REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Donors pledge $2.17 billion for assistance
- Region faces worst cholera outbreak since 2010
- Rains complicate aid access in Cameroon’s Far North
- Malnutrition surpass emergency threshold in much of Chad
Lake Chad Basin Crisis Update

SITUATION OVERVIEW

WORST CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN EIGHT YEARS

The Lake Chad Basin is facing the worst cholera outbreak since 2010. With more than 35,000 cases and 845 deaths officially reported since the start of the year in Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria, it is 15 times more than the average cholera caseload over the past four years. Nigeria is the most affected having reported more than 30,000 cases. On 20 September, the authorities in Nigeria’s north-eastern Yobe state declared an outbreak. Two weeks earlier, a cholera outbreak was declared in neighboring Borno state. As of 20 September, the two states had recorded 3,126 including 97 deaths.

Floods and heavy rains risk propagating the disease further. Infections could spread from Nigeria into Chad. In Niger, cholera is spreading to Zinder in the south and seriously threatening the capital Niamey. Benin, Burkina Faso and Mali are also at risk. The current outbreak in the Lake Chad Basin is following the same pattern as the 2010 outbreak that claimed 2,610 lives in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria and continued into 2011. The last two major outbreaks in the region were in 2010 and 2014.

The authorities and aid agencies have launched emergency response: treating patients, providing preventive measures and hygiene messages. Vaccinations have been conducted in Nigeria’s Adamawa, Bauchi and Borno states, but further campaigns are urgently required in the region. If not brought under control urgently, the outbreak threatens to reverse progress made by many West African countries in reducing cholera infections.

CONFLICT AND INSECURITY

Attacks and insecurity prevail in much of the conflict-hit regions of the Lake Chad Basin. On 17 September, armed attackers killed an aid worker, Saifura Hussaini Ahmed Khorsa, abducted during a deadly raid in March in Nigeria’s north-eastern Rann locality. The International Committee of the Red Cross employee was kidnapped alongside two other aid workers. Rann hosts some 81,000 displaced people who have fled violence. Around 3,000 humanitarians work in Nigeria’s north-east.

The violence continues to uproot thousands of people from their homes. From 3 - 11 September, 4,037 newly displaced individuals arrived in camps and host communities in Borno state. The displacements are largely triggered by conflict, floods, poor living conditions, intercommunity clashes, fear of attacks by armed groups and military operations. Across the border in Niger, incursions by armed elements have risen with new trend of kidnappings since the end of a joint multinational military operation, in June. More than 10 armed raids have been recorded in Diffa since the start of September alone. More than 10 armed raids have been recorded in Diffa since the start of September alone.

FOOD SECURITY AND MALNUTRITION

Malnutrition remains high in Chad. Severe acute malnutrition prevalence is above the two per cent emergency threshold in 15 out of 23 regions. New admissions have increased by 30 per cent compared to 2017 and by 70 per cent compared to 2015. This is partly thanks to the massive scale up of malnutrition treatment over the past two years. Nutrition treatment centres in the capital N’Djamena are overwhelmed. Around 30 new patients are admitted daily. Across the country, medical facilities already report an extremely high number of children suffering from SAM.

Conflict in north-east Nigeria is limiting farming, worsening food insecurity. Up to 3 million people are currently food insecure and require assistance. Following recent assessments, partners are carrying out a re-targeting exercise in Borno and Yobe to ensure that the most vulnerable people receive food assistance. Joint seed and food assistance is ongoing across all three states.
FUNDING AND ADVOCACY

On 4 September, donors, Governments and multilateral financial institutions gathering at the High-Level Conference on the Lake Chad Region pledged US$2.17 billion to support humanitarian, peacebuilding and development activities, and address immediate and longer-term needs as well as help build the resilience of millions of crisis-affected people in the Lake Chad region. Multilateral financial institutions (African Development Bank, Islamic Development Bank and World Bank) on their part announced $467 million in concessional loans.

The meeting agreed that a coherent, multi-year approach that integrates all available instruments to tackle the protection crisis and the root causes of the conflict is needed. This is to pave the way for sustainable and resilient development of the region and contribute to a better future for the affected people.

UNDP chief, Achim Steiner, and UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, visited Chad and Nigeria on 5 – 7 October to highlight and support joint humanitarian and development efforts in the two countries. They called for stronger, collaborative humanitarian-development action to address poverty, causes of conflict, underdevelopment and improve the livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

FUNDING LEVEL PER COUNTRY

NIGERIA
- Required: 1.05B
- Funded: 605.5M

CAMEROON
- Required: 189.2M
- Funded: 31.9M

CHAD
- Required: 179.4M
- Funded: 48.8M

NIGER
- Required: 167.9M
- Funded: 41.7M

Source: Financial Tracking System (FTS) as of 22/10/2018
OPERATIONAL UPDATES BY COUNTRY

CAMEROON

- In addition to insecurity, the rains have made many roads impassable, complicating humanitarian access in some areas in Far North region. Missions on the Mora-Kolofata-Limani-Amchidé and the Kossoueri–Markay-Fotokol axes are particularly affected. However, aid is still reaching affected civilians along the Bodo-Afadé-Fotokol (Logone-et-Chari) axis and locations such as Mozogo, Moskota (Mayo-Tsananga) et Kolofata (Mayo-Sava) are continuing to receive multi-sectoral assistance. Assistance is also being provided in more distant locations such as Kerawa, Amchidé (Kolofata district), Limani (Mora district) or Sagme (Markary), where there are significant numbers of returnees. While access is generally expected to improve in October, some limitations on movements are expected around the time of the elections.

- Since the beginning of the year, over 212 security incidents have been reported in the Far North. Contrary to previous years, the rainy season has not decreased operations by armed elements. Insecurity is preventing people from going to their farms, depriving them of their livelihoods and impeding access to some of the most important areas of return.

- Insecurity prevailing in border area continues to cause displacements, notably in Mayo-Sava, Mayo-Tsananga and Logone-and-Chari. In July, armed raids displaced more than 2,000 people in Mayo-Moskota district. Multi-sectoral evaluations in September following alerts from partners discovered many returnees living in abject condition in two localities in Mayo-Sava department. Some 5,500 people in need were identified, including 2,800 returnees, 800 IDPs and 1,900 host community members.

- A total of 213,000 people have been displaced by conflicts in Far North region, according to IOM’s DTM Round 14. Some 92,000 have returned from displacement, representing 11 per cent increase since April 2018. Meanwhile, the decline in the number of IDPs has revealed an increased number of refugees living outside camp as they had registered as IDPs for fear of being forcefully returned to Nigeria. The number of Nigerian refugees at Minawao Camp continues to rise, with 8,500 newly registered since January 2018.

- The return of formerly displaced people calls for long-term measures and a clear stand by the humanitarian community regarding assistance in localities where conditions are not conducive for return. Promoting humanitarian assistance based on needs and vulnerabilities only is necessary considering that local authorities have been obstructive to humanitarian assistance in some spontaneous IDP sites, such as Moskota (Mayo-Tsananga), asking that aid be provided in IDPs’ areas of origin.

- On 12 September, Intersos transferred 28 Nigerian asylum seekers from Bounder, Mora district, to the Minawao transit centre. It is the first time military and administrative authorities report refugee presence to humanitarian actors in this area where most of the repatriation operations occurred this year.

- Following long-term advocacy efforts by UNHCR and protection partners, this joint transfer represents a positive development toward the respect for the right of asylum in the Far North.

- Efforts by the Ministry of Education to gradually reopen all schools closed due to the conflict has seen 19 primary and secondary schools reopen for the 2018–2019 school year, particularly in Mayo-Sava division. However, in at least six of the schools the military teachers are conducting lessons. At least seven schools are still occupied by military forces in the region.

Cameroon’s Far North region has suffered recurrent armed raids. Insecurity and attacks continue to displace thousands of people. Food insecurity and malnutrition have deepened. Around 1.5 million people in the Far North region are food insecure. Almost half of all children affected by acute malnutrition in Cameroon are in Far North. Population displacement has risen in recent years to reach around 314,000 in 2018. The region is currently home to around 101,000 Nigerian refugees, more than half of whom are living in Minawao camp. Precarious conditions in the camp, reduction of food rations and refugees being swayed to believe that conditions are back to normal in their areas of origin have contributed to the spontaneous return of almost 13,000 refugees between April and June 2018.
• Since the end of a military operation in June, several attacks have been reported in areas around Chad-Niger-Nigeria border. With security checkpoints removed, armed elements can travel easily and launch raids.

• A spate of armed attacks was reported in late September. Seven civilians were killed in seven separate raids between 20 and 30 September in several villages in Bol and Baga Sola localities in Lac region. The attackers wounded two civilians, kidnapped three women and two children and stole livestock. The increasing attacks could disrupt humanitarian operations.

• Nutritional centres in N’Djamena are overwhelmed by a huge number of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Around 30 new patients were admitted daily in July. SAM prevalence is above the two per cent emergency threshold in 15 out of 23 regions. New admissions have increased by 30 per cent compared to 2017 and by 70 per cent compared to 2015. This is partly thanks to the massive scale up of malnutrition treatment over the past two years.

• UN Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, on 7 October called for economic and development progress to tackle the causes of human suffering in Chad. Lowcock stressed that longer-term solutions were crucial to ending recurrent humanitarian needs. He made the remarks after visiting a malnutrition treatment centre in a hospital in N’Djamena during a two-day visit with UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner. The visit sought to bolster collaborative humanitarian-development action.
Lake Chad Basin Crisis Update

NIGER

- Twenty-seven incidents of insecurity were recorded in September, according to UNDSS. They included kidnapping, theft, murder, intercommunal conflict and armed incursions. The number of civilian casualties dropped compared to previous months, but kidnappings continue to be reported. The incursions have significantly decreased due to the flooding of Komadougou river, limiting the movement of armed elements.

- Armed raids have increased in Diffa since the end of a joint multinational military operation in June, according to security sources. Around a dozen attacks have been recorded in the region since the beginning of September.

- Between January and August, Diffa suffered 94 armed attacks compared to 60 the same period in 2017. However, the number of civilian victims dropped from 56 in 2017 to 38 in 2018, an improvement that has been attributed to operations by the Multinational Joint Task Force in the Lake Chad Basin.

- Military pressure on the armed groups has pushed some elements to move to the south-east of Nguigmi locality in Diffa, where attacks, village raids and kidnappings have been on the rise.

- In September, an increased in armed attacks recorded along the border areas, particularly on the Nigerian side. The attacks seriously threaten Diffa region, where the relative calm has been observed, partly due to flooding of Komadougou-Yobe river along the Niger-Nigerian border. The attacks could also trigger population movements. It is estimated that from January to June, 7,671 people were displaced in Diffa either after armed raids on in search of food on the Lake Chad islands.

- The Government has once again extended the state of emergency in Diffa region for another three months. The measure could affect humanitarian access.

---

The south-eastern Diffa region is witnessing an unprecedented humanitarian emergency since the first armed attacks in February 2015. Hundreds of thousands of people have been internally displaced or forced to seek refuge in the region from across the border. Diffa is home to just four per cent of Niger’s population. However, it accounts for 18 per cent of the 2.3 million people in need of protection and life-saving assistance in the country. Across the country, 1.4 million people are struggling to meet their most basic need for food, some 500,000 more than at the beginning of the year. Around 16,000 children under five are at risk of dying from severe acute malnutrition.
NIGERIA

- A total of 4,037 newly displaced individuals arrived in camps and host communities across the state between 3 – 11 September, according to the IOM’s Emergency Tracking Tool. More than half (2,622) of the new arrivals were displaced by ongoing attacks by non-state armed groups, while others were forced to move from their communities due to poor living conditions, fear of attacks and ongoing military counter operations.

- Humanitarian organisations continue to monitor and coordinate the response to the increased humanitarian needs surrounding large influxes of new arrivals and exacerbated vulnerabilities related to flooding and the rainy season. Around 185,000 have been newly displaced, over the past year in Adamawa and Borno states. Many of them require humanitarian assistance, putting further pressure on existing response capacities.

- The Borno state government has reactivated its high-level return task force to address the returns of displaced people. The task force will provide guidance and policy direction on the return of IDPs and refugees to their areas of origin in accordance with the guiding principles of safety, dignity and voluntariness.

- Food insecurity and malnutrition remain concerning as conflict continues to limit the amount of land under cultivation. The situation could worsen following the effects of the lean season. Up to 3 million people are currently suffering from critical food insecurity. Following recent assessments, partners are carrying out a re-targeting exercise in Borno and Yobe to ensure that the most vulnerable people receive food assistance. Joint seeds and food distribution is ongoing across all three states.

- On 21 September, the authorities in Yobe state declared a cholera outbreak after 989 suspected cases and 61 deaths were recorded in five local government areas. In neighbouring Borno, 2,137 cases of suspected cholera had been recorded by 21 September. Authorities there declared an outbreak on 5 September. Health authorities and humanitarian organizations are coordinating a response that includes treatment, health awareness campaigns and sanitation activities.

- To ensure aid worker presence in remote localities and enhance the effectiveness of response, six humanitarian hubs with safe accommodation and reliable Internet are operational in Maiduguri, Gwoza, Bama, Ngala, Dikwa and Monguno. Hubs in Banki and Damasak have also been completed and are operational.

Nigeria’s north-eastern region has been ravaged by violence for nearly a decade. What started as a protection crisis has also become a major food and nutrition crisis, and one of the largest humanitarian emergencies in the world. Agricultural production has nearly stalled. Protracted displacement has further devastated livelihoods already upended by violence. Humanitarian response overincreased personnel and resources to meet the huge humanitarian needs. Many areas remain inaccessible and armed attacks continue to torment civilians and pose threats.