

This report is produced by OCHA in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The next report will be issued on or around 31 May 2016.

Regional Highlights

- **Boko Haram gunmen continue to carry out attacks on civilian and military targets despite the ramped up military operations.** Security remains volatile in many conflict-affected areas, complicating humanitarian access to those in need.
- **In Niger, Boko Haram attacks have increased since January.** Intensified military offensives from the regional multinational force and troops from the Lake Chad Basin countries have forced the gunmen to retreat to the border areas between Niger and Nigeria where they attack villages that have little or no military presence.
- **Food insecurity and malnutrition are on the rise. Without interventions an estimated 67,000 children aged 6 - 59 months with severe acute malnutrition are likely to die in 2016 in Nigeria's north-eastern Borno and Yobe states. This translates to 184 deaths every day.**
- **The number of children used by Boko Haram as suicide bombers has risen tenfold in one year. More than 75 per cent of them are girls.** Forty-four children were involved in suicide bombings in 2015, up from four the previous year.
- **US Ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, announced nearly US\$40 million in new humanitarian assistance** to those affected by Boko Haram violence. Power made the announcement during a visit to Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria on 16 - 23 April.
- The presidents of Cameroon and Nigeria have agreed that **a tripartite meeting of the two countries and the UNHCR to agree on a framework for the safe return of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon** be held in July in Abuja

9.2m

People in need

5.2m

Targeted for assistance

2.4m

People displaced

21m

People living in affected areas

3m

Severely food insecure

\$535m

Funding requirement in 2016

Humanitarian Priorities

Population movement

- In Chad, **rapid assessments are ongoing** to register the displaced. More than 106,000 people have been displaced in the Lac region since May 2015, according to an update on 19 April.
- **The current lull in attacks in Chad has allowed aid agencies to reach most of the internally displaced persons (IDPs).** The most recent security incidents caused no civilian casualties. However the security situation remains volatile and unpredictable.
- The authorities in Niger have ordered the **evacuation of seven villages along the Komadougou River** on the border with Nigeria due to increasing military operations. Markets have also been closed and more people are expected to move to urban centres.

Most Affected Areas



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

Protection

- **The number of children used by Boko Haram as suicide bombers has risen tenfold in one year. More than 75 per cent of them are girls**, according to a report by UNICEF released on 12 April. Forty-four children were involved in suicide bombings in 2015, up from four the previous year. Between January 2014 and February 2016, Cameroon recorded the highest number of suicide attacks involving children at 21, followed by Nigeria with 17 and Chad with 2. **Over the past two years, nearly one in five suicide bombers was a child.**
- **In Nigeria, the displaced continue to be exposed to protection risks, in particular those amongst the most vulnerable who have specific needs** such as the elderly, child-headed households, women, boys and girls and those with disabilities. Women report sexual and gender-based violence when fleeing the armed conflict.
- In just one year, the number of displaced children increased by over 60 per cent, from 800,000 to 1.3 million children, according to UNICEF.
- In Cameroon, Nigerian refugees in the Minawao Camp continue to be arrested due to suspected links with Boko Haram, and a climate of distrust towards IDPs, refugees and minorities is developing.

Food Insecurity

- **Across the conflict-hit regions of the Lake Chad Basin some three million people** are already food insecure. Many more are expected to face hunger as the lean season progresses. Already in certain areas, the lean season has begun earlier than usual, while in others thousands of families are in need of immediate assistance.
- **According to a joint UN multi-sectoral assessment conducted in April, 2.3 million people are severely food insecure in Borno and Yobe states.** Of the total, 800,000 people - 550,000 in Borno and 250,000 in Yobe - need to be prioritized for immediate urgent food assistance.
- Given the onset of the lean season and rainy season, nutrition outcomes are expected to worsen and food prices will increase as roads become impassable.
- An estimated **486,000 children in Borno and 242,000 children in Yobe are suffering from Global Acute Malnutrition.**
- Some 73,000 children under two years of age in these communities need to urgently receive ready-to-use supplementary specialized nutritious foods. Food supplements for 27,000 pregnant and lactating mothers are also recommended.
- **Without interventions an estimated 67,000 children aged 6 - 59 months with severe acute malnutrition are likely to die in Borno and Yobe states in 2016. This translates to 184 deaths every day.**
- **In Niger's Diffa region, 159,620 are food insecure.** Humanitarian assistance and security operations in the region could stabilize the levels of food insecurity.

Advocacy and Humanitarian Funding

- **Only 10 per cent of the \$535 million required to assist the affected populations across the region has been received.**
- The Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Toby Lanzer, on 12 April urged donors to increase their support to UN agencies and non-governmental organizations that are increasing their footprint in the north-eastern Borno State, which is hosting some 1.6 million people displaced by Boko Haram violence. Just 15 per cent of the \$248 million needed this year for humanitarian operations in north-eastern Nigeria has so far been provided.
- During a visit to Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria in April, US Ambassador to the UN, Samantha Power, announced a \$40 million in new funding to assist those affected by Boko Haram violence that has uprooted 2.4 million people from their homes across the Lake Chad Basin.

Operational Updates by Country

Nigeria



- Boko Haram attacks on military positions continue.** In April, Boko Haram attacked two military positions in Mobbar and Damboa Local Government Areas (LGA) and ambushed military vehicles in Konduga and Bama LGAs. Additionally, 10 soldiers were killed after their vehicle hit an improvised explosive device (IED) in Bama LGA. The group also attacked two settlements in Bauchi, which had been largely unaffected by the conflict to date.
- Food security is deepening in the conflict-hit north-eastern regions. In Borno and Yobe states some 2.3 million people are in emergency phase of food insecurity. Among them more than 800,000 are in need of immediate food assistance,** according to a joint UN multi-sectoral assessment conducted in April in previously inaccessible localities of Borno and Yobe. Some 550,000 and 250,000 in Borno and Yobe respectively are severely food insecure and need immediate assistance.
- With the upcoming rainy season, **food insecurity in north-eastern Nigeria is expected to worsen between May and September**, when the number of people in urgent need is likely to increase. Rainfall is forecast to be unstable and abnormally low in the region.
- Response capacity is being strengthened, in particular on cash and protection.** FAO and OCHA organized a two-day workshop (12 - 13 April) in Abuja on Cash Transfer Programming (CTP) to share best practices and improve common tools and approaches in CTP. OCHA and UNHCR supported the National Emergency Management Agency in organizing a workshop (19 - 21 April) in Abuja to equip all sectors and the HCT to mainstream protection across the humanitarian response cycle. This workshop is to be replicated at the field level.

Cameroon



- Access to IDPs remains a challenge for the humanitarian community operating in the Far North.** Despite some military advances, the security situation is still volatile, with regular attacks and ambushes against military forces as well as suicide bombings targeting civilians. Land mines and infiltration by armed

groups in refugee camps is becoming a new threatening trend which might reduce the capacity of humanitarian actors to access people in need.

- **Nigerian refugees were recently surveyed about their intentions to return to their places of origin.** Results show that 76 per cent of interviewed Nigerian refugees, most of whom run businesses, want to return home. The remaining 24 per cent who want to stay are less financially stable and still fear insecurity. Fourteen per cent of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon were interviewed.
- **The Humanitarian response in Cameroon is still underfinanced with only 12 per cent of the requirements covered by end of April.** The Humanitarian Country Team has also called for the activation of four Clusters (Health, Food Security, Protection and WASH, plus an advisor in Early Recovery). This is to strengthen the humanitarian response in the East, Adamaoua, North and Far North regions - the priority areas outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plan.

Chad



*50.1k have been registered since May 2015, the rest are estimated based on information shared by local authorities and rapid assessments/surveys by humanitarian partners.

- **Food security is deteriorating in the Lac region** following inadequate rains, low agricultural production and the impact on livelihoods by population displacements and the state of emergency imposed on Lac region. Over 133,000 people are in severe food insecurity (Phase 3 “Crisis” and Phase 4 “Emergency”), according to the March Cadre Harmonisé forecast for the June - August lean season.
- **Humanitarian response is ongoing. Through ECHO funding, four international NGOs are expected to start new activities** in education, food security, protection and health in Bol, Baga-Sola and Liwa areas. However, major gaps remain in most sectors especially in Liwa and Daboua localities where only 40 per cent of water and less than one per cent of sanitation and hygiene services have been met.
- **Rapid assessments are ongoing to register the displaced.** As of 19 April, more than 106,000 people have been displaced in the Lac region since May 2015. This includes 50,000 registered IDPs; 39,000 estimated displaced people yet to be registered in Liwa, Daboua, Kangelom and Tchoukoutalia; 10,000 returnees; and more than 6,000 refugees.
- **The revision of the 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has been launched at the Inter-Cluster Coordination Forum.** Each cluster will revise sectorial plans on the basis of newly available figures of food security (March 2016 Cadre Harmonisé), nutrition, (November 2015 SMART), refugees (December 2015 biometric registrations) and latest data on displacements in the Lac region. The revised HRP should be approved by the Humanitarian Country Team by mid-May.
- **There has been a lull in suspected Boko-Haram attacks, allowing aid agencies to reach most of the IDPs.** The most recent security incidents caused no civilian casualties. However, the security situation remains volatile and unpredictable. On 20 April some 20 suspected Boko-Haram men allegedly carrying bombs were seen in Blarigui and Kangelom areas just 30 km from Baga-Sola, where most humanitarian organizations are located. The state of emergency was officially extended for a period of 6 months on 25 April, a decision which may impact humanitarian access.

Niger



PEOPLE TARGETED



REQUIREMENTS (US\$)



REFUGEES

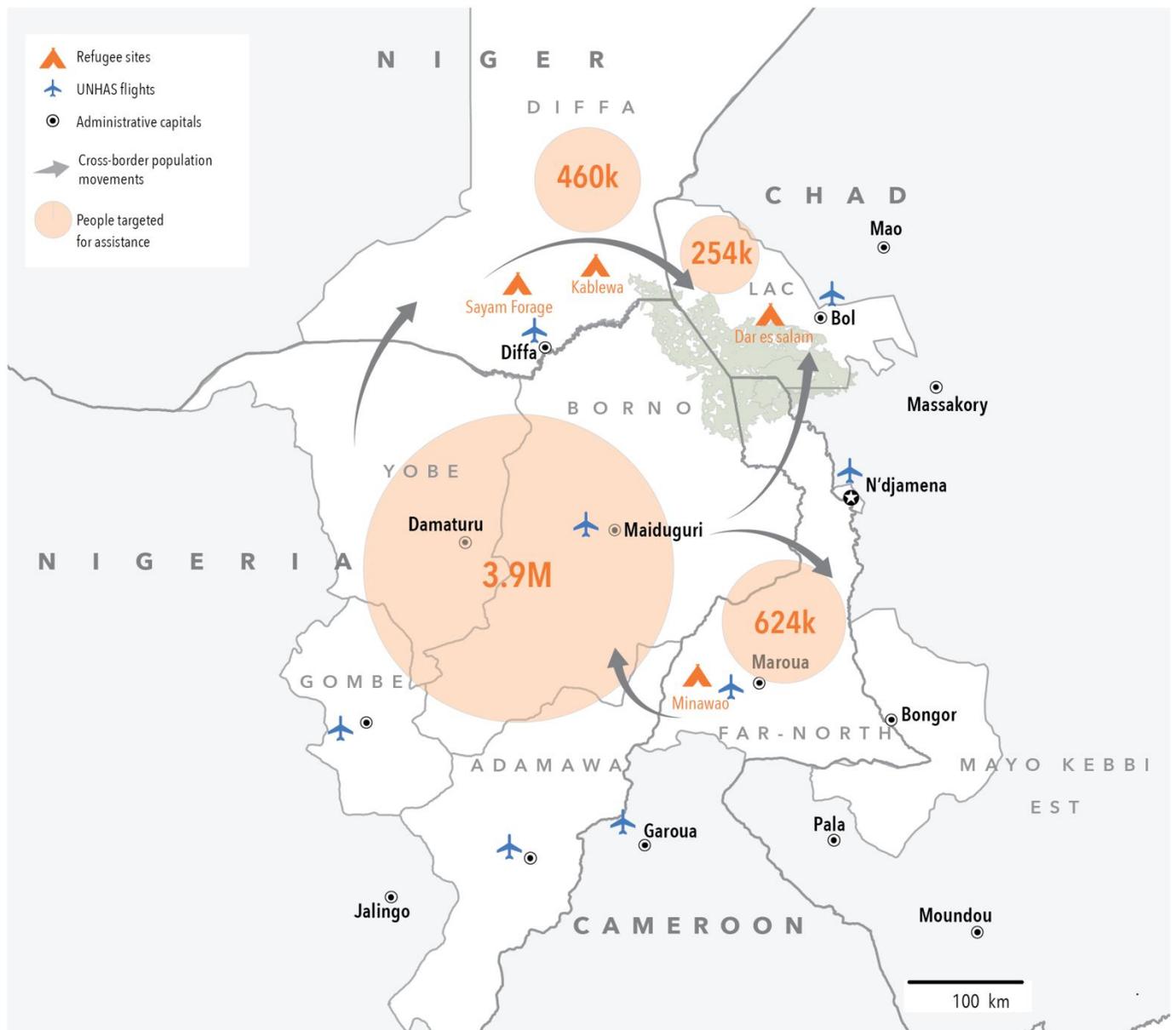


SEVERELY FOOD INSECURE



- Boko Haram attacks intensify. April was marked by increasing insecurity in the region of Diffa where 16 security incidents, allegedly by Boko Haram, were recorded, representing 50 per cent of the total number of security incidents registered since the beginning of the year.** This is due to the intensification of counter-offensive operations by the joint multinational forces as well as Nigerian and Cameroonian troops, forcing Boko Haram elements to move towards Niger and resulting in attacks on villages.
- State of emergency in Diffa extended for three months.** On 28 April, the authorities extended the state of emergency, in place since February 2015, for another three months. This means that authorities and security forces will continue, among other measures, ban people and vehicle movement, conduct home and vehicle searches and arrest suspects associated with Boko Haram activities.
- Food assistance continues to reach thousands of people despite security and access challenges.** In March 2016, 361,000 people were provided with food assistance, representing 79 per cent of the targeted people, compared to 48 per cent of the target in February. This increase is attributable to regular food distributions by the authorities and humanitarian partners.
- Fire broke out in displacement sites killing three people.** On 25 and on 29 April, fire broke out in spontaneous displacement sites in Gagamari, Diffa region, killing three people and injuring several others. The damage affected 120 households. Regional authorities and humanitarian actors are assisting those affected with food, NFI and health services.
- Residents of seven villages around Komadougou River are to be relocated. Authorities are considering the relocation of about 8,500 people living around the Kamadougou River to safer areas for security reasons. Two sites have already been identified for the relocation.

The Humanitarian Response at a Glance



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