

NIGERIA SITUATION

UNHCR REGIONAL UPDATE N°20

1-31 January 2016

KEY FIGURES

2,151,979 IDPs
in Nigeria

(NEMA/IOM DTM Report,
December 2015)

215,063

Total number of Nigerian
refugees in neighbouring
countries

FUNDING

USD 198,764,278

Requested for the situation for
January-December 2016

IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES

Nigeria

Advocate that IDP camp security
be strengthened

Niger

Enhance communication with
national authorities regarding the
proposal to relocate inhabitants
living in spontaneous settlements
to a new location away from the
RN1

Cameroon

Construct additional family shelters
in Minawao

Chad

Undertake protection monitoring
for refugees, IDPs and returnees in
the region through close contact
with local authorities and
community leaders

HIGHLIGHTS

- Attacks have continued to take place in **Nigeria's** north-east, albeit far less frequently during reporting period. The country continues to face a severe protection crisis as insurgency and counter-insurgency measures result in chronic insecurity and human rights violations, which exacerbate the plight of the most vulnerable populations.
- The number of attacks in **Niger's** Diffa region has decreased in the past month as a result of ongoing air strikes by the Niger military on insurgent positions and the joint efforts of the Nigerian, Chadian and Niger Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) forces. Despite improving, the situation remains tense and sporadic attacks take place in the form of incursions from Nigeria.
- Cameroon's** Far North region has been the stage of over twenty insurgent attacks resulting in some 100 deaths during the month. In order to improve security at the Minawao camp, UNHCR and local authorities are working to increase the number of police staff and to reinforce the vigilante committee's capacity.
- In **Chad**, local authorities have reported an improvement in the security situation. In light of this, and of a 50 percent decrease in the number of refugees registered in the region, following biometric registration, the relocation exercise from existing camps has been postponed.

A total of **2,635,775** people of concern as of 31 January

IDPs in Nigeria	2,151,979 ¹
Refugees in Niger	138,321 ²
IDPs in Niger	137,337 ³
Refugees in Cameroon	70,658 ⁴
IDPs in Cameroon	92,658 ⁴
Refugees in Chad	6,084 ⁵
IDPs in Chad	38,738 ⁵

¹NEMA/IOM DTM Report, December 2015

²DREC/MISP/UNHCR- Nigerian refugees, displaced people from Nigeria claiming to be Niger nationals but lacking documents

³UNHCR estimation

⁴UNHCR/IOM – including 54,000+ in the Minawao/Gawar camp

⁵UNHCR/IOM

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Operational Context

NIGERIA – The presidential deadline for the eradication of the insurgent group elapsed on 31 December. Despite claims that the threat has been ‘technically’ defeated, attacks have continued to take place in Nigeria and in the region albeit far less frequently. The underlying factor at the root of the group’s resilience remains widespread corruption, which continues to pave the way for extremist demagoguery. This weakness is buttressed by the fear instilled through opportunistic attacks such as the one carried out at the end January in Dalori in which 86 persons are reported to have been killed. UN and national agencies as well as local and international NGOs are stepping up activities in affected states but the impact of the crisis in the affected areas in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe are extending to Bauchi, Gombe and Taraba states as communities are struggling to cope with the challenges of scarce resources. Alongside the public safety measures implemented by the military in the north-east which have disrupted livelihoods and trade routes, cross border commerce has also been severely affected. Nigeria continues to face a severe protection crisis as insurgency and counter-insurgency measures result in chronic insecurity and human rights violations, which exacerbate the plight of the most vulnerable populations.

As of 30 January, a total of 21,799 Nigerians had returned from Cameroon. The returns are screened by the National Immigration Service (NIS) at the Sahuda Immigration site, screened once more by the military and registered by the Nigerian Red Cross (NRCS) in Mubi before going to IDP camps in Yola or to host communities. From the IDP camps in Yola, some 6,000 have recently transferred to camps in Maiduguri.

NIGER – The number of attacks in the Diffa region has decreased in the past month as a result of ongoing air strikes by the Niger military on insurgent positions and the joint efforts of the Nigerian, Chadian and Niger Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF) forces. Despite improving, the situation remains tense and sporadic attacks take place in the form of incursions from Nigeria. All security restrictions remain in place and continue to have devastating effects on the local economy, putting the Diffa region population’s resilience at greater risk as each day goes by. Since August 2015, it is estimated that some 170 villages have been deserted as a result of the attacks. Host populations that once were able to welcome the displaced are no longer able to cope. Those at risk are fleeing predominantly from villages along the Komadougou River, which constitutes a natural border between Nigeria and Niger, to areas where they feel more secure. Chief among these is the RN1 road built in the 1970s to link Niamey to N’Guigmi, which fell into decrepitude over the next 40 years. In 2012, rehabilitation of the stretch from Diffa to Nguigmi was initiated but 120 Km have yet to be renovated as violence in February caused the works to be postponed. The RN1 protects the displaced in that it allows for faster provision of aid. Furthermore, it improves the region’s economic capacity and is the reason so many spontaneous sites have been established there throughout the past months. It is estimated that 70,000 people live in the spontaneous settlements alongside it.

CAMEROON – Cameroon’s Far North region has been the stage of over 20 insurgent attacks resulting in some 100 deaths during the month, out of which the most violent occurred in Bodo on 25 January, and resulted in 32 deaths and 66 wounded. In order to improve security at the Minawao camp, UNHCR and local authorities are working to increase the number of police staff and to reinforce the vigilante committee’s capacity.

Some 2,400 new arrivals were registered during the reporting period in the Gourounguel transit centre. While some declared wanting to join their families who are already present in the camp, others explained that they had been living in host communities for over a year and that, lacking the means to subsist, had decided to move to the camp in order to benefit from assistance. Others still said they were concerned that the sweeping operations undertaken by the security forces in the border towns and villages, would put them at risk.

CHAD – Local authorities have reported an improvement in the security situation in the Lake Chad region since the wave of attacks which took place in October 2015. This can be linked to the state of emergency that has been in place since November, which is due to last until the end of March. With these security

measures have come additional resources, allocated to defence forces, local authorities and vigilante committees. Coupled with this is the fact that border closure has been effective in allowing security forces to keep a firm grip over movements in the region, forcing the insurgent group to attack using alternate and less effective tactics. No further statement has been issued by local authorities following their initial bid to relocate refugees and IDPs from the camps to safer areas. The exercise has been postponed in light of the aforementioned security improvements and because the refugee caseload has decreased by more than 50% following the biometric registration exercise carried out by UNHCR and the *Commission Nationale d'Accueil, de Réinsertion des Réfugiés et des Rapatriés* (CNARR) from March to December 2015.

Refugees and IDPs will likely stay in the area in the foreseeable future as opportunities for returning to their places of origin are slim. Self-reliance and livelihood opportunities will have to be prioritised in collaboration with development actors. The *Comité des Partenaires Techniques et Financiers* (CPTF) recently approved a USD 80 million project for the Lake Chad basin, wherein the Asia Development Bank and World Bank reiterated their commitment to a five year investment plan. The main areas of focus will be socio-ecological resilience of the local communities, peaceful coexistence support, climate change prevention and youth employment.

Protection

NIGERIA - The latest IOM and Nigerian Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) report indicates that there are 2.15 million insurgency-related IDPs in Nigeria.

- As of 30 January, a total of 21,799 Nigerian returnees had been registered in Adamawa State. UNHCR is assisting the NRCS with the improvement of its registration system at the transit centre in Yola, to ensure that returnees are transferred to their families and friends more efficiently. UNHCR has designed a form for officials in the transit centre and camps to help them improve documentation and prevent trafficking and/or smuggling, as well as to analyse information on the returnees' onward movements. During the reporting period, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), IDP leaders and volunteers, conducted a general registration and profiling of 1,560 IDP families in Yola, who had been transferred by state authorities from Hajj transit centre in Maiduguri to Dalori II camp. The exercise revealed notable shelter and basic needs. In response, UNHCR provided 70 tents to accommodate a total of 782 persons, and distributed NFIs to 921 persons in Dalori II, while working with ADSEMA, NIS and NRCS to establish a tracking system for those proceeding directly to host communities. UNHCR recently registered 6,000 returnees, who were transferred to eight camps in Maiduguri. The group has been split into sub-groups of 800 persons to assess the feasibility of the transfer from Yerwa and WTC camps in Maiduguri to Dalori. To ensure the relocation is smooth, not only are UNHCR and IOM marking out shelter locations in Dalori, but UNHCR has also received NFIs from Bauchi to prepare for the relocation exercise. The transfers to Dalori are solely the decision of the Government. UNHCR as well the humanitarian community do not consider Dalori to be a safe camp security wise or other.
- UNHCR and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) have agreed to jointly train 30 female Nigerian Police, Immigration and Prison officers on IDP protection, child protection, SGBV and human rights. The training will be funded by UNHCR, IRC and UNFPA and will be facilitated by UNHCR, IRC, the Nigerian Police Force, NHRC, UNFPA, UNICEF and Save the Children International (SCI). The trainees will be deployed in IDP camps. This initiative is a welcome one as IDP camps are faced with considerable protection concerns including challenges posed by overcrowding, insurgent incursions, and the limited capacity of actors to respond to IDP's needs. In Taraba, where this issue was raised during the Protection Sector Working Group (PSWG) meeting, a 5 man committee was put into place to address the problem with the Taraba SEMA, State Hospital, and Ministry of Education. Further echoing this need for assistance, IDPs in the Bukar Ali camp (Yobe State) requested that UNHCR prioritise NFI, security and livelihoods needs during a focus group discussion. In Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe, UNHCR monitored the disbursement of cash assistance by NRCS to 150 IDPs in each state.
- UNHCR and the American University of Nigeria (AUN) in Yola have fixed February as the date for the graduation of IDPs who received UNHCR-funded vocational skills training in plastic recycling and knitting. Selected by UNHCR and with support from ADSEMA, some 300 IDPs received training for

three weeks in two locations across Yola town. Furthermore, 11 January marked the beginning of UNHCR's project proposal submissions to the office in Bauchi for the 2016 vocational skills and income generation training. There are plans to expand the project to areas of return in Adamawa where livelihoods will constitute a strong protection tool for facilitating integration.

- On 13 January, UNHCR and the West African Examination Council met in Abuja and agreed to collaborate in view of organising examinations and delivering certifications for over 300 Nigerian refugee children currently following secondary school curriculums in Niger's Diffa region, who are unable to integrate into the Niger educational system due to differences in curricula and language barriers. Under its Distance Education Programme, UNHCR is undertaking this project to provide refugees with future opportunities and in the immediate future the programme constitutes a powerful protection solution in that it reduces refugees' involvement in illegal activities and discourages the use of negative coping mechanisms.

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 returned migrants) has reached 138,000. It also estimates the IDP population at 137,000 persons.

Achievements and impact: A number of awareness-raising sessions were held during the reporting period, in the following locations: in Assaga by UNHCR on child protection benefitting 255 persons, in Kabélawa by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and UNHCR on conflict resolution and peaceful cohabitation; recurring fights and stray animals; security instructions and child protection, and community leadership benefitting a total of 2,477 persons, in Sayam Forage by IRC on child protection benefitting 164 children and in the spontaneous settlement of Koublé Igré by UNHCR on mutual aid and assistance for 37 persons. It is worth noting that in this last instance, persons living in settlements such as this one have shown great solidarity within their communities and willingness to facilitate humanitarian assistance by settling according to their villages of origin and displaying sign posts to this effect.

- On 18 January, UNHCR began a census exercise of displaced households within the Kabélawa camp who do not possess any form of identification and are thus at a risk of statelessness. The exercise and search for solutions for this population is ongoing.
- A monitoring mission was undertaken with Niger's National Human Rights body to the Diffa prison to ascertain the living conditions of a group of people suspected of working with the insurgent group. A census carried out and 80 men, 9 women and 2 infants were recorded. *Action Pour le Bien-être* (APBE) is attending to this group's health needs.

CAMEROON - UNHCR and IOM have registered 70,658 refugees and 92,658 IDPs in the Far North. The majority of refugees live in the Minawao/Gawar site (54,806), while IDPs live with host families.

Achievements and impact: UNHCR organised a training workshop for community volunteers and members of the SGBV committee to reinforce prevention capacity within the camp. The training addressed identification and referral mechanisms and benefited 31 persons.

- From 11 to 23 January, UNICEF and the Ministry of Justice trained 240 police staff and social workers currently posted in the Far North region on child rights. A number of topics were covered, and notably the treatment of children involved in armed groups either as witnesses or perpetrators of crime.
- During the reporting period 1,705 children were enrolled into Minawao camp Child Friendly Spaces (CFS). In total 20,000 children participated in the activities organised in the CFS by UNICEF partner *Action Locale pour un Développement Participatif et Autogéré* (ADELPA). Furthermore, 44 children participated in educational debates on corporal hygiene, the consequences of forced marriage, the negative side effects of narcotics, and premature sexual intercourse. In the host communities, 1,139 children participated in recreational activities organised by ADELPA.

CHAD - UNHCR and the CNARR have registered 6,084 Nigerian refugees currently living in the Lake Region. Out of these, 4,422 are currently living in Dar Es Salam refugee camp. The remainder chose to undertake economic activities in the surrounding villages. The CCCM cluster lead by UNHCR and co-lead by IOM have profiled 38,738 IDPs, 11,066 returnees and 771 third country nationals.

- To ensure refugees receive enhanced protection and are assisted to the furthest extent possible, a biometric registration exercise was jointly carried out by UNHCR and the CNARR between March and December 2015. Some 464,572 refugees were registered in Chad when the operation began. This number had decreased by 20% by December. Out of the 372,000 persons verified, 312,000 (over 4 years old, with biometrically traceable traits) were registered. Nigerian refugees represent 1.75% of the population. A continuous registration procedure is in place and managed by UNHCR/CNARR to register 'late show' cases.
- During the reporting period, the Dar Es Salam camp received 1,500 spontaneous arrivals. A rapid evaluation of the group indicated the presence of refugees from Ngouboua and Tchoukoutalia who were not present during the biometric exercise; refugees already registered in the camp in the midst of being regularised and refugees who had remained in border villages.
- The GBV working group selected the Dar Nahim IDP site to carry out its first focus group discussion of the year which benefited 74 women. Subjects covered included the role of women in a crisis prone community, sexual and reproductive health in emergency situations, and societal reactions to SGBV.
- On 26 January, the SGBV committee which was until then composed entirely of women, was restructured with the participation of the community. The committee is now composed of 11 members (six women and five men), is representative of the camp's demographic layout and is entirely independent.

Education

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: As of 31 January, 16,648 students were regularly enrolled into the Minawao camp schools (1,339 in pre-school, 12,921 in primary and 2,388 in secondary school). In primary school attendance is 55 percent and 46 percent in secondary. In order to improve attendance rates, UNHCR and its partners continue to carry out awareness-raising activities aimed encouraging parents to ensure their children are regularly enrolled and able to attend school.

CHAD

Achievements and impact: The Education Sub-Cluster meeting took place on 14 January in Baga-Sola. At the same time, training sessions aimed at improving headmasters' pedagogical skills were initiated by the Kaya Department Prefect in the presence of the Regional Delegate for National Education.

- Compared to the 2014-15 academic year, for which 1,500 students were enrolled, the 2015-16 period saw a 26 percent increase. This trend is an indication that reception facilities will have to be enhanced and that additional school and canteen equipment will have to be procured. Currently, out of 10 teachers assigned to Baga-Sola by the State, nine are present.



Health

NIGER

Achievements and impact: In the Sayam Forage camp, APBE carried out awareness-raising sessions on hygiene, family planning, and vaccinations which benefited 65 persons and undertook 20 pre-natal consultations during the reporting period. The NGO also distributed rations to 317 children aged between 6-59 months and screened them for malnutrition. Furthermore, APBE organised a vaccination campaign administering the following shots: poliomyelitis (429 children), pentavalent vaccine 1 (4), diarrhoea (4), measles (10), and pneumonia (7). In Kabélawa, 955 rations were distributed and awareness-raising activities carried out. A vaccination campaign against air-borne viruses was organised and benefited 1,004 children.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: A high number of children were diagnosed with the flu in Sayam Forage health centre and measures are being taken by health partners to address the issue.

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: UNICEF carried out 430 measles vaccinations for children aged 6 months to 15 years, including 22 for children aged 6-59 months, among the new arrivals.



Food Security and Nutrition

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: UNICEF continued to provide support to the nutrition data collection exercise taking place in Minawao. During the last week of January, four new admissions were registered in the mobile nutrition centre and 12 in the Mokolo therapeutic nutritional centre. Furthermore, the Cameroonian Red Cross screened 482 children and five were found to be suffering from moderate acute malnutrition before being transferred to the Minawao mobile nutrition centre.

- UNHCR received a donation of six tons of rice and one tone of oil for the refugee population, worth USD 5,200 from the United Cameroonian Methodist Church.

CHAD

Achievements and impact: The general food distribution took place from 18 to 20 January in the Dar Es Salam camp and was carried out by the Chadian Red Cross. A total of 4,352 persons received supplies. In various villages in the region ACTED distributed 45 day food rations to lactating women and children aged 0-23 months. In total, 10,500 persons benefited from these distributions.

- For 2016, a new distribution committee representing all of the camp's sections or 'blocks' has been put into place, and is composed of six men and five women.



Water and Sanitation

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: Works on the water adduction project from Mokolo to Minawao have started and teams from CAMWATER are currently digging and delineating pipe trenches. According to CAMWATER, the project should come to fruition by the end of March 2016. Initiated by UNHCR in December 2015, the ambitious pipeline will cost more than USD 1.7 million but will ensure considerable savings are made once water trucking is phased out, as this activity is proportionately far more costly and unsustainable. Furthermore, the adduction project will provide water to the host 10 villages located on the route to Minawao and contribute to making IDPs and their hosts less dependent on humanitarian aid.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: During the reporting period, the amount of water provided to Minawao camp reduced by 42 percent because the Mayo Louti River is drying up. Currently, only 12 litres are available/person/day. The water that is available is brought into the camp by MSF trucking or obtained from boreholes built by UNHCR, UNICEF and Plan Cameroon.



Shelter and NFIs

NIGER

Achievements and impact: In the Arou spontaneous settlement, APBE distributed 326 emergency shelter kits and 174 in the Dagaya site. Both sites are located on the RN1.

- Care International made a stock of plastic sheeting available for new arrivals in the Sayam Forage and Kabélawa camps and COOPI built 74 new transitional shelters in the Sayam Forage camp.
- The urbanisation project which has been carried out in Chétimari and N'Guigmi in complete. Overall, a total of 1,882 parcels have been provided (926 in Chétimari, and 945 in N'Guigmi) to various populations: 60 percent to the local community, 30 percent to IDPs and 10 percent to vulnerable local host populations. In early February, a ceremony will take place to mark the delivery of land deeds to the latter.

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: During the reporting period, 300 emergency family shelters were built and 150 are under construction for the reception of new arrivals in the Gourounguel Transit Centre. In Minawao, the entire population is provided with shelter, and there are currently 9,366 family dwellings in use that have been erected jointly by UNHCR and Public Concern.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: There is insufficient space for the construction of additional shelters in Minawao which negatively impacts sanitary conditions.



Livelihoods, energy and environment

CAMEROON

Achievements and impact: Income generating activities (IGA) and vegetable garden farming were launched on 16 January by Plan International. On this occasion, 20 vulnerable households received various tools which will enable them to engage in IGAs. Furthermore, demonstrations were conducted for the latter on how to prepare a plot of land for vegetable farming. Finally, the professional training centre was equipped with carpentry and sewing equipment.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: Awareness-raising on environmental and fauna protection was carried out from 26 to 28 January. This exercise was jointly organised by UNHCR and the Departmental Delegation for Forests and Fauna in light of multiple complaints by the Zamai, Gawar and Bokom canton chiefs regarding the deforestation of local inhabitants' fields as well as the slaughtering of their animals.

CHAD

Achievements and impact: The irrigation of nurseries and seedlings has been ongoing since 20 December. *Secours Catholique et Développement* (SECADEV) are in discussions with the forestry services to allow refugees to cut down thorny bushes in order to use them for the protection of their nurseries. The great number of wild animals around the site poses a constant risk. Furthermore, fishing activities have resumed since 20 December despite the cold climactic conditions. Despite these hindrances, beneficiaries are able to earn 3,000 CFA (USD 5) on average, per day.

Challenges, needs and remaining gaps: Livelihoods opportunities have been severely affected by the disappearing ecosystem and border closure. Traditional herders, fishermen and nomadic cattle traders have particularly suffered from these measures as they find themselves in direct competition with agro-pastoralists. Tensions between such groups is likely to rise in the area as conditions worsen.

- Refugees and IDPs alike have expressed frustration at being idle and while the livelihood projects in place are highly appreciated, additional opportunities such these need to be implemented across the region.



Access to Energy

NIGER

Achievements and impact: Some 20,000 beneficiaries were identified for the gas distribution project by Care International from 19 to 29 December in the communes of Maïné-Soroa, Gueskéro, Toumour, Chétimari, Goudoumaria, Kabélawa and N'Guigmi as well as in the communes of Diffa, Bosso and Assaga. In Diffa town, the SONIHY Company is establishing selling points for domestic gas and new providers are submitting their proposals in view of beginning new activities. In the camps, awareness-raising activities regarding the safe use of gas are carried out and the construction of safety features for safe gas use is monitored by UNHCR. Furthermore, fire fighters have been trained in the camps and 50 extinguishers have been placed in both camps.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

On 7 December 2015, a Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Nigeria Situation was launched by UNHCR, 27 sister agencies and NGO partners, which includes needs for Cameroon, Chad and Niger in 2016. UNHCR's total 2016 financial requirements for the Nigeria Situation currently amount to USD 62.3 million out of a total of USD **198.7 million** requested. 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. Funding levels against the 2016 requirements will be available shortly.

Donors:

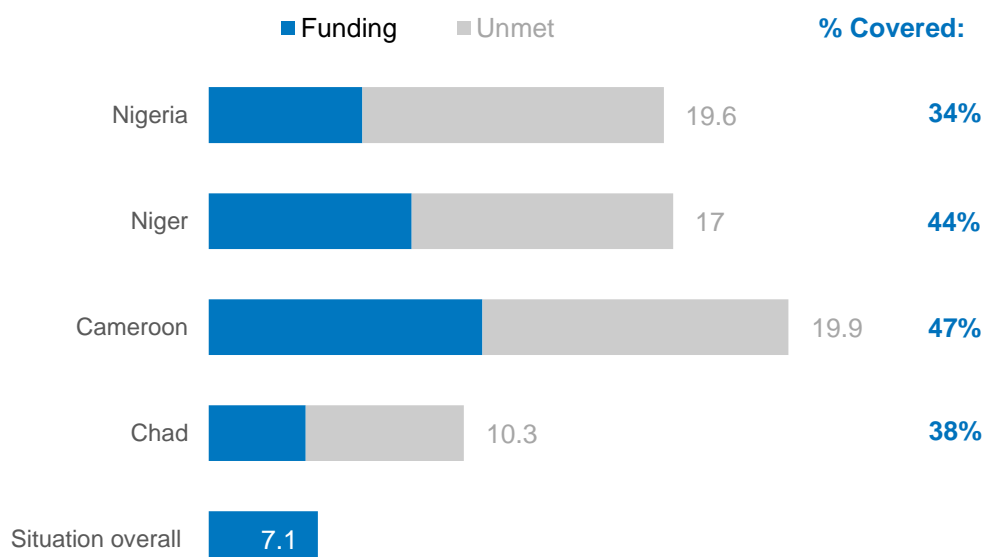
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Funding:

In 2015, a total of **USD 54.4 million** was funded out of USD 114.5 million requested by UNHCR, representing 48% of the needs:



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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/>
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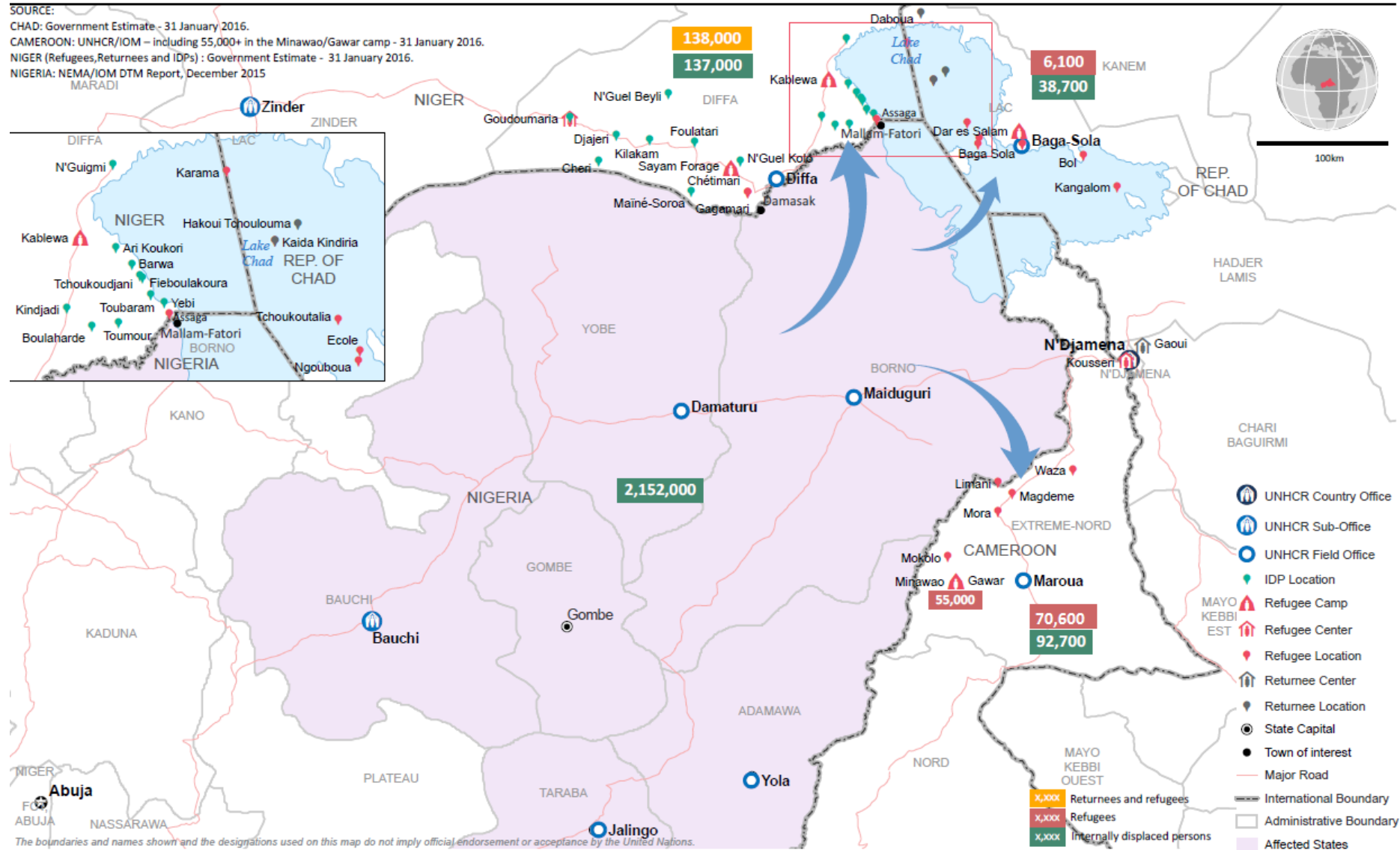


Nigeria Situation

Operational context map

as of 31 Jan 2016

SOURCE:
 CHAD: Government Estimate - 31 January 2016.
 CAMEROON: UNHCR/IOM – including 55,000+ in the Minawao/Gawar camp - 31 January 2016.
 NIGER (Refugees, Returnees and IDPs) : Government Estimate - 31 January 2016.
 NIGERIA: NEMA/IOM DTM Report, December 2015



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