Background

The violent conflict in the Lake Chad Basin has continuously deteriorated. Boko Haram raids and suicide bombings targeting civilians are causing widespread trauma, preventing people from accessing essential services and destroying vital infrastructure. Around 21 million people live in the affected areas across the four Lake Chad countries. The number of displaced people in the most affected areas has tripled over the last two years. Most of the displaced families are sheltered by communities that count among the world’s poorest and most vulnerable. Food insecurity and malnutrition in the affected region have reached alarming levels.

Recent developments

As of May 2016, a total of 2.7 million people have been displaced by the crisis. In Nigeria’s Borno State, an April inter-agency needs assessment identified 200,000 IDPs congregated in camps at the LGA capitals, including Bama, Dikwa, Monguno, and Damboa. In mid-May, tens of thousands of new internally displaced persons (IDPs) reportedly arrived in Maiduguri and many are hosted in unofficial camps. WFP is scaling up food and cash-based assistance for 430,000 people. WFP has warned that converging factors – such as poor sanitation, a prevalence of disease, and people lacking access to food, water and healthcare – could create a famine-like situation if assistance is not urgently provided. In Cameroon, the latest assessment found 157,000 IDPs attributed to conflict, an increase by 20,000 over the last three months. In June, a multi-sector rapid needs assessment will assess priority needs of vulnerable populations in Logone and Chari, the most difficult area to access in the Far North region.