

NIGERIA

DECEMBER 2018 – JANUARY 2019 BRIEFING



Humanitarian Figures

\$1 billion

Appealed for by UN and partners for 176 humanitarian projects to be implemented by 60 organisations, the sixth largest appeal globally, according to [UNOCHA](#)

7.7 million

Estimated people in need of life saving assistance across the north-east states of Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe ([UN Report](#))

6.1 million

Estimated people were targeted for lifesaving assistance in 2018, according to an [OCHA report](#)

3.7 million

Food insecure people across Nigeria were reported as being in need of aid, according to [OCHA](#)

1.76 million

Estimated IDPs in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe, according to UNHCR reports sourced by [USAID](#)

Highlights

- > U.S, U.K and EU express concern ahead of presidential elections
- > Humanitarian needs continue to grow in Middle-Belt region
- > Boko Haram launches series of attacks in north-east Nigeria

Key Developments

- > According to The Guardian, more than [9,000 refugees crossed the border into Bodo, Cameroon](#), after attacks by Boko Haram killed at least fourteen people. Refugees were sent back to Nigeria, where Boko Haram Islamists pose a continuing threat to civilians.
- > In December, [Amnesty International released a report](#) outlining Nigeria as an area of severe concern as communal violence in the Middle-Belt region escalates. President Buhari expressed his concern over Amnesty International's 'activities', days after the government temporarily banned UNICEF over claims it was training spies sympathetic to Boko Haram.
- > The disbandment of the notorious Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS) in January recognised years of human rights violations committed by its members, according to the Director of Amnesty International Nigeria, Osai Ojigho, who emphasised that disbandment alone is not enough, and reforms must follow to end "[gross violations](#)" by the police.
- > The 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), released in January, listed Nigeria among the highest ranking countries in corruption practices. CPI analysis shows that many democratic institutions are under threat across the globe, especially in countries under governments with authoritarian tendencies. The global community needs to do "[more to strengthen checks and balances to protect civilians](#)", according to the report.

Context

As more people become displaced due to ongoing conflict, northeast Nigeria remains in a humanitarian crisis stemming from the threats made by Boko Haram. [A lack of state presence](#) has allowed criminal networks to operate freely for decades, however since the emergence of the Islamist militia nine years ago there have been countless insurgencies, forcing households to leave their homes and relocate to camps and host communities for IDPs. More recently, this displacement has been exacerbated by clashes between semi-nomadic cattle herders, mostly of Fulani ethnicity, and sedentary farmers.

The Fulani herdsman have historically grazed their cattle in the area of the Lake Chad basin however the [landlocked lake has shrunk](#) from 22,000 square kilometres in the 1960s to fewer than 1,500 today due to changing climate patterns. This has forced the herdsman to migrate southwards, triggering disputes with farmers. It has also been [observed that religion has played a part](#) in the conflict between the herdsman and the farmers, as the former are predominantly Muslim, whilst the latter are Christian. Significant challenges facing Nigeria pertain to ongoing conflicts, and are exacerbated by poverty, climate change and underdevelopment. It is therefore necessary that the Nigerian government cooperate with humanitarian organisations to ensure one hundred percent of aid is received by those affected, and to eventually reach a solution to the complex situation.



Political Map of Nigeria

Located in northern central Africa, the Lake Chad Basin currently faces insecurity, affecting areas of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger.

Yobo, Borno and Adamawa states of north-east Nigeria host the largest amount of individuals and households affected by conflict.

HART partners are located in Jos, the capital of Plateau state; and Bari, south of Kano state capital.

Nigeria: Latest Developments

Concerns Over the Upcoming Presidential Election

- The U.S, U.K and EU expressed concern after Nigeria's suspension of the Chief of Justice three weeks before the presidential election. The US warned Nigeria it would "cast a pall" over the vote, claiming President Muhammadu Buhari acted "without the support of the legislative branch". The UK stated the timing of the action "risks affecting both international and domestic perceptions on the credibility of the forthcoming elections."
- On the 25th January, Southern and Middle-Belt leaders held an emergency meeting over the suspension of Walter Onnoghen as Chief Justice of Nigeria. A statement signed by the group of leaders demanded a reversal of the suspension, describing it as "a coup against constitutional democracy".
- On the 28th January, the Consular General of the United States, John Bray, stated that the interest of the U.S in the Nigerian 2019 presidential election is to not support any candidate, but to ensure that the poll is credible.

Conflict and the Threat of Boko Haram in North-Eastern States

- The relentless Boko Haram insurgency continues to displace thousands in the northeast of Nigeria. On the 29th January, the UN claimed that the threat displaced 30,000 people alone in the town of Rann. Other reports claim four people have been killed and two abducted in Borno State, with 8 soldiers confirmed dead in Yobe state. It is estimated 15,000 people have attempted to escape to Cameroon and Chad.
- In December, the army targeted Amnesty International and UNICEF, among other humanitarian aid agencies and journalists, accusing them of training "spies" to support Boko Haram insurgents. The military claimed that UNICEF had held workshops in Maiduguri training people for "clandestine" activities that were "sabotaging" counter-terrorism efforts. The ban has since been lifted.

Intercommunal Violence in the Middle-Belt Region

- Amnesty International blamed the failure of the Nigerian authorities to investigate communal clashes and bring perpetrators to justice for the escalation of violence between farming communities and Fulani herdsmen. Amnesty estimates that the conflict has cost 3,600 lives over the course of three years, with 2018 being the worst on record.
- 300,000 people have been displaced since conflicts were renewed in the Middle-Belt region. Speaking in Jos, Plateau State during a campaign stop, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) described how insecurity in the Middle Belt has affected Nigeria, remarking: "Plateau is the economic hub of the Middle Belt, but insecurity has, over the years, forced it to lose that status."

Timeline of Events

December 2018

Amnesty releases report highlighting communal violence in the Middle-Belt region

UNICEF is temporarily banned as President Buhari expresses concerns over false claims of allegiance to Boko Haram.

January 2019

The Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS) is disbanded, Amnesty Director calls for further action

Refugees fleeing violence in north-east are sent back into country by Cameroon

2018 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) is released, listing Nigeria among other high-ranking countries

Boko Haram Insurgency continues to rage in the north-east

U.S, U.K and EU express concern over credibility of 2019 Nigerian presidential elections

Southern and Middle-Belt community leaders hold meeting on suspension of Chief of Justice

Consular general of U.S stated that the interest of his country is not to support any candidate