



NIGERIA SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE

01 – 31 May 2017

OPERATIONAL CONTEXT & HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES

1,884,331
IDPs* in Nigeria

* 1.83 million displaced by the insurgency

[\(NEMA/IOM DTM Report, Round XVI, May 2017\)](#)

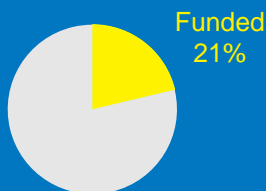
202,551

Total number of Nigerian refugees in neighboring countries as of **31 May 2017** (or latest figures available)

FUNDING

USD 169.9 million

UNHCR requirements for the Nigeria situation in 2017



Gap
79%

- Following the trend observed during the month of April, suicide attacks, incursions and numerous mine explosions continued to be recorded across the region, marking a renewed deterioration of the security situation. UNHCR's activities were affected by these developments because access to persons of concern in border areas and newly accessible zones has been reduced as result.
- On 6 May, 82 Chibok schoolgirls were released by Boko Haram (BH) in exchange for five of the group's leaders. The girls were reunited with their families two weeks later in Abuja. This followed a similar deal reached in October 2016, in which 21 girls had been released, but more than 100 Chibok girls still remain in BH's captivity. Human rights groups estimate thousands of men, women and children have been abducted by BH and have called on the Nigerian authorities to do more to ensure their safe return.
- UNHCR organized a three-day workshop in Abuja for government partners, UN agencies, NGOs and INGOs from 10-13 May on international protection principles for IDPs. The workshop was aimed at fostering a mutual understanding of protection in the north-east context with a view to improving coordination, building an effective response and analyzing return strategies. UNHCR is committed to supporting Nigeria in building its protection and solutions capacity for the displaced. The significant increase in IDP returns was described in principle as a step in the right direction, as long as all stakeholders keep IDPs' best interest in mind and ensure these movements are voluntary in nature.
- As of 28 May, and in collaboration with its governmental counterparts UNHCR had registered a total of 12,428 Nigerian refugee returnees¹ from Cameroon and Chad in the border town of Banki, Borno State and Sahuda, Adamawa State. Out of this group, 67 per cent had been registered as refugees in their country of asylum, 32 per cent had not been registered and the rest were not able to provide an answer. The majority (67 per cent) of returnees from Cameroon stated they had been forced to return. UNHCR and its partners are working to respond to the situation in Banki, where the great majority of dwellings have been destroyed.
- A three-day ministerial meeting on the adoption of a Regional Plan of Action to eradicate statelessness in West Africa took place in Banjul from 7-9 May. During the opening ceremony, the UNHCR regional representative for West Africa said that massive displacement in Nigeria's north-east poses a great danger for the crisis' victims across the region. In Niger for example, 80 per cent of the population does not have identity documents, and is at risk of statelessness. She pointed to the potential detrimental effects this would have on achieving durable solutions and stressed the link between statelessness and sustaining peace and security in the region.

¹ Verification ongoing to ensure registrations are not duplicated. These are more likely in this context owing to the pendular nature of movements in the area.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

NIGERIA

- From 22-27 May, the UNHCR Representatives for Nigeria and Cameroon undertook a mission to Cameroon's Far North and Nigeria's Borno State to familiarize themselves with the causes of the surge of spontaneous returns of Nigerian refugees. The Representatives were accompanied by local UNHCR management as well as Cameroonian and Nigerian Government officials. They took this opportunity to discuss instances of forced returns with Cameroonian authorities, take stock of the situation on the ground and gain an insight on strategies for safe, voluntary and dignified return. In the wake of contentious discussions regarding *refoulement*, the mission found that the institution of asylum itself was not under threat but that access to asylum is because movements occur in militarized areas where counter-insurgency operations are underway. Although returns to Nigeria will continue, the mission concluded that advocacy efforts should be increased to avoid further ad hoc returns, that the exchange of information between UNHCR Nigeria and Cameroon should be strengthened, that both governments would continue to cooperate on military and security matters and that Nigeria should improve its reception conditions. It was also stressed that donors should be encouraged to support WFP to address food shortages and avoid detrimental impacts on the humanitarian response. Indeed, owing to funding shortfalls, WFP have had to cut food rations by 25 per cent in the Far North. Finally, it was decided that UNHCR would insist on participating in screening for vulnerabilities and access to asylum. Ultimately, the goal of the mission was to ensure the Tripartite Commission is set up. UNHCR proposed its first meeting take place in mid-June tentatively.

CAMEROON

- The Mokolo River water adduction project undertaken by UNHCR and CAMWATER to bring water from the town of Mokolo to Minawao camp has been completed. Training of the water management committees in the camp and five surrounding host villages has yet to take place. Refugees currently receive 16 liters of water per person per day. Overall, 75 per cent of water supplied is procured from the pipeline, surpassing the initial target by 5 per cent. The next key step of the project will entail transferring the management of the pipeline between Mokolo and the entrance of Minawao to the national water management company (*Camerounaise Des Eaux* or *CDE*) as this is currently ensured solely by UNHCR. The refugee agency will nevertheless continue to work alongside the CDE outside of the camp and will be responsible for the management of the pipeline within its premises.

CHAD

- In the Lake region, the number of persons of concern benefiting from UNHCR's [self-reliance fishing project](#) now stands at 727, following the enrolment of 137 new beneficiaries in the month of May. This new group is divided into three sub-groups, two of Nigerian refugees and one that is composed of refugees, IDPs and members of the host community from Tagal village on Lake Chad.
- UNHCR's acting Representative for Chad went on mission to the Lake region from 3-5 May. There he visited the village of Boroa, located between the villages of Kiskawa and Daboua where some 14,000 IDPs spread across 20 sites are settled. UNHCR had established a community-based protection monitoring project through the Chadian Red Cross and implemented Shelter/NFI and CCCM activities in this area in 2016. During discussions, the IDPs expressed the need for local integration activities as they have chosen not to return to their villages of origin on the lake islands. Aside from security considerations, they mentioned access to social services, clean water and humanitarian assistance as reasons for their choice. In light of significant demographic fluctuations such as these and in the context of efforts to bridge the emergency assistance/development nexus, the Representative welcomed the local authorities' decision to include refugee and IDPs in their regional development plan, which will feed into the national development plan.

NIGER

- In the Diffa region, a Protection Baseline survey was completed in all 142 settlement sites in the region and a protection framework on IDP returns is currently being finalized. The main areas covered by the baseline include: return intentions, protection incidents, protection vulnerabilities and access to information. As regards returns intentions, the survey revealed that only six per cent of refugees and seven per cent of IDPs intend to return to their areas of origin over the next three months.
- UNHCR is currently strengthening its partnership in Niger with the World Bank (WB), for which it facilitated a mission from 15-19 May. This is the second of its kind to support the government in their development of a proposal to obtain funding in early 2018, and to ensure that UNHCR's priority areas of concern are incorporated into the overall submission, by ensuring refugees are included in the national development plan. This potential funding could prove to be pivotal in stabilizing and building resilience in the Lake Chad Basin.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

In total, for refugee response in asylum countries as well as response for IDPs in Nigeria, UNHCR's requirements amount to USD **169.9 million in 2017**. 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:

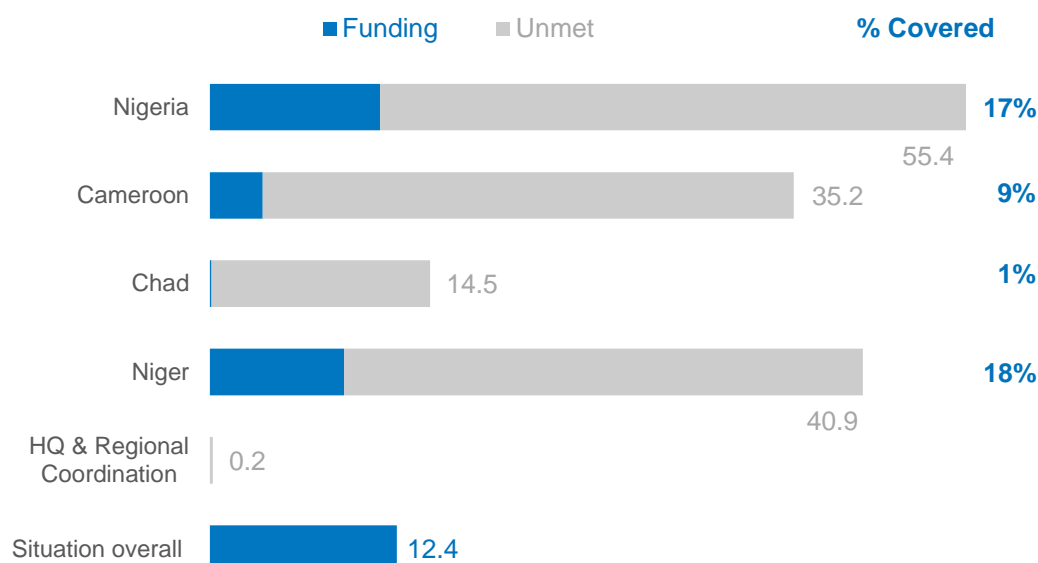
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Japan
Norway
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America

Private donors:

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Funding:

A total of **USD 36.2 million** has been received out of USD 169.9 mio requested by UNHCR, representing 21% of funding needs.



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Priv Donors Spain (24 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M)

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1. The total of contributions received includes the programme support component.

2. All financial information contained in this funding update is indicative and does not constitute official UNHCR financial reporting.

3. Unrestricted and regional funds mentioned above include all sub-regional and regional contributions worldwide.

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Links:

Nigeria regional web portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/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](https://twitter.com/UNHCRWestAfrica)

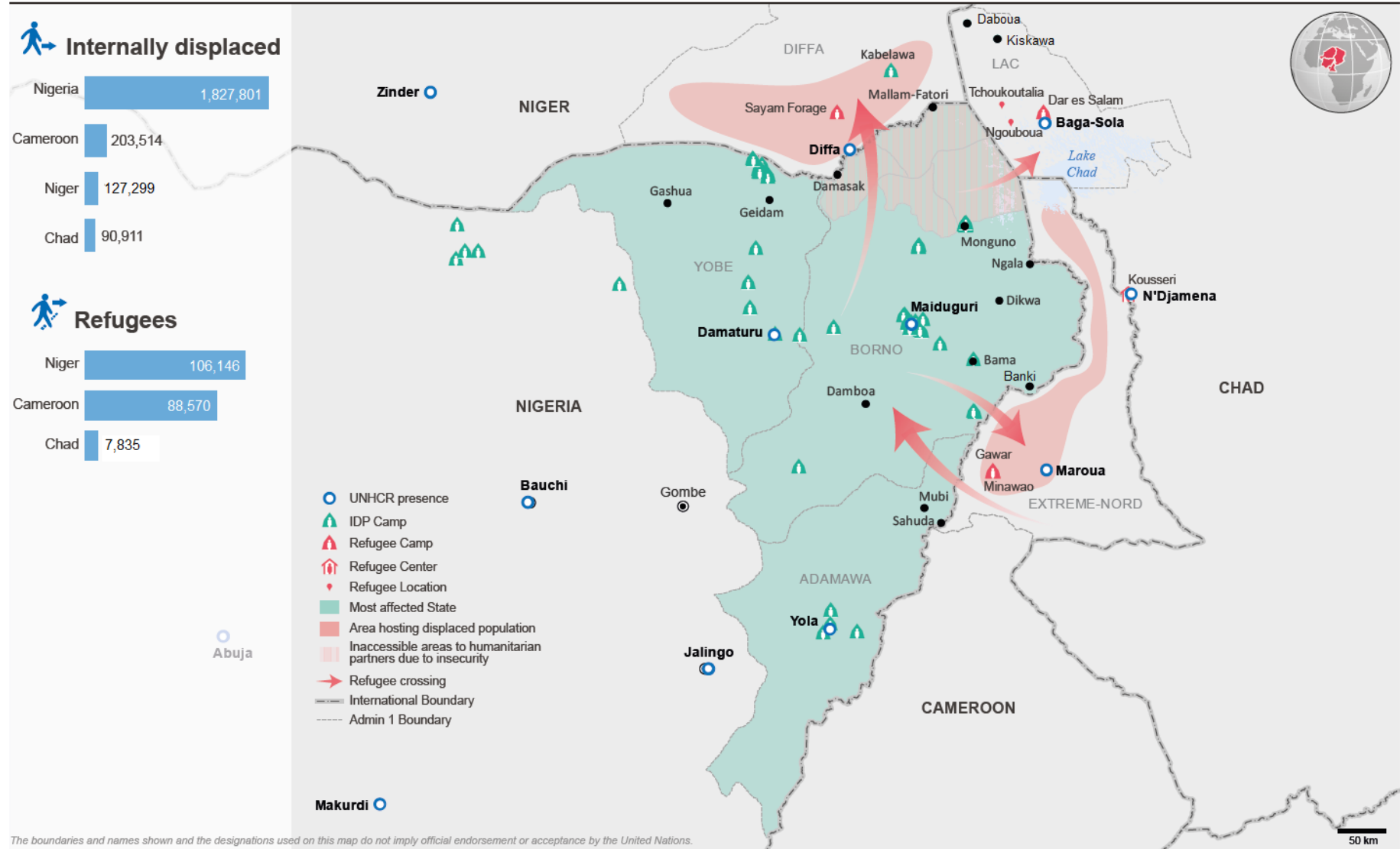
Facebook: [UNHCR West Africa](https://www.facebook.com/UNHCRWestAfrica)



NIGERIA SITUATION

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

As of 31 May 2017 or latest figures available



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

Creation date: 31 May 2017 Sources: UNHCR Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org