

NIGERIA

REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN



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CREDITS

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

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ANNEX

FOREWORD BY

The Regional Refugee Coordinator



In 2016, the number of Nigerian refugees and forcibly displaced populations in the Lake Chad Basin continued to rise. Indiscriminate attacks and serious human rights violations by Boko Haram insurgents against civilians in Nigeria and the Lake Chad Basin countries continued apace, causing multiple displacements and new refugee flows. While the deployment of the military Multi-National-Joint-Task-Force (MNJTF) proved successful in liberating several Local Government Areas (LGAs) in north-eastern Nigeria and provided humanitarian access to over 800,000 Nigerians who had been trapped for years in Boko Haram controlled areas, neighboring countries of asylum witnessed escalated hit-and-run attacks, including suicide bombings, by the insurgents. Despite gains made by military counter-insurgency operations, the needy populations were not always easily accessible to humanitarian workers because of the fragile and volatile security situation.

To date, local communities in the countries of asylum are carrying the highest burden of this crisis. They not only live in a socio-economically deprived area with scarce natural resources, but they have not benefitted from the humanitarian assistance that they would deserve, mainly due to funding shortfalls. Yet they have generously hosted 170,000 Nigerian refugees and nearly 460,000 IDPs in 2016.

Notwithstanding the funding shortfalls, the 28 partners who participated in the 2016 Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) were able to provide protection and assistance to Nigerian refugees, returned nationals and host community members in Cameroon, Chad and Niger, albeit falling below expectations. As of 10 December, out of the 198 million USD required, 85 million USD were received, covering 43 per cent of the needs.

As the situation still remains unpredictable, the international community must remain steadfast in meeting the growing humanitarian and protection needs of these vulnerable populations. Considering that the voluntary return of refugees in safety and dignity is not a viable option at this stage, the 36 partners, (showing an increase of 8), participating in the 2017 Nigeria RRRP, the third of its kind, commit to assist nearly 458,000 persons affected by the Boko Haram conflict, including over 183,000 Nigerian refugees. They will build on progress made in 2016; seek to meet life-saving needs in sectors such as food, nutrition and water, while pursuing the reinforcement of self-reliance of the populations in need, in close cooperation with the Governments of the affected countries. Programmes developed in 2017 will further aim at gradually mainstreaming refugee assistance into national development plans, were the crisis to continue beyond 2017.

The inter-agency coordination structures implemented through the Regional Refugee Response Plan in the past two years have proven to be operational and effective. I therefore wish to thank all partners, UN agencies, international and national NGOs and Government counterparts, and most importantly, our donors for their joint efforts to meet some of the critical needs of one of the most vulnerable populations in Africa, if not globally.

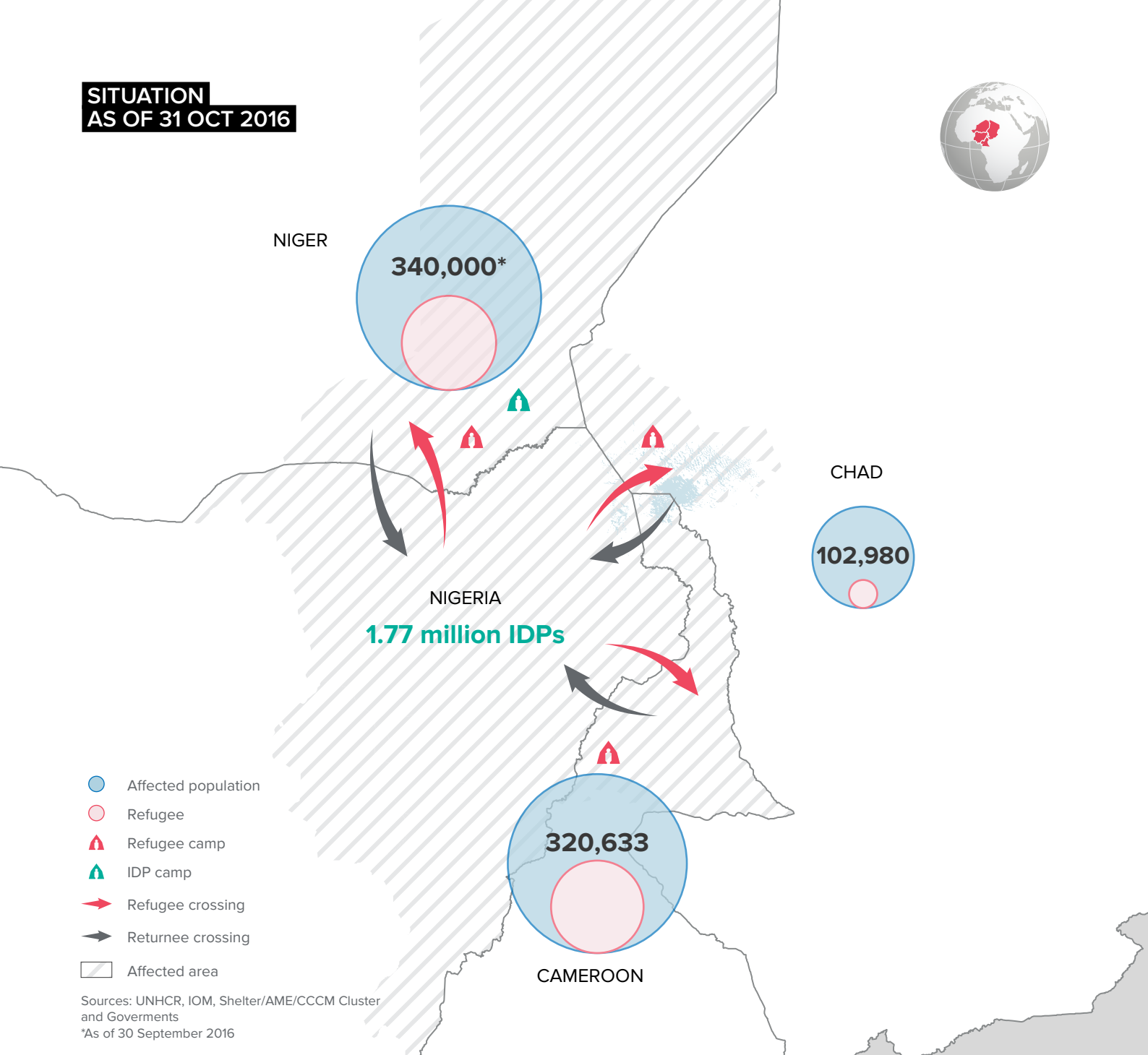
The international community must not relent in seeking a political solution for this conflict, lest it spills over and engulfs the entire region and beyond. UNHCR and all RRRP participating agencies urge our donors, once again, to stand side by side with the population, in the spirit of engaged solidarity, to provide required financial support. We are committed to improve our response to refugees, returnees and expand it to host communities in the countries of asylum, in order to maintain and strengthen peaceful coexistence as we all march expectantly, towards the re-establishment of normalcy in the Lake Chad Basin.

Thank you!

Liz Kpam Ahua

UNHCR Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Nigeria crisis

**SITUATION
AS OF 31 OCT 2016**



**2017
PLANNED RESPONSE**

457,833

TOTAL POPULATION TARGETED

183,226

REFUGEES TARGETED

241.2M

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

36 CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

PARTNERS INVOLVED

**2017
MAIN PRIORITIES**

1. Provide protection to Nigerian refugees and other populations of concern, in line with the Abuja Action Statement

2. Provide humanitarian assistance and basic services to the populations of concern

3. Encourage self-reliance and strengthen environmental protection

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Regional Overview

INTRODUCTION

Throughout 2016, Boko Haram insurgents continued to commit grave human rights violations and carry out attacks against civilians including suicide bombings, widespread sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), kidnapping and forced recruitment, in north-eastern Nigeria and in the Lake Chad Basin. Despite achieving considerable gains in counter-insurgency operations, the Nigerian Armed Forces and Multi-National Joint Task Force (MNJTF) military operations' led to further forced population movements. Boko Haram's guerilla tactics led to new large-scale and secondary displacements towards Cameroon, and inside Niger, where entire villages were emptied. At the beginning of 2016, the majority of new arrivals into Cameroon's Minawao refugee camp came from border areas, where they had previously sought asylum and safety, but owing to Boko Haram incursions and military retaliations, they were forced to move further inland. Since June, the majority of new arrivals have come directly from Nigeria, some claiming to have escaped Boko Haram captivity while others cited leaving because of the deplorable conditions in IDP camps. As of October 2016, about 170,000 Nigerian refugees were hosted in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The conflict had also internally displaced 192,912 persons in Cameroon's Far North region, 82,260 in Chad's Lake region (as of 31 Oct) and 184,230 persons in Niger's Diffa region (as of 30 Sept).

Encouragingly, a great number of civilians were freed from Boko Haram captivity by the military in Nigeria. In addition, Local Government Areas (LGAs) in north-eastern Nigeria where 800,000 persons had been trapped over the past years, were liberated. However, owing to the highly volatile security and protection situation, it remains to be seen whether conditions in north-eastern Nigeria will become conducive for the voluntary repatriation of refugees in safety in dignity and whether respective tripartite agreements between Nigeria, host countries and UNHCR will be signed.

In a region, which is already characterised by extreme poverty, harsh climatic conditions, poor infrastructure, limited access to basic services and epidemic outbreaks, continued protection and assistance for refugees, IDPs and other affected communities are required in 2017.

POPULATION TARGETED & IN NEED

Total population

	Targeted	in Need
Cameroon	110,000	110,000
Chad	22,250	42,500
Niger	325,583	340,425

Refugees

	Targeted	in Need
Cameroon	90,000	90,000
Chad	8,000	15,000
Niger	85,226	89,111

2016 Achievements

Despite the gravity of the crisis, refugee and IDP responses remain seriously underfunded, with only 36 per cent of required funds received as of November for the 2016 Nigeria Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP). Despite the limited funding and based on the 2016 Nigeria RRRP, UN agencies and NGOs, in collaboration with the Governments of Cameroon, Chad and Niger, provided protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees and host communities in all three countries as well as to IDPs and returning Niger nationals. Respective achievements include:

Protection - The most prominent achievement at a politico-strategic level was the commitment made by the governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger to implement the Regional Strategic Protection Framework for the Lake Chad Basin situation, the so called 'Abuja Action Statement' (see Annex I). This statement was the result of a Regional Protection Dialogue, organized in Abuja, Nigeria from 6 to 8 June 2016 by the Government of Nigeria and UNHCR, to discuss key protection concerns and priorities in the Lake Chad Basin. It brought together high-level government representatives of the four countries, donors, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society. The statement sets forth the regional

response strategy in key protection areas relating to persons of concern affected by the crisis. It guides the protection sector plan for refugees, IDPs and other affected populations of the 2017 RRRP and the 2017 Lake Chad Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

In terms of response, through ongoing advocacy with local authorities, armed forces and Governments at national level, under the leadership of UNHCR, RRRP partners promoted access to asylum in Niger, Cameroon and Chad, as well as the maintenance of the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee hosting areas. In Chad, their advocacy resulted in the decision by the Chadian Government to drop its initial plan to relocate Dar Es Salam refugee camp agreeing to support UNHCR's "Alternatives to camps" policy instead. This policy aims at assisting refugees to settle outside camps as members of the host communities in order for them to live self-sufficiently. In Cameroon, joint committees were established in the three departments of the Far North region to reinforce border and protection monitoring and referral mechanisms and ensure equitable access to asylum for refugees. These Committees, which include local authorities and humanitarian partners, track population movements, pre-register new arrivals, and act as an early warning mechanism. Humanitarian partners coordinate with security forces to enable them to reach people in need of assistance in remote areas and enhance joint screening and other security measures to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of refugees hosting areas. RRRP partners conducted training and awareness-raising on international protection, human rights and refugee rights, including on the *non-refoulement* principle and minimum detention standards for government representatives, security forces, judiciary, prison staff, etc. In Niger, interventions targeting members of the Anti-Terrorism cell were prioritized to prevent arbitrary arrest and the detention of

refugees, including minors, perceived as being affiliated with Boko Haram. Additionally, an Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Niger Bar Association for the provision of legal aid to the latter.

Mechanisms for the registration of refugees were established and maintained in transit centres and/or refugee hosting areas in Cameroon and Chad. Civil registration such as birth and marriage registration in camps was ensured in all hosting countries and mobile court hearings were promoted for late birth registrations. Physical verification has been conducted regularly since the beginning of the year in Minawao refugee camp in Cameroon, to ensure that refugee data are updated and that they possess valid attestations and other necessary documentation. In Niger, the preparatory phase for a biometric registration project aiming to register all the Diffa population was initiated, and a Technical Working Group with the Ministry of Interior was created to this effect. The project will be prioritized in 2017. Globally, these interventions contributed to improving protection for refugees, preventing statelessness and enhancing humanitarian assistance.

Multisectoral referral networks for assistance to persons with specific needs (PWSN), including sexual and gender-based violence survivors, unaccompanied minors (UAMs) and separated children (UASC), were strengthened. UAMs and UASC benefitted from legal and psychosocial support as well as from family tracing and reunification, where possible. Child protection and SGBV committees and community-based mechanisms were established and their members trained, in all three countries of asylum. The activities of these committees as well as SGBV trainings and awareness-raising campaigns helped to increase the identification of SGBV survivors. There are currently 105 child friendly spaces and 27 youth peer educator committees operational in more than 53 sites in the Diffa region of Niger.

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