

NIGERIA SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE N°24

1-31 May 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

- In **Nigeria**, from 10-14 May, the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) conducted a [rapid protection assessment](#) in Maiduguri and in the newly accessible camps of Damboa and Dikwa, in Borno State.
- In **Cameroon's** Far North region, relative improvements in the security situation prompted a number of spontaneous IDP returns as well as refugee returns to Nigeria.
- In **Niger**, UNHCR facilitated the relocation of some 1,900 Nigerian refugees from two spontaneous settlements located near the border, to the Sayam Forage Camp, owing to deteriorating security and living conditions in the settlements.

KEY FIGURES

2,155,618 IDPs*
in Nigeria

* 1.8 million insurgency-related (NEMA/IOM DTM Report, Round IX, April 2016)

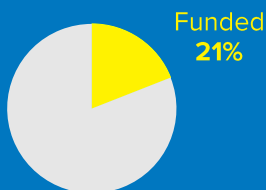
186,473

Total number of Nigerian refugees in neighboring countries as of 31 May

FUNDING

USD 94.3 million

UNHCR requirements for the Nigeria situation



Gap
79%

PRIORITIES

Nigeria

Assist the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) with preparations for the registration of returnees Borno State

Chad

Strengthen the protection response with a particular focus on education and security

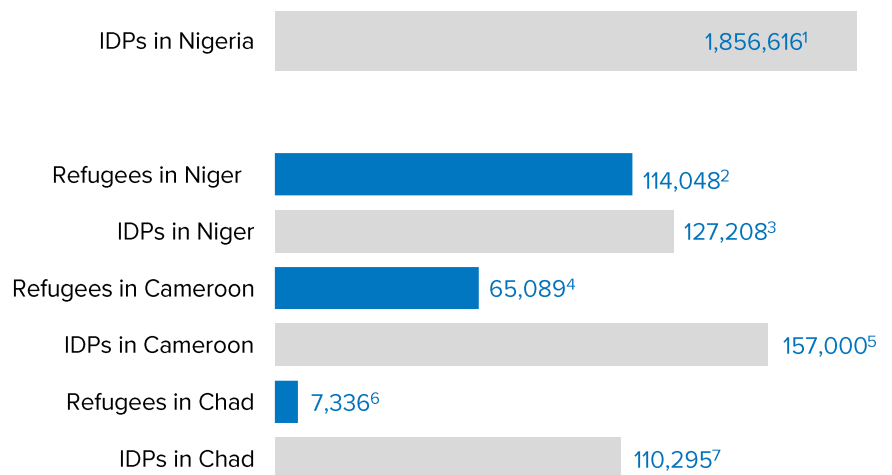
Cameroon

Expedite the Mokolo River water adduction project

Niger

Register all new arrivals in the Sayam Forage and Kabelawa Camps

A total of **2,437,592** people of concern as of 31 May



¹ NEMA/IOM DTM Report, Round IX (displaced by the insurgency) – April 2016

² UNHCR/Government, includes 82,524 refugees and 31,524 returnees – 12 May 2016

³ Government Estimation – 12 May 2016

⁴ UNHCR/IOM – including 56,000+ in Minawao Camp – 27 May 2016

⁵ IOM DTM Report, Round III (displaced by the insurgency) – April 2016

⁶ UNHCR/Government – including 4,940 in Dar Es Salam Camp – 31 May 2016

⁷ CCCM Cluster – includes 55,699 IDPs, 8,739 returnees, 399 third country nationals and 45,458 estimated, unregistered IDPs – 16 May 2016

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

NIGERIA – The security situation in Nigeria’s north-east continued to improve, as concluded during United Nations Country Team (UNCT) retreat in Enugu on 16 and 17 May. Indeed, UN agencies observed that the security situation was de-escalating in the wake of the Nigerian army’s counter-insurgency offensive with continuous returns reported and some 11,500 civilians rescued from the insurgents. These developments are prompting the UN and other stakeholders in Nigeria to place more emphasis on the shift from humanitarian to developmental assistance. Whilst the decreasing number of attacks in the worst affected states is encouraging, ambushes against security forces and IED explosions are still commonplace and prevent stakeholders from accessing numerous local government areas (LGAs), especially in Borno. Furthermore, in the areas recently made accessible, challenges of a different nature have come to the fore. A rapid assessment carried out by the Protection Sector Working Group from 10-14 May in Maiduguri revealed that IDPs live in isolation and that there is growing estrangement with their hosts.

CAMEROON – During the month of May, the security situation remained a concern but a considerable decrease in the number of insurgent attacks was observed. This improvement was attributed to the efforts of numerous vigilante committees, credited with foiling attacks and/or capturing insurgent elements. Owing to these developments, over 1,700 spontaneous IDP returns took place in the Logone-et-Chari Department to the localities of Kousseri and Gore Talgoutoun. Furthermore, 300 Nigerian refugees returned spontaneously on foot to the twin towns of Gamboru and Ngala in Borno State.

CHAD – With a marked stabilisation of the security situation observed in the last months, humanitarian access improved in the Lake Region. Humanitarian actors continued to assist the most vulnerable IDPs with food, health and WASH activities. However, certain areas remained unstable during the period under review, with sporadic clashes between the Chadian army and armed elements.

In efforts to improve civil-military coordination, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) established a Plan of Action outlining activities scheduled to come to fruition by the end of the year. Among these was the review of military escort use, civil-military coordination improvements in Bol and Baga Sola, security and programme criticality evaluations, and capacity building for humanitarian partners and security/defence forces. To prevent confusion between the Multinational Joint Task Force’s (MJTF) civilian activities and regular humanitarian activities, the HCT prepared a recommendation note on MJTF-humanitarian cooperation. The note encourages *inter alia* the MJTF to create a safe environment facilitating humanitarian action and to implement activities aimed at reinforcing the rule of law and public infrastructure.

NIGER – The security situation deteriorated drastically during the month of May in the Diffa region, and particularly in the Bosso commune. Insurgents targeted various infrastructure such as an electricity plant in Dewa on 1 May and a health centre in N’Garwa on 2 May (20 and 25 Km east and south-east of Diffa respectively). The most significant incident occurred on 19 May, when 200 insurgent elements from the Lake Chad islands attacked the village of Yebi (3 Km south-east of Bosso Town). Six persons were killed and many more disappeared. Hundreds of houses and shelters were burnt to the ground as well as an MSF health centre, forcing many to flee to Bosso Town and numerous casualties to be transferred to Diffa. In response, the Niger military took steps to secure neighbouring villages but the Bosso barracks were attacked just over a week after, resulting in 11 insurgent deaths and many military casualties. It is likely that additional attacks such as these will occur, especially given the low level of the Komadougou River, which constitutes a natural boundary with Nigeria. The Niger military are reported to have increased security measures and to be carrying out reconnaissance missions to identify strongholds on Lake Chad.

During the month, the Governor of the Diffa region stepped down. He expressed his gratitude to the humanitarian community for their cooperation and discussed ways forward in terms of coordination and response to the needs of the displaced, with a view to organising additional assisted voluntary relocation missions.

NIGERIA

Achievements and impact

- From 10-14 May, a **rapid protection assessment** was conducted by the Borno Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) in the Maiduguri, Jere and Konduga local government areas (LGAs) as well as in the newly accessible Damboa and Dikwa satellite camps. In the three LGAs, the aim was to identify community-level protection concerns across 26 sites (which included camps and host communities). The assessment methodology incorporated informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs). Key informants were selected on the basis of their insights into the needs of IDPs and the FGDs involved participants of both sexes and all age groups. Interviewers made use of a structured questionnaire tailored to identify immediate needs and key vulnerabilities and they engaged in discussions with host communities to record their observations. Key protection findings were as follows: IDP participation in distributions and in decision processes affecting them was found to be low; some IDPs were found to be engaging in survival sex in the great majority of camps, including in exchange for food and to gain freedom of movement; a generalised absence of legitimate CCCM structures; increasing tensions between IDPs and hosts as well as within IDP groups; humanitarian assistance and attention tended to focus on specific camps leaving other camps and host communities largely overlooked; families with relatives who had been arrested stated not having heard from them since their arrest.



Nigeria/Lukius John, a former district head from Garaha village stands together with members of his community in front of his house, which was destroyed by the insurgents. Garaha, Adamawa State, Nigeria © UNHCR/George Osodi/ 18 May 2016

- For the second part of the assessment, the PSWG visited Damboa Camp, which hosts an estimated 9,000 IDPs and is managed by the military through an IDP representative with support from the Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF) and volunteer guards. Conditions in camp were found to be dire with IDPs living in inadequate shelters and in sub-par sanitary conditions. Residents of Damboa reported being safe and enjoying a good relationship with the military CJTF. IDPs in Dikwa were found to lack access to basic food, living in makeshift shelters, and turning to open defecation.

In addition, reproductive health services were found to be inadequate. The presence of landmines and IEDs on the road towards Gamboru Ngala was found to pose an additional security risk. The military plans to relocate IDPs to Dikwa Town in the coming weeks. The latter expressed willingness to be relocated, owing to the conditions in the camp.

In light of the above, a number of recommendations were made to the HCT, including: coordinating at field level to support local authorities with the development of a relocation plan, accompanied by a robust humanitarian response and measures to ensure safety and security; a multi-sector response with strong protection and lifesaving interventions at its centre; the establishment of a remote protection monitoring system in Maiduguri and inaccessible areas to conduct vulnerability screening and make referrals across sectors to other humanitarian agencies; support to all government counterparts, humanitarian agencies and sector working groups on protection mainstreaming to ensure the establishment of a civilian camp coordination mechanism; the provision of psychosocial services, in particular for victims of violence.

- Following the successful completion of the Rapid Protection Assessment, UNHCR organised an awareness-raising exercise for 11 military officers in Damboa on humanitarian and protection principles and the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- From 9-10 May, in collaboration and with funding from UNHCR, a public hearing was held in the House of Representatives to establish a north-east Development Commission. The Commission's role would be to rehabilitate public infrastructure such as roads and houses but also businesses and to facilitate the re-integration of IDPs. The hearing was held by the House Representatives Committee on Refugees, IDPs and North-east Initiatives, created following UNHCR's successful advocacy efforts. In his opening address, the Chairman of the Committee noted the severity of the displacement crisis and the gaps that exist in meeting the needs of IDPs in host communities and in camps, not yet reached by authorities. The Chairman further stated that, while the Government has shown much interest in encouraging IDP returns, conditions are not yet conducive for return. If created, the Commission will strengthen coordination in the north-east and support efforts to find durable solutions for the displaced.
- From 22-27 May, UNHCR and IOM conducted a joint CCCM Training of Trainers (ToT) in Maiduguri. During the workshop, UNHCR emphasized the need to strengthen CCCM in the camps. Given the high turnover of trained National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) staff in the camps, UNHCR further encouraged qualified NEMA CCCM workers to regularly train stakeholders at the grass roots level. In addition, UNHCR is planning to organise general CCCM trainings in Maiduguri, targeting not only NEMA and State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) staff but other relevant actors present in the camps.
- In the context of the Community Peacebuilding and Coping Strategies Project ([see update n°23](#)), jointly led by the Institute for Peace and Reconciliation and UNHCR in Adamawa, 125 community peace volunteers (CPV) selected from previous trainings from each of the three senatorial zones received training. Topics covered included peace and conflict management, understanding conflicts and conflict analysis, gender and peacebuilding, values, communication and volunteering in peacebuilding. UNHCR facilitated the session on volunteerism and booklets were distributed to the volunteers.
- Throughout the month, UNHCR and its partners engaged in a number of distributions aimed at persons screened in Round I of the [vulnerability screening exercise](#). In Borno State, UNHCR issued tokens to 187 IDPs accepted into WFP's cash-based assistance programme. Furthermore, in collaboration with the Commissioner of the Ministry for Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (MRRR) and volunteers from the vulnerability screening team, UNHCR distributed core relief items (CRIs) to some 600 households in Muna village, Mada LGA. In Taraba State and in coordination with the Taraba SEMA and *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* (VSF), UNHCR facilitated FGDs in 8 IDP locations in the Jalingo and Ardo Kola LGAs, to map beneficiaries of livelihood support for crop production and livestock rearing.
- With the intervention of the MRRR Commissioner, the National Immigration Service (NIS) controller agreed to deploy the first 50 officers of the NIS contingent to Gamboru and Ngala in Borno State to initiate the registration process for some 67,000 persons identified by the Cameroonian Government as having returned between January and April 2016. In anticipation, UNHCR provided refresher training to 71 NIS officers as well as registration forms and stationery.

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact

- During the month of May, the number of spontaneous arrivals increased almost four-fold in comparison to the month of April and two-fold in comparison to the month of March. In total 604 persons were registered by UNHCR, a figure that remains nevertheless well below influx levels at the beginning of the year (2,698 in January, and 1,404 in February). Since the beginning of 2016, a total of 5,164 new arrivals have been registered by UNHCR at the Gourounguel Transit Centre.
- In light of improving security conditions in certain areas of the Far North region, IDP returns were observed. In the Logone-et-Chari Department, 80 per cent of those displaced from the village of Gore Talgoutoun (1,493 persons), who had settled in the localities of Terbou, Abbassouni and Hilé Halifa returned voluntarily thanks to the establishment of a security post in their village of origin. In Kousseri, a voluntary return movement of 250 persons from the village of Afadé took place with assistance from local authorities. Furthermore, 300 Nigerian refugees returned to Nigeria's Gamboru and Ngala localities.
- On 13 May, 455 persons from Banki, Adamawa State in Nigeria arrived in the town of Mora, (Mayo Sava Dept.) accompanied by the Nigerian army. According to preliminary interviews, these individuals originated from Cameroon. Composed predominantly of women and elderly persons, the group was settled in a school pending verification by local authorities.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: Findings from Intersos' protection monitoring activities in the Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga, and Logone-et-Chari Departments indicated that IDPs' access to registration and the enjoyment of their civil rights and liberties were hindered by a lack of identity documents. In response, measures are being taken to document children and adults who lack birth certificates. In addition to its monitoring activities, Intersos organised awareness-raising sessions on protection, sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), child protection and on the

relevant services available in the towns of Mokolo and Gawar, for IDPs in the Mayo Sava, Mayo Tsanaga and Logone-et-Chari Departments. In total, 772 persons benefited from this exercise.

CHAD

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: Following recommendations made during the regional coordination meeting on 12 May, the regional CCCM cluster organised a mission to Bol from 20-22 May to carry out a rapid evaluation in the IDP sites of Iga, Foulatari, and Kolom, which host 5,800 IDPs and 1,100 local inhabitants. The objective of the mission was to assess their demographic makeup, IDP and host community access to land, WASH, education, health and assistance received to date. Interviewers organised FGDs with local authorities, IDP and host community leaders around the above topics as well as on arrival dates and areas of origin. The mission found that the humanitarian situation was deplorable with only small scale interventions in the last 10 months. Having used up their food stocks, the inhabitants of these sites were found to be searching for fishing opportunities in the neighbouring islands. Basic social services were scarce or inexistent with host populations hardly bearing the brunt. The main gaps identified were in the food, WASH, health and education sectors. With the rainy season ahead, urgent humanitarian assistance is required.

NIGER

Achievements and impact

- On 12 May, the Regional Directorate for Civil Status and Refuges (DREC-R) published the results of the census exercise ([see update n°23](#)) which indicated that over 241,000 persons were displaced in the Diffa region, including refugees, returnees and IDPs. These figures are not final as the populations of a number of spontaneous sites and both camps as well as persons living with hosts have not been included in the total.
- From 4-6 May, the UNHCR representative participated in a round table discussion in Diffa, which addressed the difficulties in registering the forcibly displaced in the Diffa region. Participants included the Diffa Governor, Mayors of local towns and various state and non-state partners (NGOs and UN agencies). The issue of documentation is a key problem in the region, where an estimated 80 per cent of the population do not possess any form of identification, this is stopping humanitarian and state actors from accurately analysing assistance needs. UNHCR and the Government plan to initiate a regional biometric registration exercise later in the year.
- During the month, and in collaboration with the Niger Government, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary relocation of 1,900 refugees living in the Chétimari and Gagamari sites to the camp of Sayam Forage. This group opted for relocation because of the lack of livelihood opportunities, limited access to aid and deteriorating security situations at the border. The population of Sayam Forage has increased more than two-fold since April to reach 4,000 persons by the end of May. For additional information on the relocation exercise, click [here](#).
- As of end May, Kabelawa IDP Camp hosted more than 9,600 persons, up from 8,600 at the end of April. With a growing amount of attacks in eastern Diffa, it is estimated that this population will increase significantly in the months to come. For similar reasons to those noted above regarding Sayam Forage, the displaced are increasingly drawn to camps for assistance.



Niger/Nigerian refugee Boussam, 15, installs a pole to start building her new shelter in Sayam Forage Camp, Diffa Region, Niger © Hélène Caux/ 11 May 2016

Education

NIGER

Achievements and impact

- In the context of the Distance Education Programme established by *Cooperazione Internazionale* (COOPI) and UNHCR, the first group of Nigerian refugee secondary school students returned from completing their end of year State examinations in Kano, Nigeria ([see update n°23](#)). An additional 30 students are preparing to leave in the first week of June to complete their final secondary school exams. For more information click [here](#).

- A Nigerian refugee secondary school student travelled to Gabon to participate in the 5th Pan African Summit for Youth Leadership from 4-6 May where he delivered a presentation on SGBV, HIV/AIDS and STIs. Upon his return, he carried out awareness-raising sessions in Sayam Forage Camp on the dangers of STIs and HIV.
- COOPI constructed eight emergency classrooms and two semi-durable classrooms in Kabelawa Camp to decongest the new [primary school](#).



Health

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact

- In Minawao, 4,171 consultations were carried out during the month. Acute respiratory infections accounted for a quarter of the consultations.
- In the context of its psychosocial support programme, MSF organised a training session for 16 teachers in Minawao Camp to teach community-based care techniques for students suffering from mental health issues as well as for members of the refugee community, if need be.

NIGER

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: In response to increasing levels of malnutrition reported in Kabelawa Camp, a large-scale screening campaign was launched in Kabelawa Town's health centre. This will prove particularly important at the onset of the lean season which spans from June through September. Additionally, the NGO *Action Pour le Bien-Etre* (APBE) initiated the construction of a health centre in Kabelawa Camp to alleviate pressure from the Kabelawa Town health centre given the increase in population.



Food Security and Nutrition

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact

- In the context of the malnutrition prevention programme, WFP and its partners finalised food distributions in all health districts of the Mora, Tokombere, Mada, Makary and Kousseri localities as well as in Minawao. In total, 100 tons of high nutritional value grains were distributed to 38,427 children aged 6-23 months.
- Nutritional screenings carried out in Minawao in parallel to food distributions revealed a 1.1 per cent global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate in children (0.4 per cent moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and 0.7 per cent severe acute malnutrition (SAM)), an 0.2 per cent improvement since the last screening carried out in March 2016. For the month of May, some 55,100 refugees in Minawao benefited from the general food distribution and 87,974 benefited from out of camp distributions (80 per cent IDPs and 20 per cent host communities).
- Mobile-phone based cash transfers started during the month in the localities of Mokolo and Kousseri, and will take place in Mora shortly. During the month, a total of 10,901 IDPs benefited from cash transfers.



Water and Sanitation

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact

- The amount of water made available through MSF water trucking (68 per cent) and boreholes constructed by UNHCR, UNICEF and Plan Cameroun (32 per cent) stood at 16L/person/day. Encouragingly, works on the water adduction project ([see update n°20](#)) progressed to 51 per cent completion. During a meeting with the company contracted to construct the adduction system, the UNHCR representative stressed the need to expedite the process as much as was realistically possible.
- MSF and PU-AMI hygiene promoters carried out awareness raising exercises for 531 households on corporal, environmental and dietary hygiene. Furthermore, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) distributed hygiene kits composed of towels, soap and buckets to 400 households to encourage them to adopt good environmental and corporal hygiene practices.

NIGER

Achievements and impact: Owing to Kabelawa Camp's growing population, SPHERE standards in the WASH sector could not be met during the month. In response, additional quantities of water are being trucked to the camp and

new emergency latrines are being installed. In Sayam Forage, due to the relocation of almost 2,000 persons during the reporting period, SPHERE standards in the WASH sector were also difficult to meet. Additional latrines and showers are under construction. In both camps, mass awareness-raising sessions on sanitation and hygiene were delivered for newly arrived populations.

Shelter and NFIs

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: During the month, UNHCR followed up on the construction of transitional shelters by refugee households. In total 3,428 households were identified and will be provided with shelter kits. To date, 2,717 households have been provided with kits and 514 communes outside the camp have benefited from toolkit distributions.

NIGER

Achievements and impact

- In response to the needs of both camps' growing populations, emergency shelter kits (357 in Sayam Forage and 279 in Kabelawa) were distributed throughout the month. Furthermore, CARE International distributed 134 NFI kits to new arrivals at the site of Kangouri 1, in the Diffa commune.
- Works are underway in the various sites selected in the context of the urbanisation project this year, including Diffa Town, Kabelawa, Toumour and Assaga. A total of 76 hectares will be urbanised and 2,000 parcels will be distributed to beneficiaries.

Livelihoods, energy and environment

NIGER

Achievements and impact: During the reporting period, an additional 400 gas bottles were distributed across both camps, bringing the cumulative total in both locations to 1,746. Mass awareness-raising campaigns were organised for all new beneficiaries of the project. Furthermore, the month of May marked the beginning of out-of-camp distributions under the new *Soutien Energétique et Environnemental* project. It will benefit 20,000 displaced persons and vulnerable host families in the Diffa region. Over its first month, the project benefited a total of 3,650 families who each received a 6 Kg gas bottle, a burner and refill and vouchers for six months of refills. UNHCR partner Search for Common Ground organised radio broadcasts and theatre performances to raise awareness of the project and of the safety precautions accompanying it. In addition, 152 'community mobilizers' were trained to assist with the implementation of this first phase.



Nigeria/Children returning from school in Garaha standing in front of their house which was destroyed by the insurgents. Garaha, Adamawa State, Nigeria © UNHCR/George Osodi/ 18 May 2016

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

On 7 December 2015, a Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for the Nigeria Situation was launched by 28 UN agencies and NGO partners, requesting a total USD 198.7 million for refugee response in Cameroon, Chad and Niger in 2016. UNHCR's financial requirements within the RRRP amount to USD 62.3 million. In total, for refugee response in asylum countries as well as response for IDPs in Nigeria, UNHCR's requirements amount to USD **94.3 million**. UNHCR is very grateful for the financial support provided by donors, particularly those who have contributed to UNHCR activities with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds, as well as for those who have contributed to the Nigeria situation as a whole.

Donors:

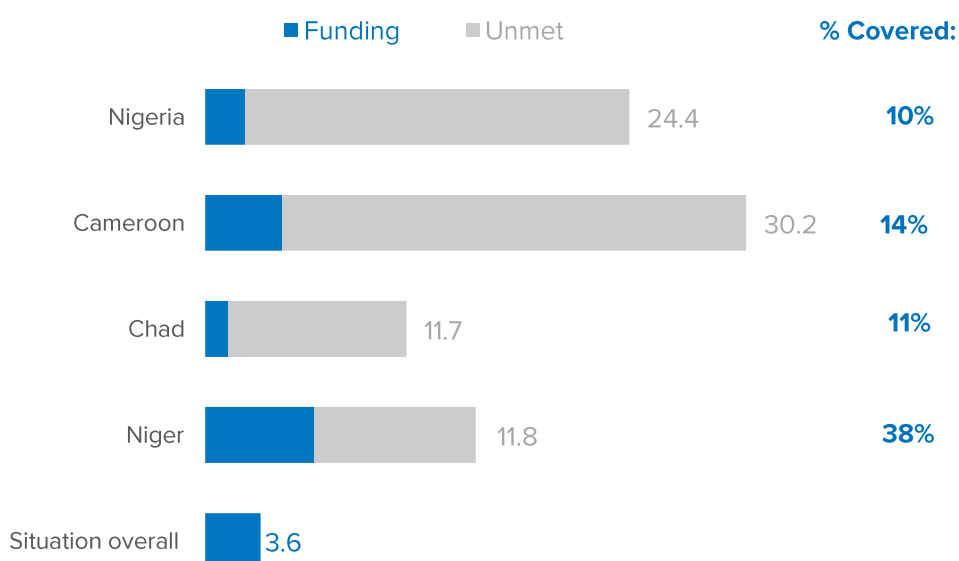
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A total of **USD 19.8 million** funded out of USD 94.3 million requested by UNHCR, representing 21% of the needs:



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Links/social media:

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 | Facebook: UNHCR West Africa

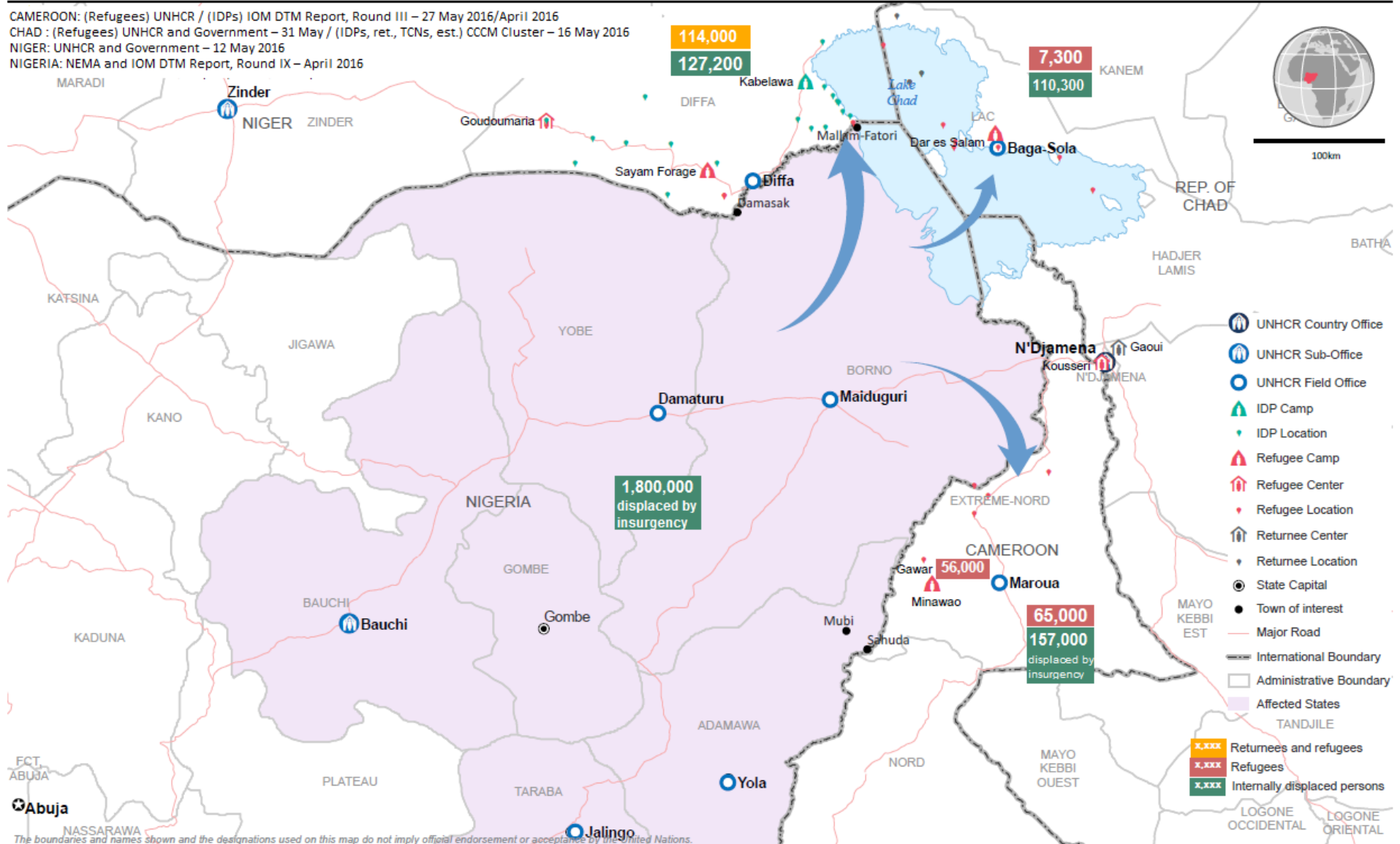


Nigeria Situation

Operational context map

31 May 2016

CAMEROON: (Refugees) UNHCR / (IDPs) IOM DTM Report, Round III – 27 May 2016/April 2016
 CHAD : (Refugees) UNHCR and Government – 31 May / (IDPs, ret., TCNs, est.) CCCM Cluster – 16 May 2016
 NIGER: UNHCR and Government – 12 May 2016
 NIGERIA: NEMA and IOM DTM Report, Round IX – April 2016



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.