Recent developments

Boko Haram attacks and military operations against the group continue to cause displacements and restrict humanitarian access in parts of the Lake Chad Basin. In Niger’s south-east, attacks to areas around Chetimari and Gueskerou localities has become more complicated. Military operations along the border with Nigeria have forced some 300,000 Nigerians to flee for safety across the border to Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Insecurity also remains high in Cameroon’s Far North region. In the first two weeks of April, Boko Haram fighters launched several attacks in various localities, striking a military base and attacking civilians. Meanwhile, Chad, Niger and Nigeria conducted polio vaccination drives in March and April. The campaigns were part of a synchronized operation in 13 African countries targeting more than 116 million children under five in an attempt at definitively eradicating polio in the continent. New polio cases erupted last year in Nigeria’s Borno state. The risk of contagion in the region is high due to population movements and low immunization coverage of children.

Background

Around 17 million people live in the affected areas across the four Lake Chad basin countries. The number of displaced people 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 have reached critical levels.