extortion of goods; kidnaping; forced enrolment of children into non-state armed groups; sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), etc. The security situation does not show any signs of improvement in the short or medium

term. As such, refugee and host populations remain vulnerable to several forms of exploitation and/or abuse and violence as well as to other protection concerns and risks.

Diffa is also facing a prolonged economic crisis correlated to the protracted insecurity. The economic crisis is a major obstacle to people's ability to become self-reliant and support themselves. Reliance on humanitarian aid is still pervasive, even seven years after the arrival of the first refugees in the region. The collective responsibility to ensure a favorable future for inhabitants of the Diffa region is high. Anthropogenic pressure on the environment continues to be particularly strong, especially due to the massive cutting of wood as a source of domestic energy by vulnerable households. This pressure is even more marked in areas not covered by gas kit supports in previous years.

In Maradi, most of the more than 35,000 biometrically registered refugees have settled near the border in 47 different villages. The growing number of refugees has exacerbated the vulnerability of host communities, especially as already limited resources and basic services are being stretched too thin. The Maradi region was already affected by chronic and recurrent epidemics such as cholera before the arrival of refugees. It is also prone to food insecurity, and the malnutrition rate of children under five years of age and pregnant women, is about 35 per cent.

It is estimated that some 30,000 host community members are affected by the crisis. Given resource limitations among host communities, refugees remain dependent on humanitarian aid. They also need access to the healthcare system and to water and sanitation.

Educational opportunities for newly arriving children are also scarce and the need for psychosocial support is high.

The protection environment in the Maradi region is also precarious and risks are prevalent, particularly for women and girls, as well as unaccompanied and separated children. Numerous women have been separated from their husbands and families during their flight from Nigeria. Others have become victims of rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and require assistance. The border remains porous and risks of incursions of armed groups remain considerable. UNHCR is working with the Government of

Niger to relocate refugees to selected locations away from the border, in order to mitigate security risks and to provide better living conditions.

Seven years into the crisis in Niger, with the protracted situation in Diffa, the new emergency in Maradi and significant needs in other areas of the country, particularly in the regions of Tahoua and Tillabery, maintaining humanitarian funding remains essential. Any significant reduction in funding could have a profound impact on the socio-economic situation of the population.



## Response Strategy and Priorities

For both the Diffa and Maradi situations, RRP partners have fully aligned the Nigeria refugee response plan with the Government of Niger's alternatives to camps strategy and with the Global Compact for Refugees, and thus are keeping the humanitarian-development nexus at the heart of the approach. The overarching objectives of the response strategy are to strengthen the absorption capacity of basic services to alleviate pressure stemming from the additional demand for services, and support peaceful coexistence, in complementarity with a multisectoral emergency response. While area-based approaches are used for access to basic services such as water or health, individual assistance is given based on vulnerability level and not status. More specifically for each region the priorities are as follow:

### Maradi

**Consolidate protection space:** To respond to the current level of refugee arrivals and in anticipation of additional movements, the protection response will continue to focus on individual basic registration<sup>1</sup> of all new arrivals, advocate for continued access to territory as well as undertake protection monitoring, border monitoring and community-based protection. Psychosocial support, child protection, SGBV response, assistance to persons with specific needs and social cohesion will be prioritized.

**Voluntary relocation:** As most refugees settled in villages close to the border and are affected by insecurity, voluntary relocation to "opportunity villages" is a priority. In the "opportunity villages", while multisectoral emergency assistance will be provided during the relocation process and the installation phase, a concerted effort will be made to strengthen public

services and infrastructure to facilitate rapid integration of refugees and to increase the level of services for the host population.

**Emergency response:** For refugees not living in "opportunity villages" RRP actors will prioritize rapid response actions in terms food security, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene). Host village services will continue to be supported, especially in terms of access to water, health and nutrition.

**Increase resilience:** Partners will bolster resilience among refugee and host communities, paying attention to infrastructure development, access to economic opportunities and harnessing natural resources in an environmentally sound manner.

### Diffa

**Strengthen the protection environment:** Despite a complex security context, RRP partners will continue to collaborate and maintain their presence to ensure adequate responses in the areas of protection monitoring, prevention, and community participation as well as for case identification, referral and response. Partners will continue to build on gains that have been made over the years in protection and strive to put in place social cohesion approaches in a more cross-cutting manner. Voluntary relocation to the Sayam refugee camp will continue to be available to refugees should they so choose.

**Maintain emergency response:** To respond to ongoing secondary movements, maintaining emergency response capacity is essential, especially in terms of food security, wash, shelter and NFIs.

**Accelerate the operationalization of the humanitarian-development nexus:** in 2020, authorities, donors and humanitarians will strongly align to accelerate recovery and support stabilization of the Diffa region.

<sup>1</sup> Individual basic registration is the collection of basic biographical data on each individual within a group. IBR can be used in situations where individual comprehensive registration cannot be completed due to lack of capacity or where case management is not being conducted in the operation.

### Strengthening livelihoods and resilience

In 2020, RRRP partners in Niger will promote enhanced and new partnerships, information sharing and programming in line with state solutions' strategies. They will do this by continuing to build synergies with global and regional approaches as per the key objectives of the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). Strengthening the humanitarian-development nexus for the achievement of solutions will also remain the top priority for RRRP partners.

The Government of Niger has designated Diffa as a priority area for the operationalization of the humanitarian – development nexus and has charged the Ministry of Humanitarian Action with implementation. Within this framework, the RRRP response strategy seeks to enhance the socio-economic inclusion of refugees in terms of access to services and economic opportunities while at the same time considering the needs of host populations, IDPs and returnees. While it is expected that development actors will be further mobilized and engaged, humanitarian actors will continue to make their interventions consistent with national development priorities. The strengthening of the presence of the State is essential to ensure stability as well as the sustainability of this approach.

Insecurity and population movements have significantly altered the administrative, educational, health and agricultural production map of the Diffa region. The Government of Niger fully acknowledges this profound change and has integrated it into its recovery plan for the region and has acted by orienting PARCA's choices for investment. Indeed, in terms of major interventions that will be implemented in 2020, authorities will prioritize infrastructure investments that are in existing sites, towns and villages where displaced people are concentrated. RRRP actors will consider this national dynamic and UNHCR will ensure that its urbanization programme enhances complementarity

with the Government's actions. Particular attention will be maintained in areas where access is becoming more complex, particularly the municipalities of Toumour and Bosso.

It is also noteworthy that the response in the Maradi region will also be anchored towards a humanitarian-development nexus approach. As such, partners will bolster resilience among refugee communities, paying attention to infrastructure development, access to economic opportunities and harnessing of natural resources. Partners will also promote dialogue and positive interactions between the refugees and the host communities.

In the Maradi region, self-reliance and livelihoods of refugees and host communities alike will be improved by giving them kits for agriculture and livestock production. Moreover, access to self-employment and to small commerce will be facilitated through linking refugees up to formal and informal financial services and through training youth in vocational and technical skills. A socio-economic profiling and study on livelihood capacities will be carried out, as well as a market survey and a labour sector survey to guide the livelihoods strategy in refugee hosting areas.

The presence of development actors in this area prior to the crisis will enhance the resilience-based strategy and enable development interventions that will facilitate the quick recovery of refugees and host communities from the negative impacts of forced displacement.

With regards to comprehensive solutions, RRRP partners in Niger will continue to prioritize the strengthening of refugee self-reliance as well as the resilience of all conflict-affected communities. In terms of environment protection, access to gas as an alternative to wood for domestic energy will be assured.

## Coordination and Partnerships

Across Niger, the Government leads the refugee response with support from UNHCR in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM). In Diffa, the Governor has the overall responsibility for coordination through the Regional Committee for the Management of the Displaced. The Committee is composed of Regional Technical Directors, Prefects, the President of the Regional Council and humanitarians. Regional sectoral working groups are led by the regional technical directorates and supported by humanitarian actors. The Regional Council leads on development interventions.

Since September 2017, a government-led decentralization process resulted in increased responsibility and autonomy of Regional Councils and municipalities in four key sectors - education, health, environment and water/sanitation. Despite the technical and financial challenges faced, strengthening the central role of the regional and local authorities in the management of the crisis and enhancing institutional resilience will continue to be prioritized. Strengthening regional and local authorities' capacities is also a key component of the PARCA project.

An inter-organization coordination committee (IOCC/ Diffa) has been set up at the regional level in Diffa and is co-led by UNHCR and OCHA. This IOCC is the interface between the humanitarian community and the authorities and is directly linked to the Humanitarian Country Team at national level. In line with the Joint Note on "Mixed Situations: Coordination in Practice", UNHCR remains accountable for the refugee response in all sectors and the development of the Nigeria Refugee Response Plan whereas OCHA is responsible for developing the Humanitarian Response Plan for IDPs in Niger with partners.

While humanitarian coordination has gradually been brought up to the level of needs, the challenge today is to coordinate development effectively in a security context that hinders humanitarian interventions, deters the availability of the private sector and requires regular rethinking of timelines. The Government of Niger through the PARCA team, OCHA, UNDP and UNHCR will ensure the inclusion of the humanitarian community in development actions and continue to collaborate closely with development actors in the region. The objective of this expanded partnership is to gradually shift

### RRP PARTNERS

- ACF
- ACTED
- Agir Plus
- ALIMA-BEFEN
- ANTD
- CAFOD
- CIAUD
- COOPI
- DEDI
- DIKO
- DRC
- FAO
- HI
- HSF
- IAS
- IOM
- IRC
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Mercy Corps
- MRC
- NRC
- Save the Children
- SFCG
- World Vision
- UNICEF
- UNHCR
- Welthungerhilfe
- WFP
- WHO

responsibilities in refugee hosting areas to the Government and development actors, particularly in the areas of health, water and food security.

In parallel, from the beginning of the emergency in Maradi, the RCM was applied, with UNHCR leading the inter-agency response to the refugee influx. RRRP Partners have been expanding their presence in the region as a matter of urgency and ensuring that capacity levels across the board are commensurate with the requirements of the situation.

Joint interagency multi-sectoral evaluations have already been carried out by UNHCR in conjunction with the UN Country Team, OCHA and other UN sister agencies as well as national and international NGOs. While the

refugee response follows a multi-sectoral approach, humanitarian needs are largely defined along sector lines.

At field level, a coordination committee led by the Governor of Maradi is being established and a protection working group has been put in place. The sectoral response will continue to be provided through the existing working groups at regional level, led by the Technical Regional Directorate and supported by the humanitarian community.

In Niamey, the existing multi-sectoral working group for refugees under UNHCR's leadership oversees the coordination of the response in conjunction with inter-cluster, clusters and other working groups.



UNHCR / Jean-Sébastien Jossset

# Planned Response

## Protection

The protection situation in the Diffa Region is characterized by NSAG cross-border actions and significant criminality. Security has steadily deteriorated since the beginning of 2019, reaching peaks in March and August when 116 and 115 protection incidents were recorded. Gueskerou, N'Guigmi, Diffa, Bosso and Toumour communes have been the most affected. Women and children represent 32 per cent of the victims. 15 per cent of victims are minors.

In 2019, the use of kidnapping increased drastically and has been followed by demands for ransom payments from the victims' relatives, causing great psychological distress among the population. Secondary displacement and movements due to the floods of October 2019 further fragilized refugee-hosting sites in terms of coexistence between communities as well as access to water, food, and to agro-pastoral areas.

In 2019, around 3000 refugees returned to Nigeria mainly to the cities of Damassak, Baga, Cross and Maiduguri where some areas regained security. Meanwhile, a number of Chadian refugees from the Lake Chad region have been recorded mainly in the Kidjandi site on account of repeated incursions of NSAGs into Chadian territory, resulting in murders, kidnapping and extortion of property.

### OBJECTIVE 1:

**Access to asylum and protection is ensured**

0 case of refoulement registered

### OBJECTIVE 2:

**Refugees are registered and documented**

100% of refugees registered on an individual basis and received

### OBJECTIVE 3:

**Victims of SGBV received appropriate response**

100% identified SGBV victims referred and supported with appropriate support

### Diffa

RRRP actors' priorities are to:

#### Strengthen protection activities and protection monitoring:

RRRP partners plan to further develop and strengthen protection activities and presence in host villages, spontaneous sites, while maintaining regular presence in Sayam Forage camp. Protection monitoring, including border monitoring will continue to be a priority. To this end, the Protection Sector intends to strengthen all existing community-based early-warning systems with protection committees that will capture real-time population movements at the borders to identify and prepare for any potential mass population movements.

**Ensure centrality of community-based protection:**

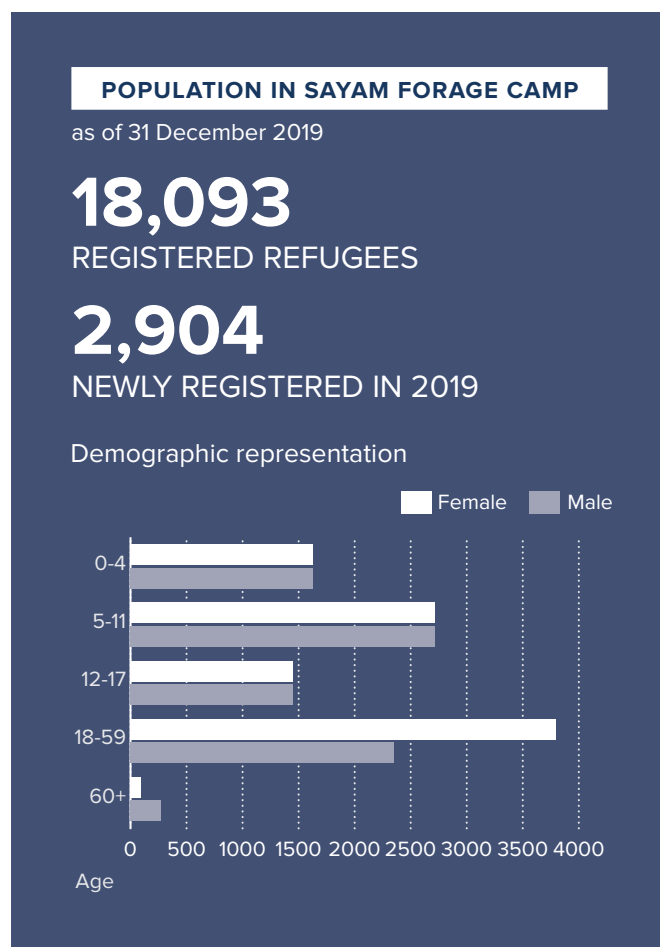
The number of community-based protection committees will be increased and their prevention and response capacity will be strengthened to improve identification and referral, especially in terms of child protection and SGBV. Child protection will be improved by enhancing assistance to children at risk and victims of violence, with greater involvement of communities in support of state services. Best interests of the child procedures will be implemented to determine response interventions. A SGBV response will continue to be provided through a holistic approach that includes medical, psychological and legal support as well as socio-economic reintegration activities for survivors. Communities in and out camp will be assisted by increasing awareness on SGBV prevention and the development of a “community paralegals” strategy for Diffa, including in Sayam Forage camp. Community-based activities will also focus on peaceful coexistence especially linked to further population movement.

**Verify and biometrically register refugees:**

This activity will continue to be pursued in all accessible areas of Diffa to ensure the issuance of documents to refugees. Registration and access to birth certificates for newborn children in Niger will be the key area of focus to reduce the risk of statelessness. Thus, greater involvement of the Government and capacity building of civil services will be required. Activities will be implemented to improve refugees’ freedom of movement and their access to basic services.

**Enable safe return of refugees:**

As some returns are recorded, to ensure refugees return in safety and dignity where conditions are conducive is essential. Discussions have been engaged with both Niger and Nigeria regarding the development of a tripartite agreement.



**Maradi**

In the Maradi region, protection assessments have highlighted several major challenges, including insecurity in border areas affecting access to some villages, a high risk of attacks/incursions due to spontaneous settlement of refugees near the border, the risk of kidnapping and recruitment of young people, family separations and the risk of tensions between refugees and hosts due to socio-economic conditions. The assessments also reveal numerous cases of human rights violations. Many traumatized women and girls, victims of torture and sexual violence have been identified.

The scattered geographical distribution and remote locations of refugees represent a strong challenge to monitor the incidents and ensure appropriate responses.



Additionally, the area of intervention should progressively increase especially in the Tahoua region, department of Madaou, where the first movements were recorded at the end of 2019. The community-based monitoring system (community relays) remains fragile. Referral mechanisms are progressively transformed into a global framework for response and collaboration at all levels (legal, health, psychosocial, economic, etc.).

For the Protection Sector in the Maradi region, the priorities of the RRRP actors are to:

#### Support to voluntary relocation:

As part of the relocation plan, partners will aim to ensure that refugee hosting areas maintain their civilian and humanitarian character to mitigate security risks associated with proximity to armed groups. The Government and response partners have identified “opportunity villages” to which refugees will be relocated. A communication plan that outlines awareness raising campaigns for both refugees and host populations in the relocation areas will be implemented.

#### Strengthen of a favourable protection environment:

Ensuring access to asylum, registration (biometric registration) and documentation; maintaining the civilian character of asylum; relocating voluntary refugees; collecting information on protection incidents and population movements; strengthening community-based protection and monitoring mechanisms; as well as building the capacity of local authorities, security forces and humanitarian actors remains paramount. Special attention will also be given to promoting social cohesion.

#### Ensure the centrality of the community-based protection:

A coordination framework was put in place and continues to be strengthened to provide a comprehensive child protection response and to facilitate the integration of child protection issues into existing community-based programmes. The goal is to

ensure rapid identification, documentation and referral of children at risk to the appropriate assistance or competent service providers. In terms of SGBV, community-based approach will continue to be key in terms of prevention, identification and referral of victims.

#### Provide mental health and psychosocial support:

Mental health and psychosocial support activities will continue be integrated into existing health services, the education system and social services to make them accessible to as many people as possible and to ensure their sustainability.

#### Enable access to services for persons with specific needs:

To ensure that the specific needs of refugee and host populations are catered to, access to services such as socio-educational activities, child-friendly spaces, recreational spaces and women-friendly spaces, will be secured.

#### Persons with Disabilities:

Special attention will be paid to physical accessibility of infrastructure and services in the different sites as well community participation to ensure they have access to rewarding social roles and responsibilities in their hosting areas.

## Education

For both the Diffa and the Maradi regions, the Government of Niger continues to promote and facilitate the integration of refugee children into Nigerien schools as part of its national strategy.

In the Diffa region, seven years on, Nigerian refugee children's access to education has improved as a result of the significant efforts made by the authorities and humanitarian actors through building 389 of the 480 needed emergency classrooms, and improving the quality of education as well as raising awareness on the importance of going to school. However, education remains a real challenge with an estimate of less than one school-aged refugee child out of two being enrolled in school. Already prior to the crisis, Diffa had the lowest school enrolment rate in Niger. The crisis has further weakened students' enrollment as well as their level in school as the education system in Diffa faces difficulties in adapting to the changing security context, which is still volatile. The March 2019 attacks alone resulted in the displacement of several thousand students in an area without enough educational facilities. Most children have had traumatic experiences. For these children, schooling is central to the psychosocial response. Due to budgetary constraints, few finalised permanent constructions meeting national infrastructure standards were carried out. There is also a significant need for latrines, water points, handwashing facilities and benches within schools.

Diffa also faces a major challenge in terms of teaching quality. In 2018, the Diffa Region was ranked last in terms of teaching quality at a national level, as evidenced by the skills assessment test organized by the Ministry of Primary Education. The Government of Niger does not have the capacity to recruit additional and trained teachers. Contract workers are becoming essential. Only

### OBJECTIVE 1:

**Population has optimal access to education**

53,413 students enrolled in primary education

104 classrooms constructed or rehabilitated

sixteen percent of the contract teachers present in Diffa passed the proficiency test, indicating a need for 700 additional teachers according to the Regional Director of Primary Education. To mitigate the lack of school staff, multigrade classes have been set up on some sites.

#### Diffa

For the Education Sector in Diffa, the priorities are to:

##### Reinforce education infrastructure:

RRP partners will make investments in construction, rehabilitation and equipping of public schools to meet the Government's standards. Major interventions will be carried out in 2020 by the Government of Niger as part of the PARCA project, which includes the construction of 100 classrooms for primary schools and three high schools. Distribution of school material to teachers and children will continue;

##### Build capacity of school staff:

as in previous years, education staff will continue to be trained on psychosocial support, school vulnerability risk analysis and education in emergencies. Capacity building for teachers in mathematics and French, teaching and multigrade class management will be maintained;

##### Maintain and strengthen school canteens:

In close collaboration with food security partners, priority will be given to the maintenance of school canteens and the expansion of schools covered by the school canteen

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### **Maradi**

In the Maradi region, education is a huge challenge for the humanitarian community and the Nigerien authorities. Two complex situations confront each other: 70 per cent of the refugees are under the age of 18 and their states of origin are considered by the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Education as “educationally disadvantaged”. In the case of Zamfara State, in 2017, the primary school enrolment rate was estimated at 32.1 per cent. Already particularly low, this net rate hides disparities between boys and girls, as well as between urban and rural areas from which all refugees come from.

On the Niger side, multisectoral assessments conducted by the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) reveal that more than half of Nigerien children are not in school. In the case of the department of Guidan Roundji, in 2016 there was one teacher for every 51 pupils in rural areas and 55 per cent of the infrastructure was in poor condition, most of it in straw huts.

According to the child protection actors, 80 per cent of refugee children and 15 per cent of children in the host population are in psychosocial distress due to violence, abuse and exploitation. The schooling lever in the psychosocial response is central. Both in terms of teaching quality and capacity in terms of infrastructures, schools in the host villages and opportunities villages can neither absorb refugee children in good conditions nor create the necessary attraction to counteract the low enrolment rates of refugee and host children.

In the Maradi region, the response plan for the education sector will be centered on the following

### **Tailoring educational assistance:**

Each refugee child’s educational background should be considered to ensure that the assistance provided responds to the needs of each. Children who have never attended school for instance would immediately enroll in Nigerien schools, while those in elementary or middle school would take accelerated French language courses for three months before they could join schools.

### **Improving the educational infrastructure:**

The upgrade of the existing infrastructure and equipment is necessary to absorb the additional number of children and to improve learning conditions for Nigerian students. To ensure swift access to education in the 2019-2020 school year, emergency classes are being built.

## Food security

Prior to the crisis, the Diffa region was characterized by a dynamic economy due to the mobility of the population and multiple economic activities. Proximity to Lake Chad as well as trade and exchange with Nigeria offered wideranging economic opportunities. Now, with the lack of mobility, insecurity and the desertification of fertile areas, such as the Komadougou river and the Lake Chad, Diffa is one of the region's in Niger most affected by food insecurity.

Since 2015, food security needs have been high for all vulnerable populations but with a higher prevalence of food insecurity for refugees. Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) actors carried out evaluations in 2019 after population movements that revealed a particularly worrying situation in terms of food security. Between 95 and 100 per cent of households surveyed indicated they did not have enough foodstock for a one week. To support their families, many households use negative coping mechanisms, such as reducing their number of meals. Moreover, UNHCR registration statistics reveal that 63 per cent of forcibly displaced persons are currently unemployed, depending fully on solidarity and assistance for their survival. Pastoralism also faces alarming challenges in the region due to insufficient rain in most of the area as well as locusts invading available pastures.

### Diffa

In coordination and support of the Government's Support Plan, Diffa's food security actors will provide:

- Targeted free food distribution and cash transfers to conflict-affected people in and outside camps; and
- Conditional food or cash distribution to food insecure people to secure their livelihoods.

The food and agricultural assistance will be provided to

### OBJECTIVE 1: Food security improved

88,462 persons received food or cash assistance

### OBJECTIVE 2: Food security strengthened

10,109 households received agricultural support during the emergency phase

households based on socio-economic vulnerability. In addition, food security actors will continue to place emphasis on strengthening people's resilience (see section on livelihoods and energy), creating synergy with development interventions, including PARCA, and taking protection, accountability and gender aspects into consideration while implementing the response.

### Maradi

In the Maradi region, the arrival of refugees has put significant pressure on host households, most of which are very poor and are sharing their resources. Food stocks have declined faster than expected. RRM assessments show that 92 per cent of the refugee population had no food stocks and 65 per cent did not have the financial resources to purchase food during the seven days prior to the interviews. Refugees and their hosts have thus reduced the number of meals they have per day: among refugees 37 per cent of adults and 21 per cent of children eat only one meal a day. In host communities, the rate is 20 per cent for adults and 15 per cent for children.

In terms of food accessibility, the persistence of insecurity in Nigeria along with the recent border closure has considerably reduced the volume of transactions on

certain trade routes. In 2019, RRP actors and the Government of Niger intervened rapidly to meet the needs of the host and refugee populations. The challenge today is to maintain the response.

In Maradi food security partners will:

- Cover the food needs of refugees in the Maradi region with a full ration (cereals, legumes, oil, and salt);
- Ensure that refugee children from 6 to 23 months (for targeted Nigerian refugee households) receive 200g of super cereal per day to prevent malnutrition; and
- Ensure that refugee children receive 100g of Plumpy'Sup and pregnant women receive 250g of Super Cereal and 25g of oil per day to treat moderate acute malnutrition.

The sectoral response focusses on combining food assistance with building resilience among the most vulnerable populations. Food and cash-based interventions will also be used to empower refugees and to foster socio-economic integration.

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UNHCR / Jean-Sébastien Josset

## Health & Nutrition

The health system in the Diffa region is still largely dependent on humanitarian aid. In many of the oldest displacement sites where the health situation is relatively under control, humanitarian actors are unable to ensure their exit strategy in the absence of public services, and as such resources can not be redeployed to new areas facing urgent needs. Six years after the beginning of the crisis, the vast majority of the region’s health infrastructure still does not meet national standards and is therefore not adapted to the demographic pressure related to further population displacement.

While the 2019 national nutrition survey conducted jointly by the Government of Niger and humanitarian actors reveals an improvement in the nutritional status of children at the national when looking at the prevalence of acute malnutrition, the situation in the Diffa region is very different. In Diffa, the global acute malnutrition rate among children from six to 59 months is 10.8 per cent, 9.7 per cent for moderate acute malnutrition and 1.1 per cent severe acute malnutrition. The prevalence of chronic malnutrition (or stunting) in this same age bracket is 41.4 per cent, with 29.1 per cent moderate and 12.3 per cent with severe chronic malnutrition. In 2019, nutrition stakeholders revealed a clear correlation between the increase in the death rate of children at the CRENI (Centre de récupération et d’éducation nutritionnelle intensif) and the cessation of funding. Anemia affects 49.7 per cent of children aged 0 to 59 months, 49.5 per cent of pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years and 43.5 per cent of non-pregnant women aged 15 to 49 years.

**OBJECTIVE 1:**  
**Health status improved**

28 public health centers constructed or rehabilitated

**OBJECTIVE 2:**  
**Population has optimal access to reproductive health and HIV/AIDS services**

3,218 children screened, identified, and admitted to moderate acute malnutrition treatments

4,340 children screened, identified, and admitted to severe acute malnutrition treatments

**Diffa**

The priorities of the Health and Nutrition Sectors in Diffa are to:

**Strengthen health infrastructure:**

in 2020, the Government of Niger, through the PARCA project, plans to rehabilitate and build more than twenty public health centres in the Diffa region. Although this infrastructure will not be fully autonomous, the Government’s objective is to considerably strengthen the presence of public services in the Diffa region and thus support humanitarian actors’ exit strategy from certain sites.

**Maintain health system support:**

RRRP partners will continue to support access to health care (primary and referral) for vulnerable populations, epidemiological surveillance, organization of vaccination response campaigns in collaboration with regular programmes, support to the minimum sexual and reproductive health system, pre-positioning of emergency health kits for vulnerable populations and staff training.

**Prevent and manage malnutrition:**

Activities will include screening for acute malnutrition either in mass or coupled with health activities; community-based approaches and food assistance interventions; management of severe (children under 5 years of age) and moderate (children aged 6-23 months and pregnant women) acute malnutrition; integration of “WASH in Nutrition” activities in CRENI; preventive nutritional supplementation for children aged 6-23 months for poor and very poor households through blanket feeding and the promotion and support for appropriate infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices.

**Maradi**

In the Maradi region, the health system is facing significant challenges in responding due to the new arrivals. There are shortages of qualified personnel, frequent breaks in the medicine supply chain and a lack of technical equipment. Some health centres are inaccessible, namely on account of the lack of transport for refugees living in peripheral or remote villages.

RRM assessments reveal that 31 per cent of households are unable to take care of their children’s illnesses due to financial constraints. Immunization rates among refugees are low: 85 per cent of households surveyed say they have not vaccinated their children against measles and 71 percent have not vaccinated against polio. The rate of assisted deliveries is very low. There is a real sociological gap between the population and the health system.

In terms of malnutrition, screenings carried out in September showed 7.5 per cent for moderate acute malnutrition and 3.6 per cent for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) for all populations combined. RRP partners are supporting the Ministry of Health in

supplying health districts with medical and nutritional inputs and regular screening. However, access to health care services remains a considerable challenge.

Under health and nutrition, the response strategy aims to ensure that all refugees and asylum-seekers have access to essential health and nutrition services. The priorities are to:

**Provide Mobile Medical Units (MMUs):**

Distance to available medical centres and lack of ability and resources to commute are barriers for refugees and some host community members to access the medical care they need. Therefore, MMUs are essential to ensuring wider coverage as well as health and nutritional monitoring in rural areas. These mobile clinics will offer curative consultations, screenings and vaccines, and will refer those in need of more specialized care.

**Reinforce health infrastructure:**

Emergency support for health centres present in refugee-hosting areas will consist of providing medicine and medical staff to immediately respond to the populations’ needs. Rehabilitation and construction as well as provision of equipment will be prioritized to bring the health infrastructure up to adequate standards.

**Prevent and manage malnutrition:**

the same activities as Diffa will be implemented in Maradi.

## Livelihoods & Environment

Disruption of trade on the border and the abandonment of fertile areas of the Komadougou River and Lake Chad have suffocated the local economy. The conflict has caused a deterioration of the economic situation of the region, which is already weakened by structural fragilities and a chronic deficit caused by a succession of poor agro-sylvo-pastoral campaigns. The dynamics of return observed in some areas, although weak, are due to a double necessity, economic and social (regaining social functions damaged by the flight) but are also undertaken at the cost of real risk. The challenge today is to create economic opportunities where the populations are located, i.e. in the host sites, villages and cities.

The limited presence of microfinance institutions in the region is also an essential obstacle to the recovery of the regional economy, or to empowering the population. Microfinance institutions are also weakened by outstanding loans and the absence of new credit lines.

### **Diffa**

An environmental crisis is taking place in Diffa. It began before population displacements and has now become exacerbated. The deterioration of the already fragile vegetation cover is accelerated as a result of human pressure and the vulnerability of the displaced leads them to cut it down to reinforce their shelters or to use as domestic energy. This situation is even more marked in areas that do not have access to the gas market set up in previous years.

In close complementarity with the food security sector, response partners and the Government of Niger, through the PARCA project, will support the economic opportunities of the targeted population by way of:

### **OBJECTIVE 1:**

#### **Self-reliance and livelihoods improved**

11,351 Households received support for agricultural and non-agricultural economic activities

### **OBJECTIVE 2:**

#### **Access to energy assured**

30,000 persons have access to gas for domestic energy

#### **Agriculture production support:**

finance grants small equipment, technologies which will be delivered by local private agro-dealers for a selected number of eligible areas. The set of options offered will be based on consultations with the respective regions and communes and adapted to the economic potential and constraints in each commune. The grants will be provided for the following key production activities: rainfed and irrigated crops, livestock, poultry, agro-processing and aquaculture. Regarding irrigated crops, the intervention will be supported by the creation of irrigated perimeters in sites already identified during the development phase of the PARCA project.

#### **Entrepreneurship support:**

This component will finance cash grants for individuals for their choice of income generating activities. It will also include life skills, micro-entrepreneurship and technical trainings. The curricula will be adapted considering specific obstacles for displaced populations to access economic opportunities. It will also address specific obstacles faced by women based on the completed gender assessment and take their specific needs in terms of childcare and potential mobility constraints into account. The PARCA team will carry out a diagnosis of the agencies present in Diffa for cash distribution.



In terms of environmental protection, while maintaining the promotion of gas use, the RRP actors will follow the logic of High Intensity Labor Force and continue activities related to land recovery and awareness around environmental protection.

### **Maradi**

In the Maradi region, 82 per cent of refugees are currently without an occupation, totally dependent on solidarity and food assistance. This situation automatically has a strong impact on their socio-economic situation. Refugees express a strong demand for support in terms of economic opportunities.

The use of wood as the main source of domestic energy is predominant for refugees and their hosts. The existing anthropogenic pressure on wood resources is accentuated by the arrival of refugees. For both refugees and vulnerable hosts, the purchase of wood is impossible due to the lack of sufficient economic resources. Diffa's experience has shown that the purchase of wood could represent the second largest source of expenditure for the forcibly displaced after food. A survey carried out in Guidan Roumji and Chadakori shows that host households spend an average of 23 USD (13,625 CFA) per month to buy wood. For equivalent energy needs, the expenditure on gas would be around 8.5 USD (5,000 CFA).

Vulnerable refugee households have no other recourse than illegal cut, which represents a risk of tension with the landowners as well as exposure to sexual violence against women and girls during the collection of firewood. The transformation of wood into charcoal for sale as a coping strategy to meet household needs has already been identified.

For the Maradi region, the priorities for the environment and livelihood sectors are:

### **Resilience and Social Cohesion:**

Partners will ensure that all interventions follow a humanitarian-development nexus approach in order to foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence among the refugees and the host communities. RRP actors will support refugees and vulnerable host populations by reviving their livelihoods through the distribution of seeds and the preservation of herdsman's livestock (vaccinations, restocking, etc.). Additional evaluations need to be done especially in "opportunity villages" for the support of non-agricultural activities.

### **Awareness-raising and reforestation:**

Awareness sessions on the preservation of the environment will be carried out, and emphasis will be placed on peaceful coexistence and assisted natural regeneration. In relocation sites, the one tree per household strategy will be favoured and the maintenance and rehabilitation of existing green spaces at schools, health centers and public squares will be prioritized.

### **Gas as an energy source:**

Partners will prioritize support to refugee and host populations to shift from wood to gas not only for its impact on the environment but also on purchasing power given that gas costs less than wood. This would also have a positive impact on the protection of refugee and host women and girls as it would reduce the risk of being subject to sexual violence and exploitation while in the fields collecting firewood. The partnership with the private sector that has been established in the Diffa region will be replicated with the goal of establishing a self-sustaining and sustainable system for gas access.

## Shelter & NFIs

The need for non-food items (NFIs) and shelter in the Diffa region remains particularly high. Shelter needs concern all displaced who have not been able to benefit from transitional or long-term shelter. As a matter of fact, only 1,100 displaced households have benefited from UNHCR's long-term shelters under the urbanization programme and only 800 households from IOM's transitional shelters have had their shelter needs covered. At Sayam Forage refugee camp, emergency shelters are gradually being replaced by Refugee Housing Units.

In 2019, six years since the beginning of the crisis, RRP actors were still unable to implement their strategy to initiate the transition from emergency to transitional/ long-term shelters as funding was not provided to support this costly but essential strategy. Although maintaining emergency shelter response capacity is essential, particularly to respond to secondary movements, the transition to long-term shelters is crucial.

### Diffa

The context in Diffa is particularly conducive to accelerating refugee integration. Since the beginning of the crisis, UNHCR has supported seven municipalities in the Diffa region to put in place housing development projects that meet national standards as part of its urbanization programme. To avoid tensions from growing, authorities have impressed upon the importance of implementing interventions that facilitate refugees' access to housing on a legal and sustainable basis. Nearly 2,500 displaced households, including 50 per cent of refugees, now hold land deeds.

#### OBJECTIVE 1:

**Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained**

12,543 households provided with emergency shelters

#### OBJECTIVE 2:

**Population has sufficient basic domestic items**

19,082 households provided with basic domestic items

For the Shelter/NFI Sector, the priorities are to:

#### Maintain an emergency response capacity:

In view of the volatility of the situation, it is essential that the necessary shelter and NFI stocks are available to respond to new movements.

#### Continue the urbanization programme:

Two new housing estates will be built in Maine Soroa and Kidjandi to respond to demographic pressure on certain sites as well as to the dynamics of secondary movements. It will also contribute to strengthening the absorption capacities of reception sites. Moreover, the urbanization programme will continue to serve as an entry point to initiative development actions within highly densely populated areas. Complementarity with the PARCA project, regarding the infrastructure strengthening component, will be enhanced on all sites.

#### Build sustainable shelters:

Construction will continue in the urbanized sites of Diffa, Assaga, Kabelawa and Maine Soroa. The city of Toumour, hosting more than 30,000 forcibly displaced people, remains a priority in terms of finding alternatives to the construction of houses on existing allotments, as the security situation makes direct intervention challenging but the area remains a priority.

## Maradi

Families along the border of Niger, where solidarity and hospitality are very strong, are hosting the Maradi refugee population in their homes. Multisectoral assessments conducted by RRM actors in 40 villages reveal that 64 per cent of host families host 2.3 refugee households with an average size of 15 people. Most refugees are settled within the concessions of the host populations. Within the concessions, makeshift shelters are built, with men often leaving the inside of houses for women and children. Like the rural housing situation in Niger, the housing of host families is particularly precarious. In 40 villages hosting refugees, 63 per cent of the host families live in a habitat in poor condition and generally without latrines.

During their escape, the refugees left behind most of their belongings. Due to a lack of financial resources, both refugees and hosts need essential non-food items. RRM multisectoral assessments show the lack of possessions, such as mosquito nets (79% of refugees and 55% of hosts), soap (58% of refugees and 58% of hosts) or jerry cans for water conservation (34% of refugees and 42% of hosts).

The priorities for the shelter and NFI response are to:

### Provide shelter support in host villages:

To ease pressure on families that have hosted refugees, shelter support will be provided through two different approaches: distribution of emergency shelters for refugees to erect next to hosting families' houses or on plots of land that have been allocated to them, or support host families living in sub-standard shelter conditions by carrying out rehabilitation and construction works to improve their shelters.

### Provide shelter support in "opportunity villages":

Site layout for three opportunity villages has already been finalized. The shelter support on the opportunity villages will consist of emergency shelters, Refugee Housing Units and the progressive construction of permanent shelters using local material and technics.

### Distribute NFIs:

Vulnerable refugees and host community members will receive non-food items both in host and opportunity villages. In the latter, the aim is to gradually shift to cash-based interventions that would give beneficiaries the freedom of choice all the while boosting the local economy. For cash assistance, collaboration with the Government's National Social Safety Net Programme will be formalized.



**Diffa**

In the Diffa region, although significant progress has been made in terms of access to water, stakeholders estimate that close to 104,000 people face a drinking water problem, regardless of their status. RRRP partners continued to carry out emergency WASH interventions, particularly in response to secondary movements. Sites generally have good water quality but the quantity is often insufficient.

The gradual transformation of emergency water infrastructure into sustainable water infrastructure engenders significant financial costs that humanitarian actors alone cannot support, particularly in the main hosting sites. However, progress has been made, particularly in the urbanized sites of Diffa and Nguigmi, which are now connected to the national public system in terms of access to water.

Sanitation is a particularly under-funded sector whereby the needs are even higher. Nearly 155,000 people across the region do not have access to community latrines. Open defecation remains the norm in most of the sites, particularly those outside or at the periphery of urban areas. The construction of family latrines using the “total community-led sanitation” approach has still not been implemented in the Diffa region six years after the beginning of the crisis. For the displaced, access to family latrines is almost non-existent. The only existing interventions in terms of family latrines are at the urbanized sites of Diffa and Nguigmi. The evaluations carried out as part of the RRM reveal relatively good practices and knowledge of hygiene rules by households. However, the need for hygiene kits remains substantial.

For the WASH sector, the priorities are to:

**OBJECTIVE 1:**  
**Supply of potable water increased or maintained**

30 water infrastructures rehabilitated or constructed

**OBJECTIVE 2:**  
**Sanitation and hygiene condition enhanced**

2,000 household sanitary latrines constructed

**Couple emergency assistance with sustainable infrastructure:**

Emergency WASH response capacity will be maintained to respond to secondary movements and floods. In terms of sustainable infrastructure, the objective is to cover all urbanized sites. In 2020, the Government of Niger plans to make considerable and sustainable investments in the cities of Diffa, Nguigmi, Kabelawa, Toumour and Bosso through the PARCA project.

**Improve sanitation:**

RRRP partners will continue to build emergency or long-term community latrines in public and community spaces. Maintenance of existing latrines is also a priority. Constructing family latrines through the “community-led total sanitation” approach for stable sites and particularly urbanized sites will be prioritized. Households will be provided with construction materials and will benefit from technical and monitoring support in construction and maintenance. Awareness-raising campaigns on the elimination of open defecation will be conducted, and awareness sessions will continue to be organized for environmental sanitization.

**Promote hygiene:**

The distribution of hygiene kits will reinforce basic hygiene awareness and promotion.

**Maradi**

In the Maradi region, the host community and refugees face broadly the same needs in terms of WASH. Few host households have family latrines and community latrines are almost non-existent. According to RRM assessments, only 12 per cent of households have access to latrines and 58 per cent of households have no soap. On all sites, there is no waste management system.

In both the current host villages and the “opportunity villages”, access to water was already insufficient before the arrival of the refugees, both in terms of quantity and quality. 78 per cent of both host and refugee households need assistance with drinking water.

What is even more worrying for the water, sanitation and hygiene situation is that the risk of a cholera epidemic is high. In 2018, a major cholera epidemic hit Niger, with more than 3,400 cases, 90 per cent of them in the Maradi region alone. In 2019, no cases were detected but the risk is high, especially during the rainy season.

RRRP partners priorities under the WASH sector are to:

#### Couple emergency assistance with sustainable infrastructure:

Emergency interventions in the water infrastructure such as water trucking, rehabilitation of water points and household water treatment solutions are necessary in host villages as well as relocation villages. Equally essential are investments in sustainable water infrastructure which would benefit local communities suffering from a severe lack of adequate and safe water supply.

#### Improve Sanitation:

Partners will continue constructing communal latrines in host and relocation villages, then the focus will shift towards the construction of family latrines through the community-led total sanitation approach. Households will be provided with building materials and will benefit from technical support and follow-up for construction and maintenance. This approach is part of the national strategy for sanitary structures in rural areas. Awareness campaigns on the elimination of open defecation will be conducted.

#### Promote hygiene:

Awareness sessions on good practices in terms of hygiene will be conducted through community representatives, and hygiene kits will be distributed to the most vulnerable households. The interventions aim to progressively shift towards cash transfers and vouchers.

# Financial Requirements

## By Organization & Sector

ORGANIZATION	EDUCATION	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & ENVIRONMENT	PROTECTION	SHELTER & NFI	WASH	TOTAL
ACF		283,500	283,000				307,324	<b>873,824</b>
ACTED		780,279			62,445	186,669	670,326	<b>1,699,719</b>
Agir Plus					25,025	279,125		<b>304,150</b>
ALIMA-BEFEN			340,000					<b>340,000</b>
ANTD					250,000			<b>250,000</b>
CAFOD	1,491,844							<b>1,491,844</b>
CIAUD					410,784			<b>410,784</b>
COOPI	223,137				645,960		15,000	<b>884,097</b>
DEDI						386,867	42,584	<b>429,451</b>
DIKO	53,633			438,333	98,933			<b>590,899</b>
DRC					90,000			<b>90,000</b>
FAO				2,000,000				<b>2,000,000</b>
HI					720,849			<b>720,849</b>
HSF	142,631							<b>142,631</b>
IAS							425,000	<b>425,000</b>
IOM						4,999,618		<b>4,999,618</b>
IRC	299,380				500,000	547,658	222,639	<b>1,569,677</b>
Luxembourg RC						291,807	129,776	<b>421,583</b>
Mercy Corps				580,600	483,533	25,000		<b>1,089,133</b>
MRC							350,000	<b>350,000</b>
NRC						275,219	63,792	<b>339,011</b>
Save the Children					337,500			<b>337,500</b>
SFCG					63,590			<b>63,590</b>
UNHCR	1,990,203	0	3,047,701	3,973,115	7,935,806	4,520,300	3,155,779	<b>24,622,904</b>
UNICEF	1,133,151				128,885	190,428	361,094	<b>1,813,558</b>
Welthungerhilfe				90,811				<b>90,811</b>
WFP		20,539,762						<b>20,539,762</b>
WHO			237,888					<b>237,888</b>
World Vision				444,000			390,000	<b>834,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,333,979</b>	<b>21,603,541</b>	<b>3,908,589</b>	<b>7,526,859</b>	<b>11,753,310</b>	<b>11,702,691</b>	<b>6,133,314</b>	<b>67,962,283</b>







ANNEX

# Regional Protection Dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin Abuja Action Statement

We, the Governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger, with the support of technical and financial partners gathered in Abuja, Nigeria, on 6 to 8 June 2016 within the framework of the Regional Protection Dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin, hosted by the Federal Government of Nigeria, with the technical facilitation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to discuss the most urgent protection risks in the Lake Chad Basin resulting from the conflict-induced crisis;

**Agree** on comprehensive actions to enhance protection and respond to the most urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other affected populations;

**Note** that the Boko Haram insurgency and its spill over into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger have caused the displacement of over 2.7 million people in the region, of whom 2.1 million are internally displaced in Nigeria, while some 155,000 Nigerian refugees have sought asylum in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The refugee-hosting countries also have sizeable IDP populations (Cameroon: 200,000; Chad: 110,000; and Niger: 127,208);

**Reaffirm** the validity of the principles and standards of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol as well as the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (“OAU Refugee Convention”), in particular the principle of non-refoulement; the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (“Kampala Convention”), especially the prohibition of forced displacement and the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (“1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness”);

**Recognize** that while military operations have led to significant advances in the fight against Boko Haram and have brought back a number of areas in north-eastern Nigeria under Government control, conditions in much of the north-east are not yet conducive for the return of Nigerian refugees and IDPs, due to continuing insecurity and the absence of basic services which pose acute humanitarian and protection risks for the affected populations, particularly in Borno state;

**Further note** that alongside persistent threats from Boko Haram, the presence of mines and unexploded improvised devices, climatic change as well as the drying up of Lake Chad, which exacerbate pre-existing vulnerabilities, further poses protection risks for the affected populations in the border regions of Cameroon, Chad and Niger, where Boko Haram attacks on civilians also continue or have intensified in some instances;

**Recognize** the legitimate national security concerns of the States and the need to ensure an appropriate balance between security and human rights, the obligation to protect IDPs and refugees, and the right to seek and enjoy asylum;

**Stress** the importance of maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee and IDP-hosting areas as an important protection standard with broad implications on other protection issues such as physical security, the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), prevention of child recruitment as well as access to assistance;

**Note** that the crisis has seriously impacted the most vulnerable civilians, including refugees, IDPs and host communities, particularly women and children at risk, older persons and persons with disabilities or serious medical conditions; that violence against women and children, including SGBV, is widespread, that many persons have suffered the trauma of violent experiences and that there is a significant rise in the number of child and female-headed households;

**Welcome** the progress made in the region in identifying, preventing and reducing statelessness, including the signing of the 2015 Abidjan Declaration of Ministers of ECOWAS Member States on Eradication of Statelessness by Nigeria and Niger, while recognizing that there are still important challenges, in particular the high number of persons in the region who lack documentation and have difficulties proving their nationality and therefore remain at risk of statelessness.

**In view of the foregoing:**

**In the area of forced displacement and freedom of movement in conflict, we agree to:**

1. Take concrete steps, including continuous monitoring, to ensure that security measures such as restrictions on freedom of movement in the context of state of emergency and evacuations comply with international standards, and are temporary and exceptional in nature.
2. Strengthen collaboration between government actors, humanitarian organisations, and other relevant stakeholders to ensure the voluntariness of return and the freedom of movement of displaced persons as well as their physical security.
3. Develop and implement practical measures to ensure an appropriate balance between security and respect for the right to seek and enjoy asylum, including respect for the principle of non-refoulement, protection of IDPs and related human rights.
4. Promote knowledge and training among all stakeholders, including government actors, such as security forces, international organizations and civil society, of the limits and safeguards of refugee and IDP protection, as outlined in international and regional legal instruments such as the 1951 Refugee Convention, the 1969 OAU Convention, and the Kampala Convention.
5. Enhance regional coordination and exchange of best practices through greater engagement by States and humanitarian actors with regional institutions such as the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

6. Commit to prioritize the ratification, domestication and implementation of international conventions, including the Kampala Convention.

**In the area of civil-military coordination and the civilian character of refugee and IDP hosting areas, we agree to:**

7. Develop a capacity building program (training) for security forces and the MNJTF on key international humanitarian standards, international protection and human rights, civilian and humanitarian character of refugee and IDP sites, and sensitize humanitarian and military actors on civil-military coordination to protect and promote humanitarian principles.
8. Enhance civil-military coordination to ensure an appropriate distinction between the roles of humanitarian actors and security forces as well as to enable humanitarian actors to reach people in need of assistance in difficult to reach areas.
9. Enhance screening and other security measures to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee and IDP sites, ensuring that these are conducted in a dignified manner and are gender and age-sensitive. Encourage at the same time greater information-sharing, while ensuring the protection of informants, IDPs, refugees, humanitarian actors, etc.
10. Strengthen access to justice, support the development of legal frameworks, provide legal assistance and encourage communities to use traditional conflict resolution mechanisms, where applicable and provided these are not in violation of national law.

**In the area of persons with specific protection risks, we agree to:**

11. Strengthen the identification of persons with specific needs, such as women and children at risk, through multi-sectoral needs assessments, improved registration and profiling, while ensuring data protection.
12. Improve multi-sectoral referral and response mechanisms in order to ensure better access to basic services.
13. Pay particular attention to the needs of children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children and children at risk of exposure to SGBV, child recruitment, forced marriage, exploitation and abuse; and ensure referral to appropriate services, such as psychosocial support and post-traumatic services.
14. Ensure an increased involvement of local communities and community-based organizations in the provision of support and services to most vulnerable groups, including older persons, the chronically ill, persons with disabilities and youth, through improved protection coordination and a greater involvement of the affected populations.
15. Commit to promulgate national legislation aimed at protecting and increasing the involvement and engagement of affected populations through advocacy and awareness campaigns.

**In the area of comprehensive solutions approach, we agree to:**

16. Support the processes aimed at achieving all durable solutions [local integration, voluntary return, and relocation for IDPs and resettlement to a third country for refugees], including by enhancing access to basic services, livelihood opportunities, and financial services; promoting peaceful co-existence among refugee, IDP and host communities; and encouraging environmentally friendly measures.

17. Ensure that refugee and IDP returns are voluntary, in safety and dignity, and based on well-informed decisions, once conditions are conducive, and that facilitated returns of refugees are within the framework of a tripartite agreement, and respect the principle of non-refoulement.
18. Establish the nexus between humanitarian response and development to support durable solutions such as local integration and reintegration, through joint and coordinated planning between humanitarian and development actors to ensure the inclusion of refugees, IDPs and returnees in development planning.
19. Guarantee the centrality of protection by ensuring the participation of affected persons in the planning and implementation of solutions, taking into account age, gender and diversity, and paying particular attention to persons with specific needs.

**In the area of right to nationality and documentation, we agree to:**

20. Conduct awareness campaigns on the importance of civil registration and relevant procedures, through the use of local media and the involvement of traditional and religious leaders.
21. Simplify birth registration and civil documentation procedures; organize and equip mobile registration centers and create more registration centers especially in remote areas; integrate birth registration in other sectors, such as education and health; and reduce the cost of birth registration and documentation.
22. Ensure national laws and policies comply with existing relevant international and regional standards, for example as defined in the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, and to support the adoption of a Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the right to nationality and eradication of statelessness.
23. Create a forum for consultation and sharing of best practices between States on issues of civil documentation and the risk of statelessness in the Lake Chad Basin.

**Follow-up mechanism**

To ensure follow-up of the above outlined actions, we further agree to:

24. Establish a plan of action at national level within 6 months of the adoption of the Action Statement, and review progress in implementation at national level at regular periods of no more than 6 months, and at regional level after 12 months.

Done in Abuja, Nigeria, on 8 June 2016

# Second Regional Protection Dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin

## Reaffirmation of the Commitments of the Abuja Action Statement and their Implementation

Recalling the common purpose and objectives of the Abuja Action Statement of 8 June 2016, the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, with the participation of a broad range of partners engaged in the response to forced displacement, convened a second Regional Protection Dialogue (RPD 2), on 28-29 January 2019.

Hosted by the Federal Government of Nigeria, with the technical facilitation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the RPD 2 was an opportunity to review the protection situation in all four countries, taking stock of progress and examining current challenges with a view to enhancing the response to the urgent needs of refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and host communities.

United in their intention to address the root causes of displacement and realize sustainable solutions for those affected by conflict, the Governments of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria:

**Reaffirmed** the importance of unwavering support to addressing the issues highlighted by the Abuja Action Statement;

**Noted** the continued volatility of the security situation in the Lake Chad Basin, the persistently high numbers of forcibly displaced and the extent of ongoing protection challenges;

**Commended** progress on strengthened legislative frameworks, reinforced coordination and dedicated attention to building capacity for meaningful and effective action;

**Acknowledged** the continued centrality of protection, access to asylum and the principle of non-refoulement, in line with the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and its 1967 Protocol, relevant international and regional instruments, as well as national laws and policies.

**Reiterated** the importance of regional efforts to seek solutions to forced displacement, in particular in the context of the momentum created by the African Union's Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons, marking the 50-year anniversary of the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa (OAU Refugee Convention) and the 10-year anniversary of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention);

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**Recommended** continued joint efforts by political, humanitarian, development and peace actors to address the protection and development needs of affected populations in the Lake Chad Basin and prepare the ground for solutions including sustainable reintegration upon voluntary return.

**Recognized** the relevance of broad initiatives geared towards the economic and development capacity of the wider region, including the Lake Chad Basin Commission Strategy, the Oslo I and Oslo II Conferences, and other related fora and their potential to alleviate the impact of forced displacement and contribute to the attainment of solutions;

**Applauded** the significant global developments towards reinforced international burden- and responsibility sharing and the operationalization of comprehensive responses, as set out in the 2018 Global Compact on Refugees, and the practical application of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework, as an integral part of the Compact, building on the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

**Noted** that the broad range of arrangements to support comprehensive responses in specific situations, including through regional and sub-regional collaboration, and responses in support of refugees and local communities, articulated by the Global Compact on Refugees, can also address the plight of IDPs and returnees.

**Welcomed** the advances made by development actors in support of government-led comprehensive responses and, committed to explore further opportunities to include refugees, IDPs and other affected populations into national and local service delivery;

**Underlined** the importance of credible data across all areas of action to support evidence-based responses;

**Recognized** the importance of continuous efforts and opportunities to further expand comprehensive responses, building on whole-of-government, multi-stakeholder engagement at national and local levels, and seeking opportunities for inclusive support to displaced and local populations through well aligned national and local development plans;

**Noted** the specific role and contribution of Ministries of Budget and Planning of the four countries, to effective planning and budgeting in support of the implementation of the Abuja Action Statement;

**Affirmed** the importance of feedback and accountability mechanisms to establish transparent linkages between interventions and the benefits resulting for affected populations;

**Encouraged** the preparation of an updated regional action plan based on national action plans to maximize opportunities for further progress in the five areas outlined in the 2016 Abuja Action Statement, keeping these under active and regular review, with the possibility to inform pledges for announcement at the first *Global Refugee Forum* to be held in Geneva in December 2019.

Thematically framed Working Group discussions generated reflections and observations, in the form of recommendations, to encourage continued collaboration within and between the four countries across the key areas of the Abuja Action Statement. Particular emphasis was placed on the importance of improved coordination across all areas, including through the role and relevance of existing entities, as well as strengthened coordination capacity of civil society and non-governmental organizations.

### **Regarding Forced Displacement, Access to Asylum and Protection**

*Access to asylum and protection from refoulement are critical elements of the success of measures to enhance meaningful security standards in the context of ongoing instability and the presence of non-state armed groups. The primacy of human rights in the implementation of security measures is recognized throughout.*

1. Ensure that refugees have effective access to asylum and protection from refoulement;
2. Expedite domestication and effective implementation of the Kampala Convention, and ensure application of national legislation related to refugees and IDPs;
3. Accelerate re-establishment of civil authorities and basic services in conflict affected areas;
4. Reinforce coordination and information sharing between humanitarian actors and national and local authorities;

### **Regarding Civil-Military Coordination and the Civilian Character of Refugee and IDP Hosting Areas**

*Full understanding of the specific protection challenges in country is key to good practices for civil-military coordination, which in turn help reduce protection risks faced by refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities. Maintaining full respect for the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee and IDP sites/hosting areas is of central importance, including through close collaboration between administrative authorities, security and police forces, humanitarian actors and the affected populations.*

1. Increase, streamline and coordinate capacity building on international human rights and humanitarian law, and civil-military guidelines;
2. Enhance regional analysis and information exchange on security and population movements, including through regular cross border civil-military meetings;
3. Increase accountability for human rights violations against affected populations, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).
4. Address impunity including by ensuring access to justice, detention monitoring and building synergies between the protocols of humanitarian and military actors for the investigation of these violations.
5. Ensure security screening complies with international standards and the respect of the right to access asylum;
6. Support the civilian management of IDP and refugee sites, to guarantee their civilian and humanitarian character;
7. Foster information exchange between administrative authorities, security forces, traditional leaders, humanitarian actors and affected populations;
8. Strengthen civil-military coordination at all levels in support of increased access to affected populations, incorporating the presence of female officers and child protection officers.



### Regarding Persons with Specific Protection Needs

*Renewed commitment to the highest standards of response to persons with specific protection needs requires that they be adequately identified and prioritized by the humanitarian response, particularly in areas where humanitarian actors have limited access. A common purpose is to ensure that persons with specific protection needs can access protection and services, allowing for the prioritization of attention to survivors of violence, protection of children at risk of recruitment and, strengthened demobilization and reintegration of children associated with armed groups.*

1. Facilitate access, protection and accountability to persons and groups with specific needs, including accessibility to essential services for those in hard to reach areas;
2. Include persons with specific needs in national initiatives, social protection programmes and safety net mechanisms, including local communities' participation in the planning and implementation of projects in accordance with age, gender and diversity principles;
3. Strengthen accountability to affected populations, including opportunities for participation and complaint mechanisms;
4. Ensure specific provisions for the demobilization and reintegration of individuals, in particular children, leaving armed groups and support to cross-border tracing and reunification mechanisms for all separated and unaccompanied children;
5. Pursue a standard and harmonized procedure across the 4 countries for multi-sectoral needs assessments and improved registration and profiling that ensures adequate data protection.

### Regarding Comprehensive Solutions Approaches

*The protracted nature of displacement calls for greater leveraging of opportunities to implement comprehensive solutions approaches, including by strengthening the resilience of affected populations and preparing them for solutions through increased self-reliance and access to services on par with local populations. The humanitarian-development nexus, and the support offered by UNDAF, is critical, including to ensure that economic growth and structural investments benefit displacement affected areas as a whole in line with national and local development plans.*

1. Pursue viable opportunities to realize sustainable voluntary return in conditions of safety and dignity, proactive approaches to local resettlement and local integration, and implementation of alternatives to camps;
2. Reinforce the inclusion of conflict affected populations, including refugees, in national and local service delivery and advance their socio-economic well-being by enabling access to markets and employment;
3. Increase engagement and expertise on Cash-Based-Initiatives and related activities along with the re-establishment of financial institutions in areas affected by conflict;
4. Foster partnerships, information sharing, and programming, in line with national and local development plans, and the Regional Strategy for Stabilization, Recovery and the Development of the Boko Haram Affected Areas of the Lake Chad Basin;
5. Seek complementary funding and other forms of assistance from a broad range of stakeholders, including bilateral and multilateral development actors, in support of strategies and comprehensive solutions approaches.

**Regarding Nationality and Documentation**

Civil registration and documentation are tools for both protection and solutions, including for persons with specific needs, and also enhance State capacity for accurate information on persons on their territory. Alongside the strengthening of national policies, procedures and capacity, continued attention is required to raise awareness of the importance of civil registration and documentation, especially to ensure that every child is registered immediately after birth and that late birth registration is available without discrimination.

1. Collaborate with civil society organizations on a broad range of information campaigns and the provision of legal and practical assistance to access documentation;
2. Proactive attention to birth registration in programming and operation procedures in the health and education sectors;
3. Reinforce government-led registration processes and the application of resulting data in the best interests of the needs of affected populations;
4. Provide access to civil documentation, including for children born in countries of asylum;
5. Establish registration systems for IDPs to support timely protection, assistance and identification of solutions;
6. Pursue national plans to eradicate statelessness, including the adoption or amendment of relevant legislation or policies to prevent and reduce statelessness.

Done in Abuja, Nigeria, on 29 January 2019

## List of acronyms

<b>ACF</b>	Action Contre la Faim	<b>MRC</b>	Micro-Recyc Cooperation
<b>ACTED</b>	Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development	<b>MUAC</b>	Mid-upper arm circumference
<b>ALDEPA</b>	Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré	<b>NFI</b>	Non-food item
<b>ALIMA-BEFEN</b>	Alliance for International Medical Action - Bien Être de la Femme et l'Enfant au Niger	<b>NRC</b>	Norwegian Refugee Council
<b>ANTD</b>	Association Nigérienne pour le Traitement de la Délinquance et la prévention du crime	<b>OCHA</b>	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
<b>ASEIERT</b>	Association de lutte contre les Stupefiants ppur l'Encadrement et l'Intégration des Enfants de la Rue au Tchad	<b>PSN</b>	Persons with specific needs
<b>CAFOD</b>	Catholic Agency for Overseas Development	<b>PUI</b>	Première Urgence Internationale
<b>CBI</b>	Cash-Based Intervention	<b>RCM</b>	Refugee Coordination Model
<b>CIAUD</b>	Comité International pour l'Aide d'Urgence et le Développement	<b>SAM</b>	Severe acute malnutrition
<b>COOPI</b>	Cooperazione Internazionale	<b>SEA</b>	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
<b>DEDI</b>	Développement Endogène Durable et Innovation	<b>SFCG</b>	Search for Common Ground
<b>Welthungerhilfe</b>	Deutsche Welthungerhilfe	<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and gender-based violence
<b>DIKO</b>	ONG DIKO: Association pour le Secours aux Populations Vulnérables	<b>SMART</b>	Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions
<b>DRC</b>	Danish Refugee Council	<b>UNDAF</b>	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organisation	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>HI</b>	Humanity and Inclusion	<b>UNFPA</b>	United Nations Population Fund
<b>HSF</b>	Humanitaires Sans Frontières	<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>IAS</b>	International Aid Services (IAS)	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person	<b>UNWOMEN</b>	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
<b>IGA</b>	Income Generating Activity	<b>WASH</b>	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
<b>IMC</b>	International Medical Corps	<b>WFP</b>	World Food Programme
<b>INTERSOS</b>	INTERSOS Organizzazione Umanitaria	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>IOM</b>	International Organization for Migration	<b>World Vision</b>	World Vision International
<b>IRC</b>	International Rescue Committee		
<b>IYCF</b>	Infant and Young Child Feeding		
<b>Luxembourg RC</b>	Luxembourg Red Cross		
<b>LWF</b>	Lutheran World Federation		
<b>MAM</b>	Moderate Acute Malnutrition		
<b>MNJTF</b>	Multi-National Joint Task Force		

# WORKING TOGETHER

