Lake Chad Basin: Crisis Overview (as of 06 April 2016)

An overlooked crisis

The violent conflict in the Lake Chad Basin has continuously deteriorated over the last two years. 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 risen in one year from 1.6 million to 2.4 million. 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 rapidly deteriorated.

The unfolding crisis is as much a humanitarian emergency as it is a protection crisis. Many civilians are caught in the conflict. Women and children represent the majority of the displaced and bear the brunt of the violence, as Boko Haram attacks continue and military operations intensify. Conceived engagement of political, development and security actors is needed to help stabilize the region and create conditions for people to survive and prosper.

Recent developments

Across the region, nearly three million people of whom 2.5 million are in north-eastern Nigeria, are facing severe food insecurity and urgently need support. Several markets have been closed across the conflict-hit areas to stem Boko Haram-linked suicide attacks. This has affected trade and food prices. Food insecurity is expected to worsen in the coming months as the lean season gets underway. In some areas, the lean season has begun earlier than usual due to the effects of conflict and poor harvests from the last season.

Sources:
(1) ACLED database as of 02 April 2016
(2) UNHCR
(3) Nigeria & Cameroon DTM Feb 2016, ORS (http://ors.ocharowca.info), Chad: recent estimates in addition to the initial 58.1k
(4) This figure does not include estimated returnees in Nigeria or those displaced by floods.

Disclaimer: The information in the snapshot applies to areas most affected by Boko Haram-related violence—Cameroon (Far-North), Chad (Far-North, Chad), Nigeria (Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe). Please visit wca.humanitarianresponse.info for the countries’ response plans.

Population movement and violent incidents in the most affected areas

Displacement trends

Total of displacements in the Lake Chad Basin, including IDPs, refugees and returnees (in million)

Incidents trends

Total of violent incidents and deaths reported in the Lake Chad Basin since March 2015

21M people living in affected areas
2.4M people displaced (IDPs, refugees and returnees)
9.2M people in need
310,000 children suffering from severe acute malnutrition
2.97M severely food insecure people
US$ 535M required to assist 5.2M people