

2016

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND **RESPONSE OVERVIEW**

JAN 2016

Photo: OCHA/Ivo Brandau



**LAKE CHAD BASIN
EMERGENCY**

PEOPLE LIVING IN
AFFECTED AREAS

20M

PEOPLE
IN NEED

9.2M

PEOPLE
TARGETED

5.2M

TOTAL PEOPLE
DISPLACED

2.8M

REQUIREMENT
(US\$)

531M



Refugee sites



UNHAS flights



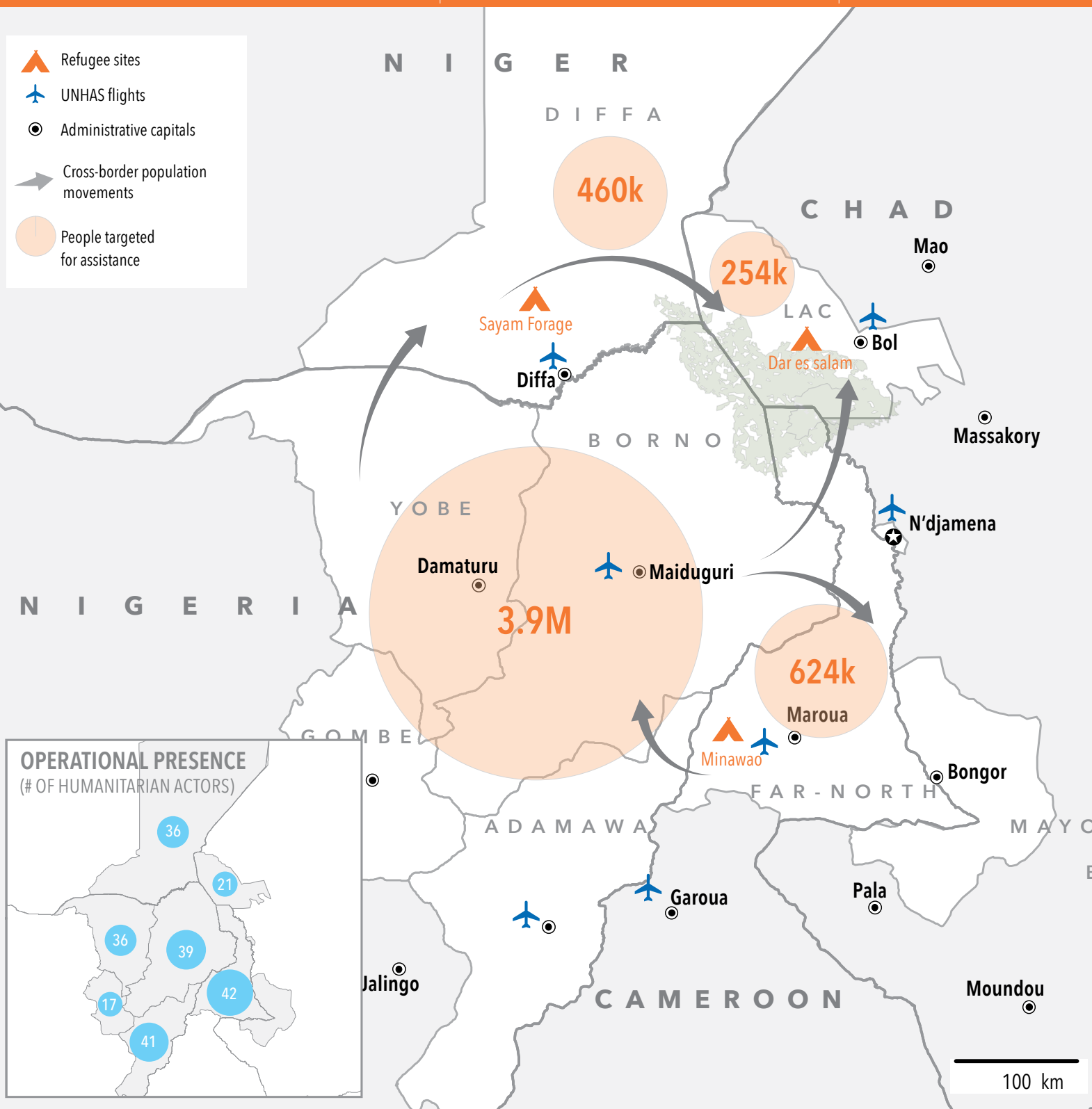
Administrative capitals



Cross-border population
movements



People targeted
for assistance



SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE

4.4M

IDPs / RETURNEES

2.6M

of which 2.2 million in Nigeria
alone

CHILDREN WITH SAM

223,000

REFUGEES

184,000

Disclaimer: The information and data in this document apply to areas most affected by Boko Haram-related violence across Cameroon (Far North), Chad (Lac, Mayo Kebi, parts of N'djamena), Niger (Diffa) and Nigeria (Borno, Yobe, Adamawa and Gombe). For national overviews, please visit country plans at: wca.humanitarianresponse.info © OCHA January 2016

AN OVERLOOKED CRISIS IN A NEGLECTED REGION

Over the past year, Boko Haram has intensified attacks which have spread from north-east Nigeria to Cameroon, Chad and Niger, affecting some 20 million people. Suicide bombings and raids targeting civilians in villages and in cities around the Lake Chad basin have caused widespread trauma, prevented people from accessing essential services and destroyed infrastructure. Across the region, over 2.8 million people are displaced; most of whom are sheltered by communities that count among the world's most vulnerable. The combined effect of growing insecurity, fast population growth and severe vulnerability resulting from a changing climate, environmental degradation, poverty and under-investment in social services is translating into record numbers of people in need of emergency relief. As of January 2016, an estimated 9.2 million people – almost one in every two – need urgent help. UN agencies and NGOs aim to reach 5.2 million with assistance across four countries.

Fast growing displacement crisis

Boko Haram violence has uprooted more than 2.8 million people from their homes across four countries, of whom 2.2 million are internally displaced in Nigeria alone. Half of those displaced are children. Many families have been displaced several times while others have sought refuge in neighbouring countries. Up to 90 per cent of the displaced have found refuge with host communities, placing a heavy strain on their resources and weakening their ability to withstand shocks. Both the displaced and host communities are in need of emergency relief and protection.

Widespread violence against civilians

Violence by Boko Haram and military operations against the group have caused serious protection risks and violations. Women and girls kidnapped by Boko Haram have been subjected to physical and psychological abuse, forced marriage, sexual slavery or forced labour. Boys have been forcibly enrolled as combatants and young girls used as suicide bombers. Boko Haram has targeted health facilities and schools, forcing health care workers and teachers to flee from where they are most needed. The increasing number of attacks and arrival of displaced children have placed an additional burden on already weak health and education systems. Safe spaces for women and children, access to essential services and psychological support must be central to the humanitarian response.

Deepening food and nutrition crisis

Insecurity, displacement, disrupted agricultural activities and cross-border trade continue to undermine communities' livelihoods and have resulted in a sharp rise in food insecurity. Some 4.4 million people facing severe food insecurity urgently need support in the region, 90 per cent of them in north-east Nigeria. In Borno State in particular, some 50,000 people are critically food insecure and have now reached Phase 5, the highest level of food insecurity under the Cadre Harmonisé classification. In the Far North region of Cameroon, the number of people in need of immediate food assistance has quadrupled since June 2015. Similarly, in the Mamdi department of Chad, the number of people facing severe food insecurity has risen tenfold in one year. Severe acute malnutrition rates for children under five have surpassed the emergency threshold in Borno and Yobe states in Nigeria, and in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. Throughout the region, an estimated 223,000 severely acutely malnourished children could die if not urgently assisted.

Responding to urgent needs and advocate sustainable solutions

While the humanitarian strategy focuses on addressing immediate, life-saving needs of the population, humanitarian actors will call for concerted engagement of political, development and security actors to help stabilize the region and create conditions for people to survive and prosper.

KEY MOMENTS

Boko Haram gunmen kidnap 276 school girls from Chibok in Borno State

April 2014

2014



December 2014

Over a million people are displaced in four countries

Boko Haram expands raids into Cameroon, Chad and Niger

February 2015

2015



March 2015

Boko Haram pledges allegiance to ISIS

An estimated 2.8M people are displaced internally or across borders, 2.2M of which in Nigeria alone

January 2016



CAMEROON

Cameroon's Far North region continues to face a surge in attacks by suspected Boko Haram gunmen which are causing widespread trauma and casualties among civilians. In addition to displacements, basic services such as health and education have been badly affected, as have farming and pastoralism. Food insecurity has significantly worsened: around 1.4 million people are food insecure in the Far North region, more than twice as many as in June 2015. The number of people facing severe food insecurity has risen by more than 300 per cent over the same period, up to over 200,000 today. The violence has deepened the hardship of communities living in the arid Sahel region regularly affected by droughts, food shortages and epidemics.

PRIORITY NEEDS

Food Security and nutrition

Food insecurity is most acute in the Far North and North regions. Refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and host communities have all been affected and need food assistance as well as livelihood support. Families require financial support, farm implements and technical assistance to restart agricultural activities in the next cropping season. Severe acute malnutrition among children under 5 stands at 2.2 per cent, surpassing the emergency threshold. The Far North region also accounts for almost 90 per cent of the 250,000 children under 5 suffering from global acute malnutrition in the four regions of Adamaoua, North East and Far North.

Protection

Refugees, IDPs and communities living near the Nigerian border face numerous protection risks. Some communities perceived to be having links with Boko Haram face stigma and harassment. Cases of recruitment of children

have been reported, particularly of young girls and women to carry out suicide attacks. As a result, women and girls are subjected to stigmatization, which has led to an increased social acceptance of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful cultural practices, including early and forced marriage.

Access to basic services

The vast majority of the displaced (64 per cent) live with host families who themselves are overstretched and in need of assistance. Of the 70,000 Nigerian refugees, nearly 50,000 are living in the main camp of Minawao, with the rest living with local communities. In addition, some 120,000 Cameroonians have been internally displaced due to attacks and found shelter with neighbouring communities. Stretched education and health services are struggling to meet increased needs. The closure of 135 schools and an estimated 25 health centres due to attacks and insecurity is severely limiting the population's access to basic services. Some 65 per cent of households lack proper sanitation while 45 per cent lack access to drinking water and are very vulnerable to diseases.

providing life-saving assistance, the response strategy in the affected regions aims to tighten the partnership with national agencies and local NGOs to increase the reach of their action in areas where access is difficult.

OUTLINE OF RESPONSE

Since mid-2015, NGOs and UN agencies have scaled up their capacity and the scope of their operations in the Far North. While access constraints are more significant than elsewhere in the country, relief teams are able to reach populations most in need, with the exception of certain border areas. In addition to

PEOPLE IN NEED

 1.5M

IDPs AND RETURNEES

 189k*

NIGERIAN REFUGEES

 70k

PEOPLE TARGETED

 624k

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)

 120M

HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS

 42

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(*) This includes 30k IDPs who returned to their original community and need assistance.



202,000

people in need of urgent
food assistance



135

schools have been closed



45%

of the population lacks
access to drinking water



2 of 3

people in need are children

To consult and contribute to the 2016 Cameroon Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plan, visit: cameroon.humanitarianresponse.info

CHAD

Since January 2015 the humanitarian situation in Chad's Lac region has significantly deteriorated as a result of multiple attacks by Boko Haram. Violent raids at the start of 2015 triggered an initial arrival of Nigerian refugees and Chadian returnees which was followed by successive waves of displacement since July 2015. Recurrent attacks and increased military operations against the group further worsened the crisis and pushed some 83,000 IDPs, returnees and refugees to flee from their homes. The displacement has exacerbated vulnerabilities among host communities, many of which already needed humanitarian assistance prior to the spike in violence. Food insecurity has also significantly deepened as socio-economic activities have been hampered by population movements and insecurity.

PRIORITY NEEDS



Protection

With a rise in direct attacks against civilians and the targeting of an IDP site in late 2015, the protection of civilians is the main concern of the humanitarian community. Needs include psychosocial support, prevention and support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence and assistance to separated children. As women, girls and boys have been abducted or used as suicide-bombers, preventing recruitment and supporting demobilization is essential. Other concerns stem from the growing presence of mines and unexploded ordnances, as well as risk of stigmatization for communities suspected of affiliation to Boko Haram, which could be further exacerbated with the prolongation of the state of emergency and the intensification of military operations.



Multi-sectoral assistance

Most of the displaced were forced to flee

OUTLINE OF RESPONSE

The relief response aims to support national authorities in delivering life-saving assistance to 253,600 people affected by Boko Haram violence in the regions of Lac and Mayo Kebi. As displacements and growing insecurity continue to worsen chronic vulnerability, resilience-building activities will complement

overnight, leaving food stocks and their belongings behind, and increasing the reliance on food assistance in a region where 15 per cent of the population is food insecure. Severe acute malnutrition stands at 2.2 per cent, surpassing the emergency threshold. IDPs live in precarious conditions, lacking shelter and access to basic services, especially those living in remote areas. The arrivals of displaced people have put local infrastructures under unsustainable pressure. Health services are weak and lack qualified staff, appropriate equipment and essential drugs, while community schools have very low capacity to respond to growing needs.



Livelihood support

Population movements, growing insecurity, border closures, restrictions on fishing and disrupted transhumance routes have driven up the price of food and other basic items, hampering the livelihoods and means of survival of both the displaced and their hosts. With no prospects of return in the short term, helping the most vulnerable better cope with economic and climate shocks is essential.

life-saving assistance.

Humanitarian operations are challenged by a volatile environment where humanitarian assistance is regularly hampered by insecurity, ongoing hostilities or complex displacement patterns. A state of emergency in the Lac region since November 2015 is in force until 22 March 2016.

PEOPLE IN NEED



257k

IDPs AND RETURNEES



69k

NIGERIAN REFUGEES



14.2k

PEOPLE TARGETED



254k

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



90M

HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS



21

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117,000

people in need of urgent
food assistance



104,000

children affected



53,200

school-age children in need
of emergency education



45,000

children under 5 suffer from
acute malnutrition

To consult and contribute to the 2016 Chad Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plan, visit: chad.humanitarianresponse.info

NIGER

Attacks by Boko Haram have spread to Niger over the past year, striking the country's poorest region, Diffa. Over 50,000 people have been displaced internally and nearly 100,000 Nigerians have sought refuge in the region. With the onset of the dry season and the drying up of the Komadougou river, a natural border between Niger and Nigeria, threats of attacks have prompted the additional displacement of close to 100,000 people since November 2015. The arrivals are overwhelming the resources of communities that have been long grappling with the combined effects of food insecurity, malnutrition, recurring epidemics, droughts and floods, while pervasive insecurity has brought activities in the region to a near complete halt. Over 400,000 IDPs, returnees, Nigerian refugees and their hosts are in need of humanitarian assistance.

PRIORITY NEEDS



Food insecurity and malnutrition

In Diffa, around 460,000 people are food insecure, nearly a quarter of the total across the country. Global acute malnutrition in the region has also exceeded the 15 per cent emergency threshold. Pastoralists and agricultural activities are hindered by insecurity and displacement, causing shutdown of the traditional transhumance patterns, and overgrazing of available fields. Both the displaced and the host community require urgent food assistance.



Access to basic services

Recurring attacks targeting civilians have disrupted access to education, health, water and other basic services. Many public sector workers have fled and several schools have shut down. Lack of schooling for children and

adolescents risks increasing the likelihood of recruitment by armed groups. The few functional institutions are operating with reduced staff and are overwhelmed. Children, pregnant and lactating women are particularly vulnerable to diseases due to inadequate water and sanitation infrastructure.



Protection, shelter and NFIs

Protection risks in Diffa stem from direct attacks against civilians, the lack of identification documents for over 80 per cent of the displaced, sexual and gender-based violence as well as lack of recognition of the civilian and humanitarian attributes regarding the right to asylum. Vulnerable populations also lack legal assistance. Over 200 unaccompanied children require protection and many more need recreational activities and psychosocial support. In addition, displaced families living outside camps or within the local population require adequate shelter.

OUTLINE OF RESPONSE

The response strategy of humanitarian actors will complement the Government's response plan for Diffa. In a context of overwhelming needs, the humanitarian response will be hinged on the concept of criticality of programmes in order to provide assistance those most in need. Assistance to both the

displaced and vulnerable host populations will be based on vulnerability criteria agreed upon by communities so as to ensure social cohesion. Priority will also be given to projects aimed at restoring community self-reliance, while remote operations will be considered to sustain assistance to communities located in insecure areas near the Nigerian border.

PEOPLE IN NEED



460k

PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED



153k*

RETURNEES



68k

NIGERIAN REFUGEES



100k

PEOPLE TARGETED



460k

REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



73M

HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS



36

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(*) This includes almost 100k people who fled from fear of attacks since November 2015.



460,000

food insecure people



210,000

children in need of
emergency education



190,000

children in need of
protection



90,000

people in need of
emergency shelters

To consult and contribute to the 2016 Niger Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plan,
visit: niger.humanitarianresponse.info

NIGERIA

The north-east of Nigeria has a long-standing history of marginalization, under-development and environmental degradation, with poverty, illiteracy and unemployment rates higher than in the rest of the country. Boko Haram's violent attacks on civilians have caused wide scale displacement, human suffering and devastation for poor communities: Women have been abducted, subjected to rape, sexual violence and exploitation, and men murdered. Boys and girls have been recruited by the group, forced to kill or used as suicide-bombers. Entire villages have been torched and essential socio-economic activities for the region halted. Escaping from attacks in rural areas, many are taking shelter in the relative safety of urban centres, causing overcrowding and overwhelming basic services. Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State and a city of one million, has seen its neighbourhoods swell to an astonishing 2.6 million.

PRIORITY NEEDS



Protection

Violence and military operations have displaced over 2.4 million internally or across international borders, and more than 2,000 people have gone missing. Women, children and men have been subject to widespread killings, maiming, abduction, sexual violence and exploitation. Children have been recruited by Boko Haram and are being used as suicide bombers. Around 1.4 million internally displaced children urgently require child protection services.



Access to food and basic services

In the affected areas, an estimated 3.9 million people are severely food insecure, while malnutrition affects 2.5 million people, especially children and pregnant and lactating

women. One million children are in need of emergency education. Vulnerability to diseases is high as demonstrated by the recent cholera outbreak which spread across 11 camps hosting internally displaced persons in the north-east. Both the displaced and their hosts require support to meet their food, health, nutrition, education, water and sanitation needs.



Shelter

An estimated 2.2 million IDPs are living in makeshift shelters in overcrowded camps or with impoverished host communities. Over 330,000 people have returned to their homes in northern Adamawa to find their communities devastated, houses and public infrastructure destroyed and insecurity prevalent. They require urgent assistance to rebuild their lives.

and assistance for IDPs returning home. With insecurity and violence expected to persist, displacement – including secondary and tertiary movements – will continue. The disruption of basic services will also continue and food insecurity is expected to rise. In addition to ensuring equitable access to life-saving assistance for the most vulnerable communities, the strategy will place emphasis on building national humanitarian capacity.

RESPONSE OVERVIEW

The 2016 joint strategy aims to address a realistic target of 3.9 million people in the four worst-hit states of Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe, representing 55 percent of the estimated people in need. The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) will continue to revise targets as conditions become more conducive.

Humanitarian assistance will be delivered on the basis of two scenarios: continued support for those internally displaced and their hosts;

PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE INTERNALLY DISPLACED



VULNERABLE HOST COMMUNITIES



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS



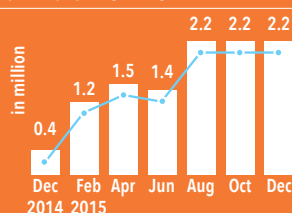
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2014-2015 DISPLACEMENT TRENDS



3.9M

people in need of urgent
food assistance



2.5M

people malnourished

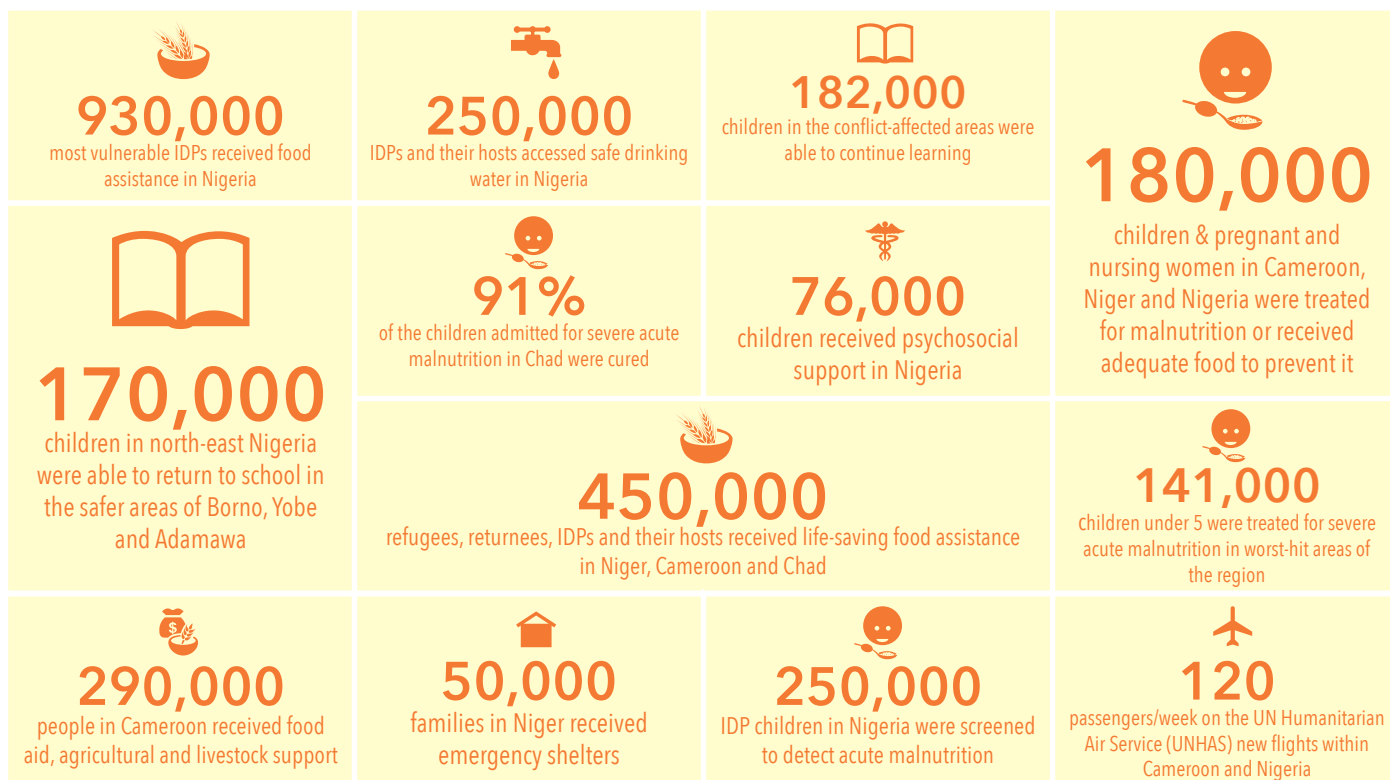


1M

children in need of
emergency education

To consult and contribute to the 2016 Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plan, visit: nigeria.humanitarianresponse.info

2015 HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS



THE WAY FORWARD IN 2016

We plan on responding to the main causes of vulnerability - violence against civilians, diseases, hunger and malnutrition - through the following common approach:

Scale-up: 2015 saw a significant expansion in the humanitarian response. In 2016, we will strive to bring more hands on deck and broaden our reach across national and international NGOs, UN agencies and local authorities.

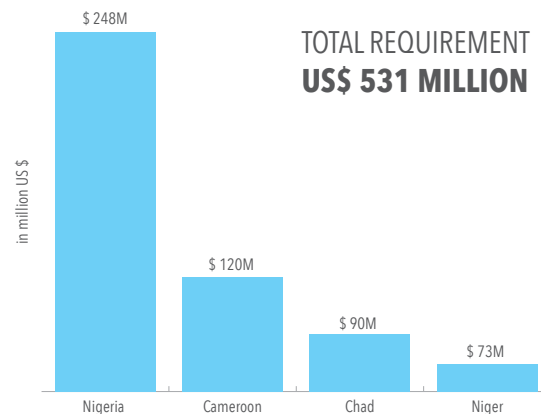
Prioritize: Given the scale of needs, we will focus on providing the most vulnerable with essential assistance to keep them safe from harm, help them survive and restore a dignified life. Communities at most risk will be prioritized based on a severity index.

Access and protect: We will strive to monitor, advocate and persist in broadening outreach to people living in remote and hard-to-reach areas, strengthening our deep-field presence and enhance risk analysis to stay and deliver.

Advocate: The converging challenges at play require structural solutions that are mostly beyond the realm of humanitarian work. Partners will coordinate their messages and consistently engage with, support and influence key actors so that the political, environmental and development causes of the crisis are urgently addressed.

Partner: Our action will continue to support Government-led responses to both save lives and equip communities and national responders with the means to manage an uncertain future.

2016 FUNDING REQUIREMENTS*



*Estimations for affected areas based on Humanitarian Response Plans and Regional Refugee Response Plans

The response in 2015 remained woefully underfunded with just over 40 per cent of the funding requirement received. Two allocations from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) in 2015 and 2016 totalling US\$ 58.2 million contributed to spearhead life-saving activities in the region.

For 2016, partners are calling for US\$ 531 million to respond to vital needs across affected areas in four countries.

To consult and contribute to the 2016 Humanitarian Needs Overview & Response Plans for each of the four countries, please visit: wca.humanitarianresponse.info