

Nigeria

JUNE - AUGUST BRIEFING 2018



Humanitarian Figures:

1.9 million

Displaced individuals

94%

of displacements due to ongoing conflict in NE Nigeria

7.7 million

people in need of humanitarian assistance

3.0 million

estimated food insecure in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe

46.8%

of foreign funding received by humanitarian groups

Highlights:

- > Growing conflict in North East region as Boko Haram continue insurgencies
- > Middle-belt increasingly threatened with Fulani migration
- > Number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) is increasing
- > Beginning of rainy season

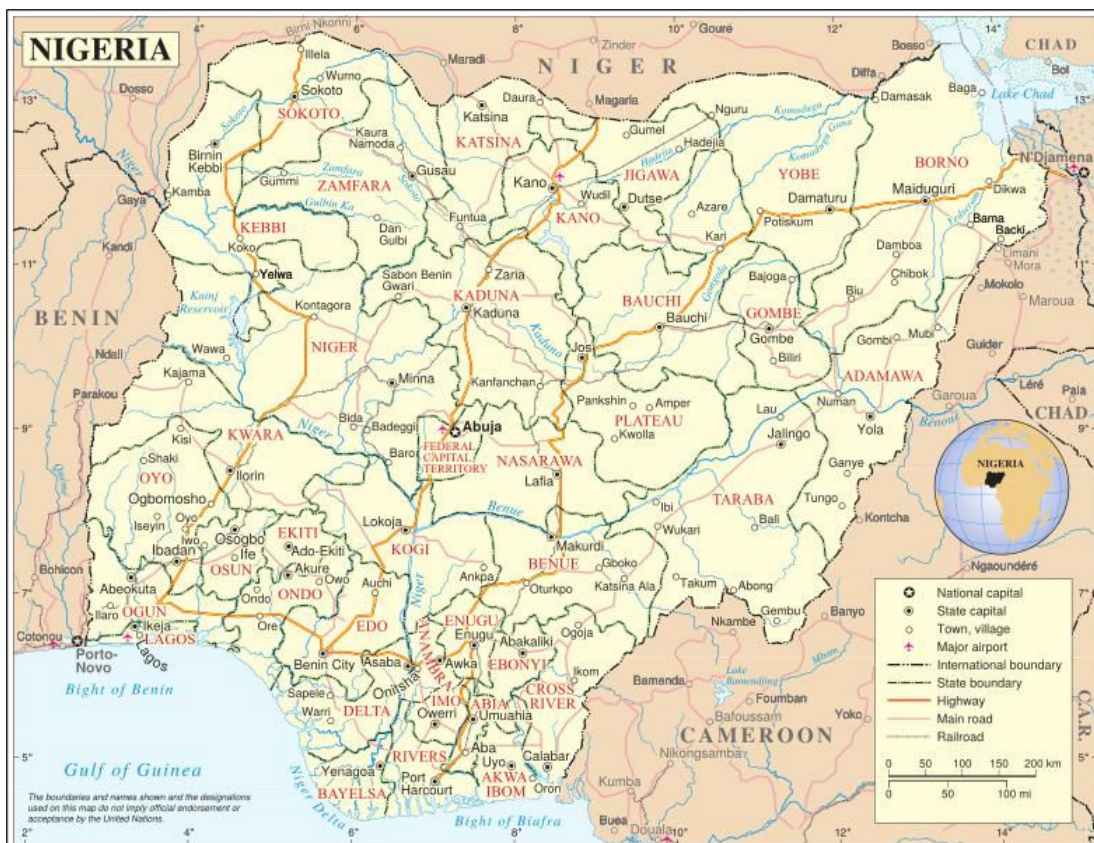
Key Developments:

- > Boko Haram militants continue to threaten the security of the north eastern region of Nigeria despite claims by the Nigerian military that [normalcy has been restored](#) and it is safe to return.
- > Escalating violence between Fulani herdsman and farmers resulted in a particularly devastating month of June where there were multiple conflicts, and at least [200 farmers died](#) over one weekend.
- > Southwards migration of Fulani herdsman is assumed to be partly attributed to the [shrinking of Lake Chad](#) as a result of changing climate patterns.
- > [Threats to Nigeria's 'middle-belt'](#) and insurgency in the north-east have contributed to a rise in IDPs across 13 states, particularly in the north eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa.
- > Available resources in host communities and camps are under significant strain with the arrival of IDPs, and [are under continuous threat](#) from insurgents.
- > The [rainy season](#) in north Nigeria lasts for approximately three months beginning in June, which has exacerbated food insecurity, displacement and inaccessibility to medical care.
- > Aggravated by the rainy season, cholera, malaria, Hepatitis E and other waterborne diseases are also [becoming more prevalent](#) as the number of IDPs in camps rises, where there are limited sanitation facilities.

Context

As more people become displaced due to ongoing conflict, north-east 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 in 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 produce 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.

Yobe, Borno and Adamawa states of north-east Nigeria host the greatest 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.

Latest Developments

Lake Chad Basin

The Lake Chad Basin (LCB) is a region particularly affected by underdevelopment, poverty and climate change, [affecting around 17 million people](#) and disproportionately affecting women and children.

- Around [10.7 million people](#) living in the Lake Chad region are in dire need of continued humanitarian response to battle hunger, provide water and sanitation facilities, shelter, and help rebuild communities.

Humanitarian organisations are unable to reach those living in regions outside of governmental control or where there is significant extremist activity, [meaning at least 820,000](#) are cut off from assistance.

- Once financial aid is filtered through the government, only [around 40%](#) is received by humanitarian organisations.

According to the Humanitarian Information Unit ([HIU](#)), ongoing conflict has displaced 2.4 million people in the region, and put an estimated 10.7 million in need of humanitarian assistance.

The continuation of '[Operation Last Hold](#)', the Nigerian military's latest efforts to combat the presence of militants in the area, threatens a further 100,000 civilians to be displaced.

A [cholera outbreak](#) threatens more than 6 million people living in affected areas, with over 27,000 identified cases, and 510 deaths reported so far in LCB.

North East Region

The [Displacement Tracking Matrix](#) (DTM) report 1.9 million individuals identified as displaced in the six affected states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe for the period of 23 July – 6 August, an increase of 8,240 people in comparison to assessments published in June.

The largest IDP populations are located in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe.

- Borno is the most affected state in north-eastern Nigeria, and continues to host the highest number of IDPs with 1.4 million displaced persons (75%).
 - o There has recently been an influx of more than [10,000 new arrivals](#) in Bama that require humanitarian assistance.
 - o Households in Rann are currently [cut off from vehicular access](#), and humanitarian organisations can only reach the town by helicopter.

Widespread flooding in urban centres have caused displacement for [122,000](#) people however it must be noted that [94% of displacements](#) are due to ongoing conflict and insurgencies from Boko Haram and Fulani militants in north-east Nigeria.

- The most significant was widespread flooding in Benue state in September, which alone caused [110,000](#) new displacements.

Around 2.3-3 million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe are [estimated to be food insecure](#) however the number of people facing acute food insecurity in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa has significantly reduced over the past year, from 4.7 million in the period of March–May 2017.

The looming presidential election in early 2019 has encouraged President Buhari to [claim that the conflict is under control](#), and it is safe for IDPs to return home however this is not the case.

Middle-Belt

According to a report [released in late July](#) by the International Crisis Group (ICG), as many as 1,300 people have been killed as a result of the conflict in the Middle Belt since January.

[Escalating violence](#) between herders and farmers has led to deadlier planned attacks, particularly in areas including Plateau.

- More than 230 people were killed during a spate of attacks in Plateau state.
- More than 11,500 have been forced to seek refuge across the state, whilst some remain hospitalised in the capital of Jos.
- January – July saw [38,000 people displaced](#) from their homes in Plateau state.
 - o Humanitarian organisations are providing essentials to camps and local families that are hosting those that have been displaced.

It has been suggested that [recharging Lake Chad](#) may discourage the southern migration of Fulani herdsmen.

[Lassa fever](#) and other waterborne diseases outbreak affecting Plateau, as a result of rainy season.

Following the attacks in Jos, HART secured £45,000 from Guernsey's Overseas Aid and Development Commission to support IDPs who had fled the violent clashes.

- HART's Reverend Hassan John requested support for those arriving at 17 displacement camps around Plateau State in order to provide food, bedding, medicine, clothes and toiletries.
- Notebooks and pens were provided for children of school age to allow them to continue their education.
- This funding will support approximately 12,000 IDPs for 3 months.

Timeline

[17 June](#): blast kills at least 20 in Borno. Has been linked to Boko Haram

[23 June](#): Fulani herdsmen attack Berom farmers in Plateau state, triggering displacement

[24 June](#): dusk to dawn curfew imposed in central Plateau state after at least 200 die in communal clashes between farmers and Fulani militants

[25 June](#): military deploy 300 soldiers and 7 helicopter gunships to Benue, Plateau and Taraba states in response to growing Fulani violence

[14 July](#): military base overrun by Boko Haram jihadists

[23 July](#): 8 killed in Boko Haram suicide bomb

[27 July](#): Nigeria brings in fourth commander in 14 months in fight against Boko Haram

[9 August](#): at least 15 soldiers and an official killed in an ambush suspected to be Boko Haram related

[19 August](#): at least 19 killed in Islamist militant attack on a village in northeast Nigeria