

NIGERIA SITUATION

Supplementary Appeal

January – December 2017



January 2017



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

Cover photograph

Niger. Nigerian refugees safe after fleeing Boko Haram

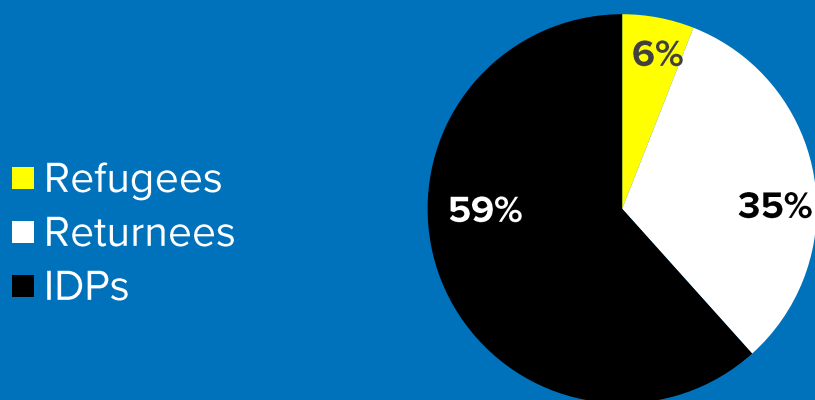
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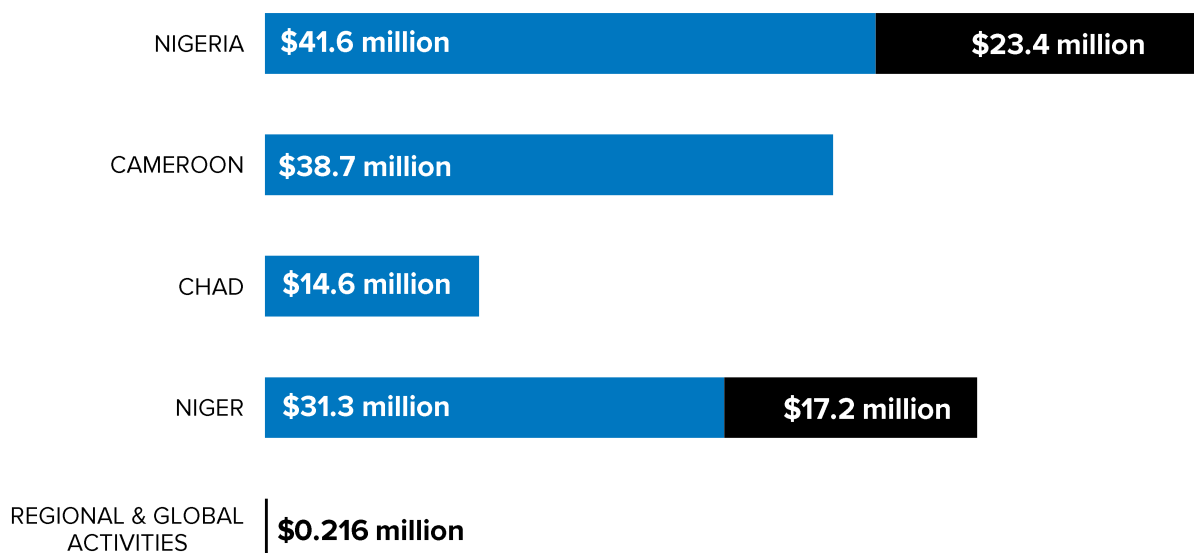
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AT A GLANCE

3,582,054 people of concern (as of January 2017)



US\$170 million* in total revised financial requirements for the Nigeria situation for the period January-December 2017:



■ ExCom-approved budget ■ Additional requirements

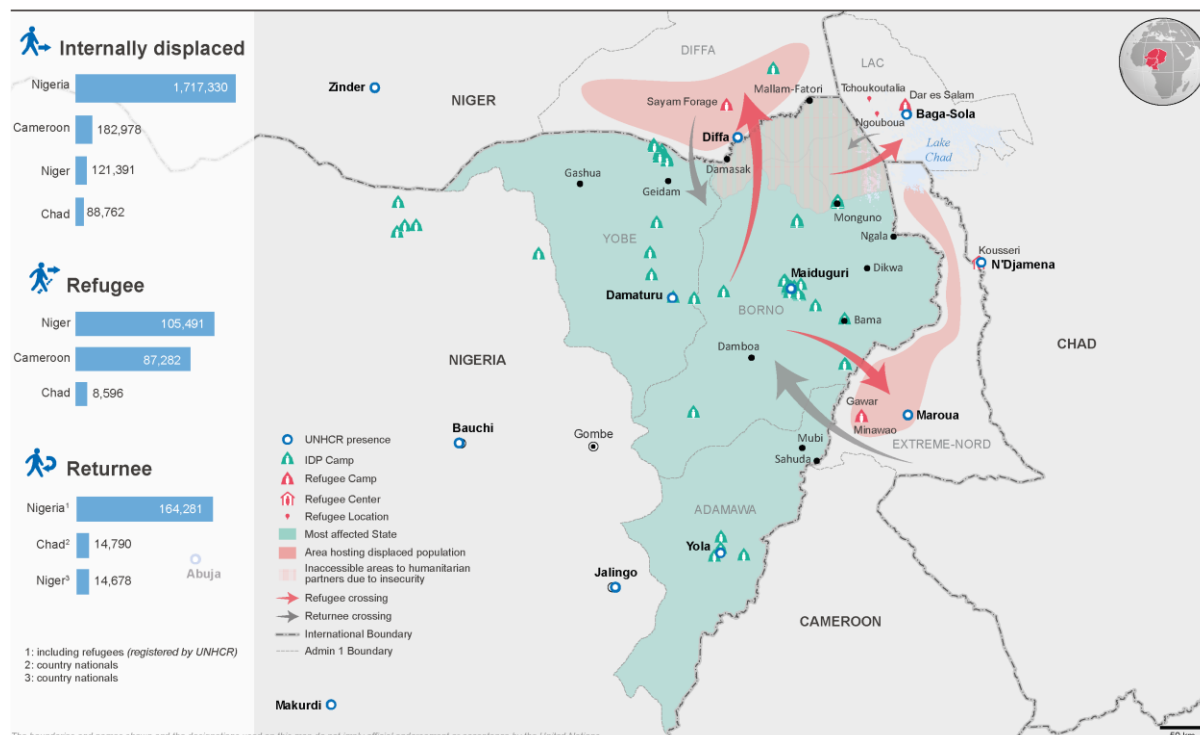
* This total includes regional activities and support costs (7%). All dollar signs in this document denote United States dollars.

Map

NIGERIA SITUATION

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

As of 13 January 2017 or latest figures available



CONTEXT: A GROWING REGIONAL CRISIS

Regional displacement overview and trends analysis

Since the outbreak of the Boko Haram insurgency in 2009, the crisis has steadily become the single greatest cause of displacement in the Lake Chad Basin region, with over 2.6 million people becoming refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) or returnees as a result. In Nigeria, the number of IDPs has increased more than two-fold in the span of three years, from more than 868,000 people identified in December 2014 by the Nigerian Government in the north-eastern regions to 1.7 million in December 2016, according the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report released by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

As Boko Haram has been pushed back by the military in 2016, the conflict has spilled into neighbouring countries, with increased infiltration, attacks and recruitment by the armed group, prompting refugee and returnee movements from northern Nigeria across land and water borders to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Growing insecurity in the region has led to an increase in the number of refugees by more than 25 per cent in two years, from 150,000 individuals reported in November 2014 to more than 200,000 in December 2016. New refugee arrivals are anticipated to continue in the course of 2017. Furthermore, over 90 per cent of forcibly displaced people are displaced within their own countries as cross-border insecurity continues to create waves of internal displacement and disrupt normal economic activities in areas of Cameroon's Far North, Niger's Diffa and Chad's Lake Chad regions.

While the Boko Haram conflict continues to evolve, trends analysis shows that forced displacement in the region remains significant and difficult to predict, with daily populations movements observed inside Nigeria and cross-border. The vast majority of IDPs and Nigerian refugees have expressed an intention to return to their areas of origin but many continue to cite significant barriers to return, including lack of security and lack of access to food and shelter. Nevertheless, significant numbers of Nigerian refugees have returned from neighbouring countries of asylum, sometimes under circumstances deemed by UNHCR to fall short of international standards, including adherence to the principle of non-refoulement. Among the estimated 164,000 refugee returnees, including more than 100,000 identified in Borno State, some are in IDP or IDP-like situations and in need of registration services and reintegration assistance.

Crisis impact and regional needs overview

As the military continues to regain access to territory and secure civilian locations in Nigeria's north-east, more areas are expected to become accessible to humanitarian organizations in 2017. However, the security situation across the Lake Chad region remains precarious. New, targeted attacks by Boko Haram and counter-insurgency operations by the Nigerian army and the Multi-National Joint Task Force continue to severely impact the humanitarian situation and restrict humanitarian access. Reaching all people in need remains the biggest challenge, and it is estimated that 2 million people are located in inaccessible areas, with humanitarian operations focusing on Maiduguri city and Local Government Area (LGA) headquarters in newly accessible areas. Across the region, the operational reach and effectiveness of humanitarian actors continue to be severely impeded by ongoing conflict which complicates UNHCR's ability to maintain a meaningful presence in some locations, both in country of origin and some countries of asylum, such as Niger.

Now in its eighth year, the crisis has had profound, pronounced and long-standing impacts due to the extreme level of violence unique to the Boko Haram conflict and the destruction of private and public infrastructure, leaving widespread devastation in the areas around the Lake Chad. This violence has taken a social toll by spreading fear and apprehension among the population in the region and exacerbating social divisions and distrust, especially toward those suspected of any association with the insurgency movement. These perceptions have influenced responses to forced displacement by countries in the region, which is often tackled through a security lens. As a result, displaced population has limited entry points to integrate itself into local communities, constraining its potential to find sustainable solutions to individuals' challenges. In north-east Nigeria, while many camps remain under the control of the military which has led to some protection concerns, in some cases, they are often targeted by Boko Haram and infiltrated by militants.

A full spectrum of protection concerns exists in north-east Nigeria, with 6.1 million people estimated to be in need of protection assistance in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe States. Civilians in north-east Nigeria face grave human rights violations and abuse including death, injuries, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), arbitrary detention, disappearances, forced displacement, and forced recruitment. Boko Haram has targeted areas with high concentrations of IDPs and refugees. The psychological needs of the displaced population are particularly significant and remain largely unmet given the magnitude of the problem. Loss and fear among the displaced are aggravated by a sense of loss of dignity as many feel ashamed of their living conditions. Engaging in income-generating activities and recreational activities emerge in

UNHCR monitoring data as important sources of psychological relief at the individual, family and community levels.

The protection crisis particularly affects vulnerable groups such as women and children who constitute the majority of the displaced populations across the four affected countries. The abruptness of the violence has given rise to an increasing number of 'unconventional households' headed by women, children and older people. Out of the 17,730 vulnerable households profiled by the UNHCR Vulnerability Screening III Round carried out in November 2016, 18 per cent (6,848 households) have unaccompanied or separated children, including 14 per cent (5,382 households) with orphans due to the conflict, 15 per cent (4,891 households) have children hawking or begging and 3 per cent (1,120 households) of displaced households reported their child to be missing.

Displaced women and children face particular protection and security challenges. SGBV is reported to be significant among women and children, but the problem is suspected to be greatly under-reported. In Cameroon, monitoring data shows that girls displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency are increasingly likely to engage in early and arranged marriages, while in Nigeria, women have been targeted by abductions, forced marriages, rape and use as suicide-bombers. Inadequate humanitarian assistance in camps and in the newly accessible areas has also resulted in a high-level of sexual abuse and exploitation. Many women reportedly face coercion when obliged to resort to survival sex in order to obtain food for themselves and their children or to be able to move in and out of the camp.

Lack of documentation and, hence, difficulties in proving nationality is widespread in the areas of the Lake Chad Basin most affected by the crisis. The lack of national ID cards directly affects people's access to safety, services and justice. This is a particular challenge in Niger's Diffa region, where a UNHCR study conducted in 2015 revealed that 80 per cent of displaced people interviewed were without documentation on which their legal status and rights of residence, movement, employment and property depend. In Nigeria, the UNHCR Vulnerability Screening Round II in newly accessible areas in eight LGAs showed that all 17,730 households profiled lacked legal documentation.

In terms of basic human needs, displaced populations are living in squalid conditions characterized by overcrowding and limited access to safe, sanitary, and dignified accommodation. IDPs and returnees in Nigeria hosted in camps and displacement sites are often living in congested shelters or isolated in insecure or inhospitable areas, making them vulnerable to exploitation and abuse. The situation is most precarious in settlements such as camps, displacement sites, and unfinished buildings. The lack of shelter is, therefore, a major and persistent challenge and one of the main barriers to return. Displaced people in the region also face precarious health conditions and have poor access to health services. The health problems they report are mostly related to the change in their living conditions. In Cameroon and Niger, refugees reported difficulties in obtaining medicine outside the camps due to there being limited supply, because of financial constraints, or because of movement restrictions.

Access to food and drinking water as well as overall living conditions remain problematic for most displaced people, especially in semi-arid regions. Limitations in access, availability, and quality have made water the most significant source of conflict between the displaced and host communities in all four countries. In particular, shortage of water is more pronounced in arid areas in Niger, Chad and northern Cameroon. Numerous outbreaks of cholera and other water-borne diseases in displacement-affected areas across the region, particularly in Nigeria and

Cameroon, have been linked to this problem. Malnutrition in Nigeria has become more prevalent as the quantity and quality of available food has dramatically decreased, with 5.1 million people projected to face acute food insecurity by June 2017, an increase by 50 per cent since March 2016, according to the Food Security sector's *Cadre Harmonisé*—a regional initiative that uses a specific methodology to assess the food security across the Sahel—from October 2016. Affected households have had consecutive years of restricted income levels, destruction of assets and livelihoods, and reduced food access, leading to an increase in negative coping strategies. With insecurity in northern Nigeria disrupting traditional cross-border trade and herding, market prices in neighbouring countries have increased, further affecting livelihood opportunities.

Populations are arriving in impoverished areas of the Sahel and on islands in Lake Chad. The influx of refugees, returnees and IDPs is placing considerable strain on already stretched resources and basic services of already vulnerable communities across the four countries. As a result, tensions between displaced and host communities have risen, particularly around access to resources such as water and, to a lesser degree, to services such as education and health. In Nigeria, with close to 80 per cent of IDPs living in host communities, municipal and local authorities are at the forefront of responding to the crisis and dealing with the pressures it places on already strained national and local systems. However, gaps in national capacity and systems constrain the delivery of quality educational, health, water, sanitation, protection and other core services, as well as the effectiveness of humanitarian and development assistance. Also, environmental degradation, particularly due to the gathering of fuelwood for cooking, has rapidly increased in host communities. In Cameroon in particular, this has become a significant source of conflict between refugees and local communities, and it is feared continued influxes could exacerbate a past history of conflict over resources in the region.

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