

NIGERIA SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE N°14

18 July – 17 August 2015

KEY FIGURES

1,385,298 IDPs in Nigeria

(NEMA/IOM DTM Report, June 2015)

172,397

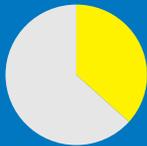
Total number of Nigerian refugees in neighbouring countries

FUNDING

USD 114,530,270

Requested for the situation

Gap
63%



Funded
37%

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

Nigeria

Reinforce and extend protection monitoring to the borders, using expanded capacity, Protection Monitors and strategic partnerships.

Niger

Assistance to recently arrived populations in spontaneous sites on the border with Nigeria

Cameroon

Find the land for a new site to decongest the Minawao/Gawar camp and redirect all new arrivals.

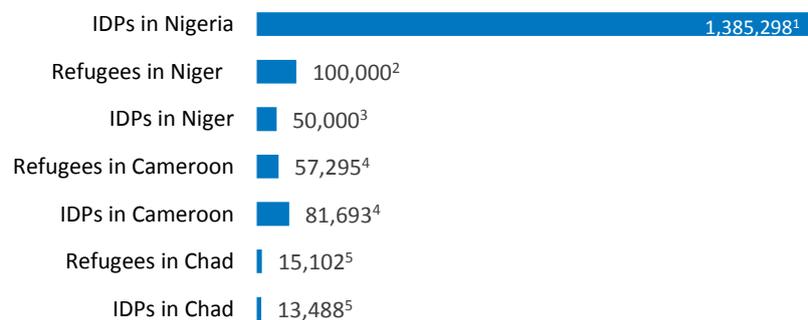
Chad

Locate, identify and profile the mixed populations that have been displaced by current military operations in the Lake Chad Region.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The security situation in **Nigeria** has been steadily deteriorating in the past weeks. Hundreds of deaths have resulted from attacks that took place after a brief respite during the elections. Conditions in IDP sites are rapidly becoming dire, with urgent needs unmet in the WASH, education, health and shelter sectors.
- With the departure of Chadian and Niger troops from north-eastern Nigeria, owing to seasonal rains, **Niger's** Diffa region in the southeast of the country, especially near the border with Nigeria, has become more exposed to risk of insurgent attacks. Against this backdrop, multiple incidents have taken place and triggered new waves of forced displacement into Niger.
- In **Cameroon**, the security situation in the Far North has sharply deteriorated during the reporting period. Insurgents persistently launch assaults on Cameroonian soil especially in the Mayo Sava and Logone et Chari Departments, in search of sustenance and logistical resources, such as vehicles, to facilitate their mobility.
- There have been multiple insurgent attacks and communal tensions on Lake **Chad** in the past month. Thousands of people have been forced to flee from villages on Lake Chad's islands towards the mainland. Those affected have been regrouping in various locations on the coast and further inland.

A total of **1,702,876** people of concern



¹ NEMA/IOM DTM Report, June 2015

² Government estimates (refugees and returnees)

³ Government estimates

⁴ UNHCR/IOM – including 44,000+ in the Minawao/Gawar camp

⁵ IOM

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

NIGERIA - The security situation in Nigeria has been steadily deteriorating in the past weeks. Hundreds of deaths have resulted from attacks that took place after a brief respite during the elections. Conditions in IDP sites are rapidly becoming dire, with urgent needs unmet in the WASH, education, health and shelter sectors.

In the context of a new strategy, Nigeria's new Chief of Army Staff has adopted an offensive disposition and quick response to all situations. This enhanced operation is pushing the insurgents towards the eastern and southern regions of Borno State to neighboring states of Gombe, Yobe and Adamawa. The intensification of military activities has also created new displacements and limited access to IDPs, thereby reducing the protection space. Enhanced military operation in the Biu Local Government Area (LGA) (Borno State) is pushing the fleeing insurgents further east to Askira Uba (Borno State) and Michika (Adamawa State) LGAs.

Consequently, the insurgents have adopted a scorch earth policy of looting and killing villagers as they move further to the East, thereby provoking mass displacements to safer areas. This trend is bound to continue for an undetermined period in hotspots of military operations in Northeast states.

NIGER - With the departure of Chadian and Niger troops from north-eastern Nigeria due to the rainy season, the Diffa region has become more exposed to the insurgent threat. The Nigerian towns of Damasak and Malam-Fatori, allegedly retaken by the insurgent group, have seen thousands of their inhabitants flee to Niger where they have sought refuge in a number of spontaneous camps and host communities such as the Gagamari, Chétimari and Assaga where there are severe shelter, water health and food needs. On the night of 14 July, Koudougou village, located 50 kilometres south-east of Diffa was ransacked and a vehicle was stolen. On the night of 15 July in Ngarwaram, situated 10 kilometres from Bosso, some 15 people were shot and killed during the prayer hour. Despite being confronted with access problems, UNHCR works with the Niger government to assist these populations by providing water, shelter and NFIs. Awareness raising sessions are being carried out to properly inform those wishing to relocate from the settlements to the camps.

CAMEROON – The security situation in the Far North has sharply deteriorated during the reporting period. Insurgents persistently attack Cameroonian soil in search of food and logistical means, especially in the Mayo Sava and Logone et Chari Departments. Amid the fluid military situation in border areas, thousands of people have been deported or returned to Nigeria from Cameroon but also Chad in July and August. These include 925 Nigerian nationals sent home from Cameroon and Chad from 9-11 July and 50 Nigerians that were being screened by UNHCR at the Gourounguel transit centre near the Minawao/Gawar camp on 3 August. UNHCR is unaware at this time if they include refugees who may have gone back involuntarily, but the agency has been in close and regular contact with the relevant governments and has expressed its concern at the way these returns were conducted. UNHCR fears that such deportations lead to shrinking of the protection and humanitarian space and the agency reminds governments of their duty to protect asylum-seekers fleeing human rights violations and to respect the principle of non-refoulement (non-return).

CHAD - There have been about twelve confirmed insurgent attacks on Lake Chad villages since 30 July. This has caused displacement of an estimated 1,100 individuals from villages on the islands towards the mainland. Those affected have been regrouping across 15 rally points on the coast and further inland. The populations of seven villages have been evacuated by the Chadian defence forces, sometimes anticipating the attacks, to avoid being caught in the fighting. Until the end of the month of July, UN missions to the field were suspended. NGOs were advised to undertake only priority missions and share their plans with UNHCR's Field Safety Advisor in Baga Sola. Another cause of tension has been the violence between the nomadic Arab Chadian returnees and the Boudouma ethnic group, partly because some of the insurgents are said to be of the same ethnic group. The *Sous-préfet* or sub-prefect of Baga Sola has informed the humanitarian community that mediation efforts are underway.



NIGERIA - The latest IOM and Nigerian Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) report indicates that there are 1.38 million insurgency-related IDPs in Nigeria, the majority of who live in the north-eastern States.

NIGER - The Government of Niger has estimated that the insurgency-related population of Nigerian refugees and Niger nationals who had been living in Nigeria (Niger returnees) has reached 100,000. It also estimates the IDP population to be some 50,000.

Achievements and impact: The majority of newly displaced persons in the Gagamari and Chétimari settlements had sought refuge in these locations previously. Many of the individuals present had been identified by the Direction Régionale de l'Etat Civil (DREC). UNHCR advocated towards the Diffa Governorate in order for life saving assistance to be provided to these populations. The Chétimari commune has received an estimated 4,000 new arrivals from Nigeria and the spontaneous site in Gagamari, over 3,000. The DREC has not yet officially registered these populations, which are composed of Nigerian refugees and Niger returnees. Some 20 per cent of the population in both sites have indicated their willingness to be relocated to the Sayam Forage camp.

- In the Kablewa camp, a child friend space was set up in collaboration with COOPI to assist and offer recreational activities to children.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: The UNHCR office in Diffa town recently received the visit of refugee representatives who arrived in the village of Tchongourma near the end of June. The village, which is 60 kilometres away from Diffa town in the Bosso commune, is thought to have received over 1,000 new households from Nigeria, according to the representatives. For the time being, the zone is still inaccessible to UN agencies but a rapid evaluation mission will be organised when the zone becomes safer.

CAMEROON - UNHCR and IOM have registered 57,295 refugees and 81,693 IDPs in the Far North. The majority of refugees live in the Minawao/Gawar site (44,808), while IDPs live with host families.

Achievements and impact: A review and orientation session on the use of UNHCR's standardised codes for persons with specific needs (PWSN) was organised for child protection actors. Some 10 people representing NGOs involved in coordination and implementation of such activities in and out of camp in the Far North, participated in a training organised by UNICEF on 16 July. The reference document was shared with all participants to facilitate identification, registration, documentation, and assistance on a case by case basis of PWSN amidst population movements.

- UNHCR conducted protection monitoring in the localities of Bourha, Boukoua, Guili, and Tchevi in the Mayo Tsanaga Department from 20 to 23 July. The group engaged in the working session with the *Sous-préfet*, security forces, traditional chiefs and some refugee families from the four localities. Discussions revolved around the deportations/returns organised by Cameroonian authorities on the border with Nigeria.
- In the context of recent attacks in the Far North, UNHCR organised an awareness-raising session on security measures with refugee leaders in the Muslim community, master 'marabouts' or holy men, and imams. The latter were reminded that 'talibé' children (those learning the Coran) begging in town markets could not be allowed to do so in the camp due to the risk of recruitment they face. They were also reminded that wearing the Burqa has been forbidden by the government and that compliance is mandatory. The issue of refugee movement within the region was also raised; all refugees are required to present themselves at the security post at the entrance of the camp with their identity documents to avoid being questioned or stopped.
- To improve pacific coexistence, eight new female committees for peace and dialogue were constituted in the Minawao/Gawar camp and the two existing ones were reinforced. In addition to this, two peace caravans (or processions) went throughout the camp and were led by religious leaders and members of peace and dialogue committees. Some 80 people in the procession shared messages of peace in the languages spoken by refugee populations.

In the current context, additional security measures are being taken to facilitate the work of the police and to improve security during registration and distribution procedures. Two watch towers are currently under construction.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: Despite efforts undertaken by local authorities, too few police are deployed in the Minawao/Gawar camp.

CHAD - The humanitarian community estimates that there are about 15,000 refugees in the Lake Region, of which 9,115 have been registered by UNHCR. Out of these, 7,139 refugees composed of 6,715 Nigerians and 424 Niger refugees are currently living in the Dar Es Salam site. The remainder chose to undertake economic activities in the surrounding villages and not move to the site. IOM have registered 13,488 IDPs, and 8,939 Chadian returnees in accessible areas in the Lake region.

Achievements and impact: A joint UNHCR-Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés (CNARR) mission took place between 17 and 21 July in the Lake Region to assess the security situation and review the assistance provided to refugees in this zone. The mission assisted with the distribution of NFIs in Dar Naïm, a returnee and IDP site that hosts over 1,200 persons of Arab origin. The mission ended in a meeting with the Governor of Bol, during which he assured the participants of his engagement to enable the humanitarian community to accomplish its missions and facilitate its work.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: Monitoring activities have been undertaken by Action Pour la Protection de la Santé de l'Environnement et la Lutte contre la Pénurie Alimentaire (APSELPA) in the localities of Tétéwa, Koulfoua, Kenesserom, Choua, Kanggalom, Forkolom, Ngouboua and Tchoukoutalia. The security situation in the Lake area remains preoccupying and volatile with protection incidents and exactions by insurgents which make up 44 per cent of attacks. The remainder can be linked to inter communal violence between Boudouma and nomadic Chadians of Arab origin as well as exactions and fights between refugees, IDPs, uniformed men and unknown persons.

- Some 76 foreigners (mainly migrants and asylum seekers) who had been arrested following the terrorist attacks in N'Djamena on 15 June are currently in the transit site of the Dar Es Salam camp. These individuals tend to leave the camp without recuperating their identity documents, which had been confiscated by security personnel upon their arrival. The Chadian Government and MSF have provided food. Some 14 Malian and 3 Central African Republic nationals were able to return to N'Djamena with the assistance of their respective embassies.

Education

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: UNICEF assisted with the training of teachers in the Minawao/Gawar camp in the context of the Children of Peace project. This, in view of implementing the Accelerated Curriculum for the Reinsertion of non-Enrolled Children and the Accelerated Curriculum for the Primary School Preparation (CAPEP), two programmes that initiated on 27 July. Over the course of a week, 19 and 71 primary and secondary school teachers were trained on emergency education curricula, hygiene promotion, peacebuilding, and pedagogy. This activity was undertaken by the Regional Delegation for Basic Education, with support from UNICEF.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: In the Minawao/Gawar camp, there is a need to construct a high school, a need for more teachers, a need for more desks, and the space available for professional training and pre-school teaching is lacking.

CHAD

Achievements and impact: Attendance in both schools of Baga Sola as increased by 406 per cent since late April, when attendance was at its lowest due to the lack of a school canteen among other causes. About 1,100 students attend the Ecole Espoir 1 and Ecole Espoir 2 schools.



Health

NIGER

Achievements and impact: In the Kablewa camp, Action Pour le Bien-Etre (APBE) has undertaken medical and nutritional screening for children since 29 July. APBE is also undertaking increasing amounts of HIV screenings. With the Direction Régionale de la Santé Publique (DRSP) and UNHCR, APBE have set up a mechanism to follow up identified HIV cases.

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: UNHCR finalised budgetary planning, transportation of patients, and coordination for the cholera response programme. Payments have been programmed to allow partners IMC, Public Concern and IEDA relief to go through with treatment equipment purchases and to start the mass awareness-raising campaign, the identification and training of disinfection personnel, and the provision of WASH equipment. Furthermore, MSF have built structures to support a large water tank and tents in the treatment centre. UNHCR continues preparations with its partners in view of launching prevention activities and responding to potential cases of cholera in the Minawao/Gawar camp.

- UNHCR met with regional representatives from the National Centre for Combatting HIV/AIDS in view of involving this organism in the HIV/AIDS programme in the Minawao/Gawar camp. Both parties agreed to:
 - Recruit pairs of educators for the camp HIV programme, i.e. one recruitment each.
 - Train community personnel and educators on communication techniques aimed at altering attitudes towards HIV/AIDS.
 - Identifying and training 3 nurses to assist those living with HIV/AIDS
 - Deploying awareness-raising personnel
 - Undertaking a voluntary screening campaign

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: Preventative measures against measles in the Minawao/Gawar camp.

- Poliomyelitis vaccination for all new arrivals
- Limited capacity of public health infrastructures around Minawao/Gawar camp, including Gadala Health Centre and Mokolo District Hospital.
- Tricycles used for transporting the sick from remote areas to the health post on site are lacking.
- Lack of staff for tending to pathologies requiring expertise.



Food Security and Nutrition

NIGER

Achievements and impact: UNHCR distributed food to new arrivals in the Gagamari and Chétimari sites during the first 5 days of influx.

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: The fifth round of blanket feeding (the feeding of an affected population without targeting specific groups) began on 20 July. Some 10,000 children aged 6-59 months and 1,500 pregnant or lactating women were targeted, given the recent influx. Almost 20,000 tons of food was prepositioned in the Minawao/Gawar camp (ready to use 'Plumpy Sup', cereals and oil).

- The general food distribution in the Minawao Gawar Camp took place from 1 to 19 July. Over 40,000 beneficiaries were assisted with over 730,000 tons of food distributed. The following food distribution began on 1 August.



Water and Sanitation

NIGER

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: In the Gagamari settlement, certain refugees have not been following hygiene rules and refuse to use the latrines available.

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: UNICEF, UNHCR, MSF and CAMWATER's efforts have contributed towards improving water supply in the Minawao/Gawar camp through the construction of boreholes and water trucking, allowing for 17 litres per day per person to be distributed.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: The sustained increase in the Minawao/Gawar camp's population is the main cause for water shortage in the camp.

- The camp's rocky terrain makes constructing water infrastructure and renovating latrines a challenge.
- The road leading to the camp is in poor condition making it difficult to provide water through trucking.

CHAD

Achievements and impact: The amount of water available in the Dar Es Salam site is of 50 litres per person, per day and there is a ratio of 25 people per community latrine.

- As the rainy season begins, UNHCR and partners have intensified awareness-raising sessions on hygiene in line with the cholera prevention strategy that has been put into place. Over 500 people were visited during the past week in three of the camp blocks. Hygiene kits consisting of soap, jerrycans and buckets were distributed to over 1,200 individuals to improve hygiene practices in the Dar Al Naïm site.
- The water point management and sanitation and hygiene committees were reactivated following a meeting with leaders and refugees from blocks 1 and 2 in the Dar Es Salam camp.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: The construction of family latrines is not progressing because of the fragility of existing pits and the upkeep these require. The 97 constructed latrines represent only 12 per cent of the 800 required. The gap is wide, even when the factor of large families living in a same tent is taken into account.



Shelter and NFIs

NIGER

Achievements and impact: A total of 300 'shelter boxes' or basic shelter kits including tents were provided by PLAN Niger to UNHCR to populations in the Assaga settlement who had previously not received shelter supplies.

- In the Sayam Forage and Kablewa camps, hygienic kits were distributed to women of child bearing age.

CHAD

Achievements and impact: The IDPs and returnees of the Dar Al Naïm site have received over 600 blankets, 2600 buckets, 5,300 plastic jugs, 600 mosquito nets and 260 tarpaulins.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: In an effort to rebuild the shelters of PWSN, vehicles have been rented to transport building materials throughout the camp. Works are underway on 50 shelters.



Camp Coordination and Camp Management

NIGER

Achievements and impact: UNHCR has been asked by the Diffa Governorate to manage the spontaneous Assaga settlement, east of Diffa and 25 kilometres from the Nigerian border. Due to security conditions, discussions are under way with potential partners to find a humanitarian worker to act as an information focal point (or relay) for this settlement and others like it, as the zone does not currently meet basic UN security standards.

- On 5 August, UNHCR organised a two day workshop for UNFPA, WFP, UNICEF, and IOM on remote management to cover inaccessible parts of Diffa.
- On 2 August, the Luxembourg Red Cross (LRC) repaired 13 shelters that had recently been damaged by a storm.
- In the Kablewa camp, the list of polygamous households has been finalised and will UNHCR and the Luxembourg Red Cross to assist the latter with additional shelter.
- In the Sayam Forage camp, the refugee and shelter databases were updated and aligned. All shelters have been numbered and occupants listed alongside them.



Community Empowerment and Self-Management

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: In an effort to economically rehabilitate SGBV survivors, 250 women identified among the refugee and host communities by *Association de la Lutte contre la Violence faite aux Femmes* (ALVF) and UN Women have benefited among others from training sessions in entrepreneurship, soap and vaseline production, peanut/groundnut oil extraction, sewing, knitting, and agro-pastoral activities.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds. Funding requirements for the refugee and IDP components of the Nigeria Situation now amount to USD 114.5 million, including USD 97.5 million in additional requirements for 2015.

Donors:

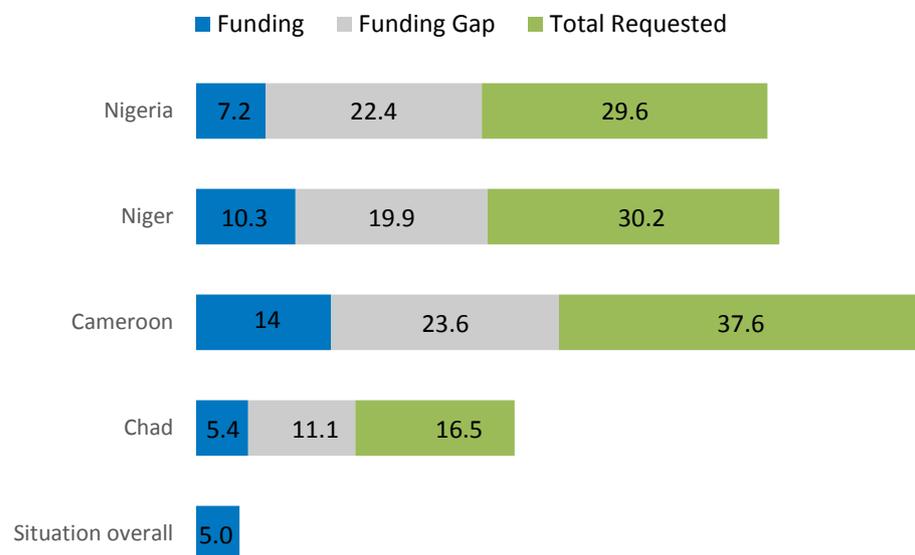
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Private Donors:

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Cameroon
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Spain

Funding:

A total of **USD 42 million** has been funded out of a **USD 114.5 million** requested



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Links:

Nigeria regional web portal: data.unhcr.org/NigeriaSituation

UNHCR Tracks: <http://tracks.unhcr.org>

UNHCR's Kora blog: voices of refugees in West and Central Africa: <http://kora.unhcr.org/>

Twitter: @UNHCRWestAfrica

