Background

Around 17 million people live in the affected areas across the four Lake Chad basin countries. More than 2.3 million people remain displaced. Most of the displaced families are sheltered by communities that count among the world’s poorest and most vulnerable. Food insecurity and malnutrition have reached critical levels.

Recent developments

Food insecurity has improved slightly following the 2017 season’s harvests. Around 4.5 million people across the conflict-hit region are severely food insecure, down from 7.2 million earlier in the year. Nigeria recorded the biggest seasonal decline: 2.6 million people are currently at crisis or emergency level of food insecurity from 5.2 million owing to scaled up humanitarian response, favourable weather and slight market recovery.

Despite the modest improvement, millions of conflict-affected people in the region still need food assistance, as armed attacks and insecurity persist. In 2017, at least 135 children – five times as many as in 2016 – were forced to strike targets with explosives fastened to their bodies, underscoring the level of violence, abuse and violations children, and civilians in general, struggle with in the conflict zones. Around 4,500 Nigerian refugees are expected to return from Cameroon in the coming months. Efforts are underway to ensure their return is safe and in dignity. Separately, the financial requirement is expected to be around US$1.46 billion. In 2017, the overall humanitarian response plans for 2018 to be launched in the course of January. The overall financial requirement is expected to be around US$1.5 billion.