

LAKE CHAD BASIN: CRISIS UPDATE

No. 21

November - December 2017

Credit: OCHA/Yasmina Guerda

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The next update will be issued in March 2018

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- **Seasonal decline** in number of severely food insecure in north-east Nigeria
- **At least 135 children** forced to carry out bomb attacks in 2017
- Around **4,500 Nigerian refugees** expected to return from Cameroon
- Cameroon's Far North region records around **60 suicide attacks** in 2017
- Armed attacks impair education in parts of Diffa
- Cholera outbreak in Nigeria's Borno state declared over
- Gunmen attack military-escorted convoy in north-east Nigeria



10.8M

people
in need



8.2M

targeted
for assistance



2.3M

people
displaced



4.5M

food insecure people
at crisis and
emergency level



515k

children suffering
from severe acute
malnutrition



1.46B

funding requirement
in 2017

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Bomb attacks, mostly by minors forced by Boko Haram to carry and detonate explosives, persist in north-eastern Nigeria and northern Cameroon. Dozens of civilians have been killed or injured in recurrent ambushes on sites hosting displaced people, villages and towns. On 3 January, at least 10 people were killed in a mosque attack in Ngala in north-eastern Nigeria. The locality is home to more than 100,000 people struggling to survive the effects of the conflict. Less than a week earlier, seven people were killed in a blast at a wedding ceremony near Maiduguri.

Cameroon's Far North region suffered around 60 such attacks in 2017, 16 of which were in Kolofata town. Owing to security concerns, the authorities have decided to relocate around 12,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Kolofata to a site in the town's outskirts. However, there are concerns for their welfare as the new site lacks necessities, notably water and sanitation.

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.

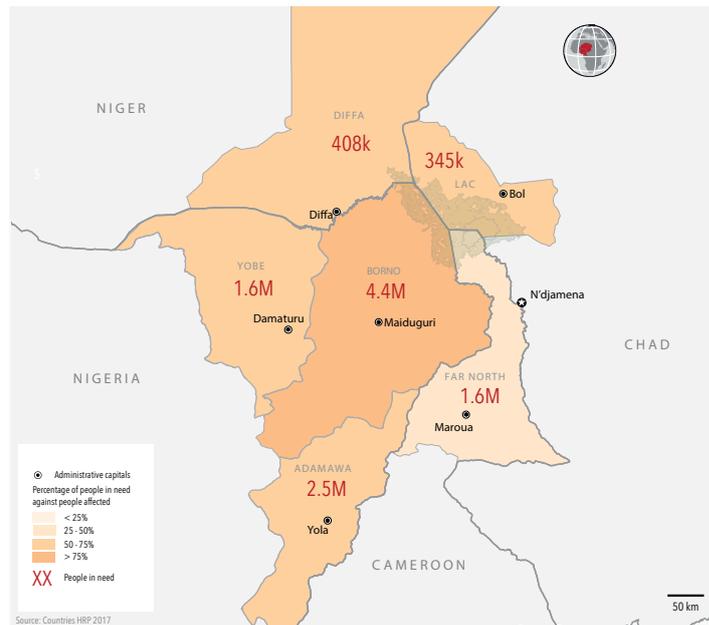
FOOD SECURITY

Stepped up humanitarian and livelihood assistance, favourable weather and slight market recovery have improved food security in Nigeria's Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states. Currently, around 2.6 million are grappling with "crisis" or "emergency" levels of food insecurity, according to the November 2017 Cadre Harmonisé food security analysis. The figure is projected to rise to 3.7 million in the upcoming June - August lean season, down from 5.2 million in the 2017 lean season.

Some 81,000 people are facing "crisis" or higher levels of food insecurity in Chad's Lac region. The lean season will see the figures rise to 187,000. The region is also one of the 12 (out of the country's 23) where global acute malnutrition has surpassed the 15-per cent emergency threshold.

The greater Lake Chad basin is projected to have an average gross cereal deficit of about 898,000 metric tons, including a deficit of 448,000 metric tons for the main millet and sorghum staple, according to Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWSNET). Cereal deficits are projected to rise to 1.4 million metric tons in 2018.

The limited staple harvests will make households' stocks deplete earlier and supplies will be below normal in most markets. Thus, staple prices will be above average for the most during the marketing year. Insecurity and related market disruptions will likely persist, impacting markets functioning and traders' access through the lean season, despite some minor localized improvements, FEWSNET projects.



POPULATION MOVEMENT

The persistent insecurity and hostilities continue to drive displacements. Around 1,400 people were forced to flee their villages in Bama and Gwoza localities in north-eastern Nigeria to a transit camp for the displaced in a town near the border with Cameroon. Military counter-offensives and armed attacks have also recently displaced more than 6,000 people in several localities of Borno state, mainly in Nganzai, Gwoza and Konduga localities. Separately, around 4,000 Nigerian refugees are expected to return from Cameroon in the coming months. Efforts are underway to ensure their return is safe and dignified.

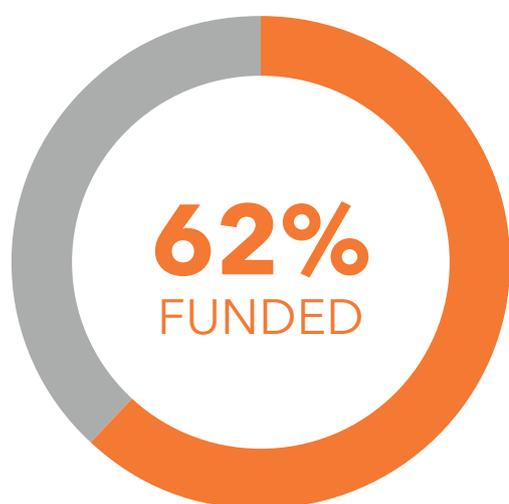
Chad's Lac region has recorded an IDP population increase (from 119,000 to 123,00) between January and November 2017. Meanwhile, around 51,000 displaced people have returned to their home area in the south of Lac region since 2016. No significant population movement have occurred lately in Niger's Diffa region.

Cameroon and Niger have urged Boko Haram members to surrender. However, they are yet to establish reintegration and rehabilitation programmes for former combatants. The African Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission have recommended a regional Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration, Repatriation and Resettlement strategy as well as socio-economic and security measures to stabilise the Lake basin region.

ADVOCACY AND HUMANITARIAN FUNDING

The 2017 US\$1.46 billion budget for the Lake Chad Basin humanitarian emergency received 62 per cent of funds as of 10 January 2018. Donors provided 71 per cent of Nigeria's \$1.05 billion requirement. Cameroon received 51% of the requested funds, while Chad and Niger budgets received less than 40 per cent of the needed funds. Food Security, Nutrition, Protection, WASH, Logistics and Education were some of the highest-funded sectors in the four countries. In 2016, donors funded 53 per cent of the \$739 million budget, with Cameroon receiving the most funding at 62 per cent, followed by Chad (55 per cent), Nigeria (52 per cent) and Niger (46 per cent). Preparations for 2018 humanitarian needs and response plans are underway. Needs are projected to remain high even as relief efforts by Government and aid organisations have significantly increased over the past two years. With the needs and response plans finalized, the humanitarian community in Niger is in 2018 requesting \$163 million to assist 419,000 people affected by the Boko Haram-linked conflict.

OVERALL FUNDING STATUS 2017 (IN US\$)



REQUIREMENT

- FUNDING
- UNMET

US\$ 1.46 BILLION

US\$ 911.7 MILLION

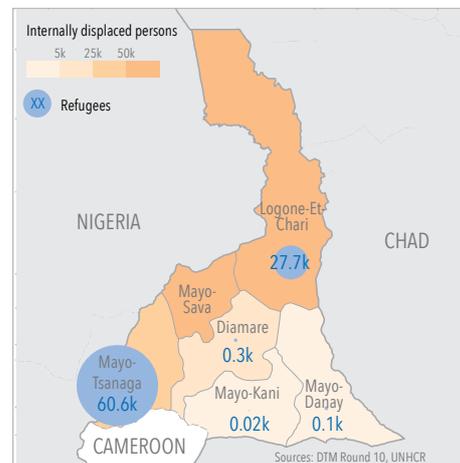
US\$ 551.4 MILLION

CONTRIBUTION PER COUNTRY (IN US\$)

	REQUIREMENT	FUNDING	UNMET	COVERAGE
Cameroon	145,494,738	74,294,628	71,200,110	51%
Chad	121,261,684	40,969,231	80,292,453	34%
Niger	141,929,710	53,094,669	88,835,041	37%
Nigeria	1,054,431,494	743,379,519	311,051,975	71%

CAMEROON

- Local authorities of Kolofata town (Mayo Sava Department) have decided to relocate all IDPs living in the city (on spontaneous sites and with host families) to a new site in the town's outskirts. The total number of IDPs is estimated to be 12,000. So far, only 4,500 have been relocated. The site has very limited access to services which has prevented a larger number of IDPs to move and insecurity around the site remains a concern. The biggest gap in services remains water provision. UN relief agencies are negotiating with the local authorities and the WASH sector to contribute to the cost of water supply.
- Suicide attacks persist in several localities in Far North region. Suicide bombers struck in a village in Mayo Sava department on 11 and 12 December. On 20 November, a suicide attacker blew himself up in Kolofata town, killing at least five people and wounding 27 others. Close to 60 suicide attacks were recorded in Far North region in 2017.
- In 2017, Boko Haram forced at least 135 children in north-east Nigeria and in Cameroon to become suicide bombers, five times as many as in 2016, UNICEF said in a 28 December report decriing that children in conflict zones around the world have come under attack "at a shocking scale." Boko Haram has come under increased military pressure over the past two years. In turn, it has upped the use of suicide bombings, often forcing girls and women to carry explosives to detonate in crowded areas.
- Following a call by the Governor of Far North region on Boko Haram members to surrender to the authorities, 10 of the group's fighters reportedly gave themselves up on 13 December. Cameroon has not yet established a rehabilitation and reintegration programme for those who quit Boko Haram ranks. However, the authorities have increased calls on fighters to surrender and say that around 80 former militants are being held in Mora, the capital of Mayo-Sava department. UNCT and HCT are closely monitoring the situation.



PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



2017 REQUIREMENT (US\$)



INTERNALLY DISPLACED



REFUGEES



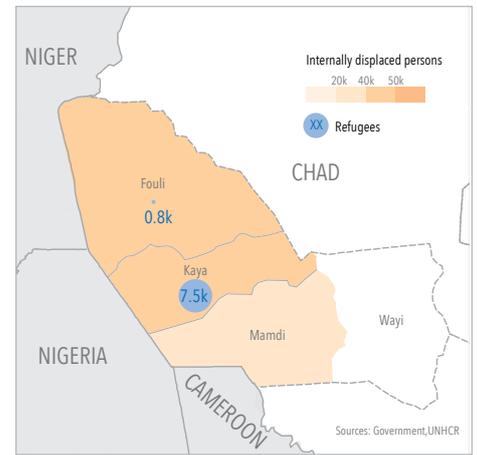
SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE



Cameroon's Far North region had long suffered Boko Haram raids before the group widened its violent incursions into neighbouring countries. 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 2017 to reach around 310,000. The region is currently home to around 89,000 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 2017.

CHAD

- In November and December, several multisector assessments were conducted by the humanitarian community in the Lac region to determine vulnerabilities in newly identified displacement locations. A total of 36 sites were visited in Daboua, Liwa and Kaiga Kindjiria sub-prefectures. Urgent needs in food security, WASH, health, NFI and shelter were identified, particularly in six sites in Daboua, two sites in Liwa and three sites in Kaiga Kindjiria sub-prefectures.
- Results of the November 2017 Cadre Harmonisé food security analysis highlight a deteriorating food security situation. The Lac region is the only area with two departments in "crisis" during the current period, namely Fouli and Kaya. During the 2018 lean season, 359,000 people are expected to be food insecure including 187,000 severely food insecure (a 52-per cent increase compared to the 123,000 people severely food insecure during the 2017 lean season). The Lac region faces a 7.6 per cent decrease in cereal production compared to the five-year average.
- The Ministry of Women, Early Childhood Protection and National Solidarity on 18 December launched a care centre for survivors of gender-based violence. The centre, rehabilitated and equipped by UNFPA, offers medical, psychosocial and legal services, with a focus on the Lake Chad islands. Due to lack of funding, just eight per cent of GBV survivors were receiving medical care in October 2017 down from 75 per cent in August.
- Thirteen people - six children, four women and three men - surrendered to the army from an armed group on 14 December, the regional social services directorate reported. Another 50 people are reportedly seeking to defect from the armed group. By the end of October 2017, more than 1,300 people had surrendered to Chadian authorities before all cross-border movements came to a halt. The rise of the river waters between September and January is believed to be limiting the movement.
- The African Union and the Lake Chad Basin Commission called for the establishment of a regional Disarmament, Demobilisation, Reintegration, Repatriation and Resettlement strategy for people formerly associated with an armed group during their 2 to 4 November conference in N'Djamena. Other recommendations are: investment in the socio-economic development of the Lake Chad Basin region, supporting the resettlement of the displaced and improving governance, rule of law and security. The next step is to set up a taskforce for the formulation of the regional stabilization strategy.
- The redeployment of a Chadian contingent from Bosso in Niger outside of the Lake area has raised concerns about security vacuum in the Lake Chad region.



PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



2017 REQUIREMENT (US\$)

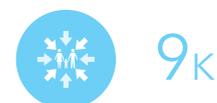


5

INTERNALLY DISPLACED



REFUGEES



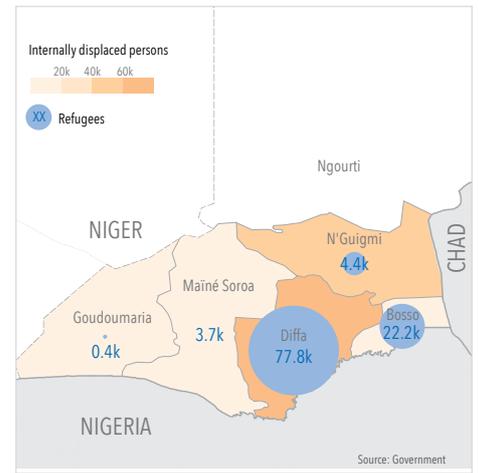
SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE



Boko Haram fighters struck Chad for the first time in February 2015. Localities around the western Lac region were already hosting people displaced by the violence across the border in Nigeria. Now around 123,000 people are displaced in the region, struggling to survive under difficult conditions with little access to necessities such as potable water, health, nutrition and education. Children associated with the armed group, unaccompanied or separated from their families, are particularly vulnerable, as are displaced women and girls who account for more than 80 per cent of victims of gender-based violence reported so far in 2017. Incidents related to the protection of civilians, one third of which involve men in uniform, have increased worryingly since April 2017. The local population has come under pressure of the influx in a region already beset by poverty and underdevelopment.

NIGER

- Teachers in Diffa have requested the Government to improve security around schools at high risk of Boko Haram attacks following the killing of one of their colleagues in late October. They pointed out that the persistent threat of attacks could disrupt learning in the area struck by an unprecedented humanitarian emergency. There have been six attacks on schools over the past year. Currently 30 schools are closed due to insecurity
- An average of 12 civilians were killed, injured or abducted every month in 2017 in the conflict-hit Diffa region. This is a decline from an average of 20 per month in 2015 - 2016, according to relief agencies. In total, 60 people were killed, 70 abducted and 11 wounded by suspected Boko Haram elements in Diffa. The conflict has triggered a massive humanitarian emergency in a region where many were already grappling with hardship.
- According to the 2018 Humanitarian Response Plan, 419,000 people (or about half of Diffa's population) need assistance, and are targeted by humanitarian organisations. They include 362,000 people in need of protection and 288,000 people in need of food assistance. Some \$163 million are needed for response. At the start of 2017, around 340,000 people required humanitarian assistance.
- In late October, MSF-Switzerland conducted a vaccination campaign in Diffa to prevent the spread of the cholera outbreak from neighbouring Nigeria. Some 9,000 children aged 4 to 14 were vaccinated in Chétimari commune.
- In November 2017, the regional authorities in Diffa estimated that 252,000 people were forcibly displaced in the region. They include 129,000 IDPs, 108,000 refugees from Nigeria and 15,000 returnees.
- As of December 25, there were 2,140 cases of hepatitis E, including 39 deaths. The latest casualty was on 24 December.



PEOPLE IN NEED

 408k

PEOPLE TARGETED

 308k

REQUIREMENT (US\$)

 142M

INTERNALLY DISPLACED

 129k

REFUGEES

 108k

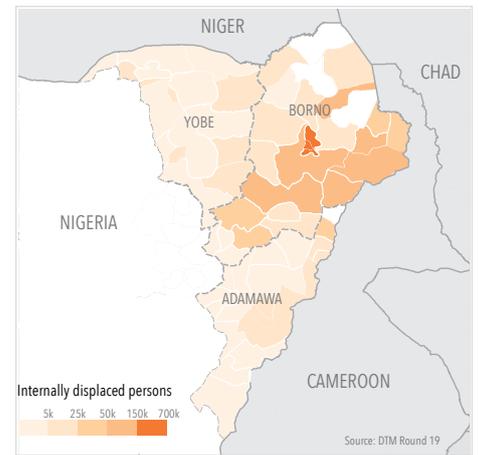
SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE

 408k

The south-eastern Diffa region is witnessing an unprecedented humanitarian emergency since the first Boko Haram 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. By September 2016, around 200 families had arrived in Diffa in search of safety from Boko Haram attacks in Nigeria and Chad. Diffa is home to just four per cent of Niger's population. However, it accounts for almost 20 per cent of the 2.2 million people in need of protection and life-saving assistance in the country. Across the country, 1.8 million people are struggling to meet their most basic need for food, some 500,000 more than at the beginning of the year. Around 400,000 children under five are at risk of dying from severe acute malnutrition.

NIGERIA

- Conflict and attacks against civilians continue hamper the response in north-east Nigeria. On 3 January, 14 people were killed when an individual carrying explosives struck a mosque in Gamboru town near Nigeria's border with Cameroon. On 28 December, eight people at a wedding were killed in a similar outside Maiduguri.
- Between 8 and 25 December, 1,437 people fled to a transit IDP camp in Pulka, a town near the Nigeria-Cameroon border. They fled their villages in the Bama and Gwoza localities following increased hostilities. The camp's population has now grown to 4,766, sparking concerns of overcrowding as more are expected to arrive. Aid organisations are scaling up food, nutrition, water and sanitation assistance as well as basic household utensils.
- On 16 December, four drivers, including two hired by the World Food Programme, were killed when a military-escorted convoy carrying humanitarian supplies was ambushed by armed assailants near Gamboru. The attackers abducted others in the convoy, seized the relief supplies and set fire to a lorry.
- On 2 November, two International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) cargo trucks arrived in Rann for the first time since August 2017 when rains and floods cut off roads to the area. Relief organisations had prepositioned food, WASH and medical supplies before the rainy season (June to September) and used helicopters to deliver light supplies in recent months.
- On 21 December, health authorities in Borno State declared the end of the cholera epidemic that broke out in August. No new cases had been reported for over two weeks, with the last case recorded on 5 December. The disease infected more than 5,000 people and killed 61. Aid groups mounted a rapid response to bring the outbreak under control. Preventive measures such as good hygiene practices, water chlorination and emptying latrines regularly will be sustained.
- About 1,262 cases of hepatitis E and eight deaths were reported across camps and IDP locations in eight local government areas (LGAs), with Ngala and Kala/Balge being the worst affected. The first cases were reported in February. A rapid response mechanism has been established in Rann, Kala/Balge LGA, where the virus continues to spread. Water chlorination and health safety communication are ongoing.
- The Borno state Government, with the support of humanitarian organisations, has relocated IDPs from Bama General Hospital IDP settlement to a new camp located at a former Government-run school. The move is to address congestion and allow for the reconstruction of the Bama Hospital - part of a rehabilitation plan for the area.
- In preparation for the return of 4,000 refugees from Cameroon planned for early 2018, a Tripartite Technical Committee arrived in Mubi on 27 November to re-assess the situation and ensure it is conducive for the returns. This is part of the implementation of the March 2017 Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR and the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon on the voluntary and dignified return of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon.
- Maize, rice and millet production in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states is on the rise, while sorghum production is lower in Borno and Adamawa. While there is encouraging progress in terms of land area under cultivation in the three states compared to 2016, the progress is slow, with an overall increase no higher than 10 per cent. This is partly due to the ongoing conflict which continues to limit access to some areas.



PEOPLE IN NEED



PEOPLE TARGETED



2017 REQUIREMENT (US\$)



INTERNALLY DISPLACED



SEVERELY MALNOURISHED CHILDREN



SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE



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 has been escalated over the past year. Food assistance is now reaching around 2 million people. Aid agencies have significantly increased personnel and resources to meet the huge humanitarian needs. Despite the progress, insecurity and funding shortfall are major hurdles to providing adequate assistance. Many areas remain inaccessible and armed attacks continue to torment civilians and pose threats.