

HUMANITARIAN AID RELIEF TRUST (HART)

Briefing on Nigeria, covering February – August 2015

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Key developments

- Muhammadu Buhari [won](#) the presidential elections (first democratic elections with an opposition candidate succeeding) in March 2015 and was inaugurated as President in May 2015.
- Boko Haram [pledged allegiance](#) to ISIS (the Islamic State of Syria and Iraq). This is an important development, as it will most likely further increase international support for regional counter-insurgency operations.
- By [March 2015](#), Nigeria and its neighbouring allies (Chad, Cameroon, Niger) recaptured most of former Boko Haram territory. Simultaneously, the Islamist jihadists resorted to increasing attacks on civilian places (mosques, churches, markets, villages). Killings and abductions take place on an almost daily basis.
- A regional country coalition, called the [Multinational Joint Task Force](#), was agreed upon in early 2015 and will comprise 8,700 troops from Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Benin. The headquarters will be located in N'Djamena, Chad. Operations should have started at the end of July but have not yet begun due to both a lack of political will from member states and gaps in funding.
- Boko Haram, in the past months, has largely [extended its territory](#) of attacks into further parts of Nigeria and neighbouring Niger (in particular Diffa region), Cameroon (Far North Region) and Chad (the capital N'Djamena, and Lake Chad area). The upsurge in attacks in Cameroon, Niger and Chad are both a cause and a consequence of the plans to establish the regional country coalition.
- [Amnesty International](#) has accused the **Nigerian army** of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in their fight against Boko Haram.

Humanitarian Figures

- The [Global Emergency Overview for August 2015](#) estimates that 24.5 million Nigerians in the northeast of the country are indirectly affected by the insurgency.
- [Internally Displaced People](#) (IDPs): 1.6 million in Nigeria as of June 2015; 1 million of them are from Borno state.
- [Food insecurity](#): 4.6 million people affected
- [Malnutrition](#): 1.5 million people affected
- [In need of humanitarian assistance](#): 4.6 million people
- [In need of emergency food assistance](#) 3.5 million people
- [Total number of Nigerians refugees](#) in neighbouring countries: 168,042 (12 June 2015)
Niger: 100,000 refugees; 50,000 IDPs
Cameroon: 50,000 refugees; 82,000 IDPs
Chad: 18,000 refugees; 14,000 IDPs
- 2.3 million people do not have [access](#) to humanitarian assistance; access for humanitarian agencies in most parts of northeastern Nigeria is heavily restricted.
- 3.5 million people urgently require [health support](#) and currently lack access to health facilities.
- For a timeline of recent events (February to August 2015), please refer to page 9.

OVERVIEW – BACKGROUND

Since the last HART briefing on Nigeria in February 2015 (available [here](#)), there have been significant developments. While democratic elections and a peaceful transition of power have improved Nigeria's standing within the international community, growing violence in the north and northeastern part of the country (which is increasingly spilling over to neighbouring regions of Chad, Cameroon and Niger) put Nigeria on the top of the international security radar. In addition, and interlinked, the country is not only trying to crush the ever-growing violence by the Islamist militia group Boko Haram, but is also attempting to tackle extensive government corruption, massive debt accumulation and large scale poverty and marginalisation in much of the north and northeastern part of the country. This briefing focuses on political violence by Boko Haram in Nigeria and neighbouring regions and highlights the humanitarian situation in the affected region, covering February – August 2015.

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

General Developments

- In March 2015, Boko Haram [pledged allegiance](#) to ISIS. This is an important development because it may increase **international intervention and support** for Nigeria's counter-insurgency operations. France and the United States have both [publically confirmed](#) assistance for the Multinational Joint Task Force.
- Shortly after Buhari was inaugurated, he shifted the Boko Haram counter-insurgency headquarters from Abuja to Boko Haram's birthplace, Maiduguri in Borno State (which has been hit the worst by Boko Haram insurgency). In addition, many of Nigeria's leading military officials were [replaced](#) (including the commanders of army, navy and air force), which was announced in early July. The new army chief (as well as the recently appointed National Security Advisor) is from Borno State.
- [Amnesty International](#) has released a report accusing the Nigerian army of war crimes and possible crimes against humanity in their fight against Boko Haram. "*Cases of extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, detention and torture have been documented among Nigerian forces in the course of [security operations](#) against Boko Haram. More than 8,000 people are said to have died in detention*" and called for the [prosecution](#) of senior military commanders. Detainees have been "*murdered, starved, suffocated and tortured to death*". More than 1,200 extrajudicial killings have been documented. Furthermore, Amnesty reports arbitrary arrests of at least 20 000 people, mostly young men and boys. Large-scale human rights violations have been reportedly committed by both the Nigerian military as well as their allied militia, the **Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF)** - a formation of civilian militias supporting the national army in the counterinsurgency campaign).
- The violence committed by the CJTF has reached exorbitant levels. A recently released [US report on Trafficking in Persons](#) accused the CJTF of using child soldiers in their fight against Boko Haram.
- Boko Haram, having lost most of its territory, also seems to be increasingly using children (often no older than 10) as suicide bombers to attack markets and kill as many civilians as possible. [Recent reports](#) state that attacks have used young girls as human bombs. Experts view this as a sign of Boko Haram's [weakness](#) and imminent defeat (women are being recruited or forced as the male recruitment is declining). It could, however, be a propaganda tool used by the Islamist militia.
- The governments of neighbouring states – Chad and Cameroon – have responded to an upsurge of female suicide attacks on their soil by imposing restrictions on Islamic religious dress for women. Following a [deadly attack](#) in northern Cameroon, leaving at least 13 people dead, the governor of the Far North region banned burqas in mid-July. Cameroon is the third country to enforce the veil ban as a response to Boko Haram attacks. Chad [outlawed the Islamic veil](#) a month earlier, and Niger has [banned](#) the full veil in the Diffa region in mid-July.
- On 20th July, President Buhari started his four-day visit to the US to meet with Barack Obama in Washington, where they discussed cooperation with the Boko Haram counter-insurgency and US support for Nigeria's military. Up until now, Buhari's hopes for weapons supply and military support

from the United States remain [unclear](#). This is largely due to accusations of large-scale human rights abuse on behalf of the Nigerian army (see Amnesty International report), which, under the Leahy Law, prohibits the US to supply weapons to Nigeria. Buhari, as a response, [stated that](#), “*The application of the Leahy law ... has aided and abetted the Boko Haram terrorist group in the prosecution of its extremist ideology and hate, the indiscriminate killings and maiming of civilians, in raping of women and girls, and in their other heinous crimes*”.

- End of July 2015, following his meeting with President Obama, President Buhari [travelled](#) to Cameroon to meet with his counterpart Paul Biya and discuss future cooperation in the fight against Boko Haram. They finalised agreements on a 8,700 troop strong **Multinational Joint Task Force (MJTF)** which will be mandated by the African Union and will comprise soldiers from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Cameroon and Benin.
- In early August, Cameroon [announced](#) it would repatriate around 12,000 Nigerian refugees who earlier crossed the border looking for safety. This can be seen as a result of increasing attacks on Cameroonian soil. In May 2015, the authorities in Niger expelled 4,000 Nigerian refugees from Lake Chad islands. According to reports, the deportation was brutal, with [refugees describing](#) how “*Niger soldiers were chasing us as if we were animals*”. Many refugees died on the way to the Nigerian border due to exhaustion and the absence of food and water. These ‘repatriations’ have devastating effects for refugees, not only because of the inhuman conditions they face on their way back to Nigeria, but also because of the highly insecure territory they are forced to return to.
- In mid-July, Buhari announced that he would not name his cabinet ministers [until September](#).

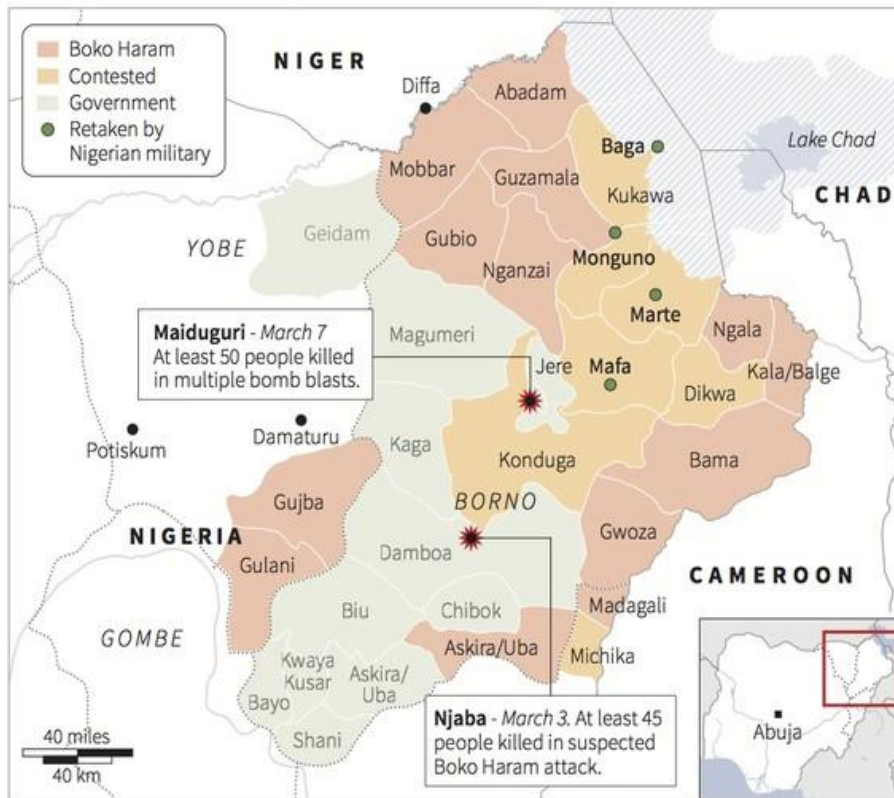
Positive developments – democratic elections

One of the most significant developments this year has been the 2015 presidential elections, which took place on 28th March 2015. They were the first elections in Nigeria’s history to be won by an opposition candidate, **Muhammadu Buhari**. [Buhari](#) originates from predominantly Muslim northern Nigeria. He was previously President of Nigeria from January 1984 to August 1985, gaining power via a military coup and leaving a legacy of a devastating human rights record.

This time democratically elected, Buhari was sworn in on 29th May 2015. He now enjoys high standing in the international community (because of his pledge to democracy), which also explains his [recent invitation by President Obama](#) to discuss counter-terrorism cooperation and US support for Nigeria’s Boko Haram counterinsurgency operations. The fair and democratic election of Nigeria’s current leader is a highly positive development and gives hope for the future. Nevertheless, Buhari inherited a heavily indebted and corrupt government apparatus. [More than sixty percent](#) of Nigeria’s population live in absolute poverty (earning less than one dollar per day), despite its wealth of high-value natural resources. Growing violence and terror in the country’s north is increasingly resulting in large-scale regional instability, with spillover effects into neighbouring countries.

Boko Haram control

Boko Haram's control of local government areas in northeast Nigeria.



Source: Reuters

C. Inton, 08/03/2015

REUTERS

Regional spillover of Boko Haram

In the past months, the Boko Haram insurgency has been more violent, barbaric and uncontrollable than ever before. Attacks on civilians have increased because the Islamists lost control of most of the territory they formerly held in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe State. There are almost daily reports of suicide bombings, attacks on villages (abducting and killing civilians, looting and burning their houses and belongings), schools, mosques, churches and market places. Most of the violence is happening in the northeastern states of [Borno, Yobe and Adamawa](#). Borno is the epicentre of the insurgency, and, according to the Nigeria Security Tracker, has seen over [22,000 media documented deaths](#) from violence (not only committed by Boko Haram). Boko Haram's vision is to expand the caliphate as the 'Islamic State of West Africa Province', indicating that their focus is no longer solely on Nigeria. Since Boko Haram [pledged allegiance](#) to ISIS in March this year, their acts of terror and destruction have spilled over into larger parts of Nigeria (including **Jos in Plateau state**, location of one of [HART's partners](#)) and neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger, a development visible [since the end of 2014](#). The regional cooperation in the form of a five-country military coalition to crush the insurgents is both a cause and consequence of regional instability and attacks.

By March 2015, much of the territory formerly controlled by Boko Haram has been seized back by government forces of Nigeria and neighbouring allied countries causing Boko Haram to retreat to the Sambisa forest (this is believed to be the group's last stronghold). The US Central Intelligence Agency currently estimates their fighting force to comprise of [9,000 men](#).

In the period between February 2015 (last briefing) and August 2015 (present), [Nigeria Security Tracker](#) reported a total of 2,057 deaths by Boko Haram and a further 1,819 deaths as a result of clashes between government forces and Boko Haram. [Overall](#), since the inauguration of former president Goodluck

Jonathan in May 2011, Boko Haram has killed 13,028 people and clashes between state actors and the militia have resulted in a further 11,726 deaths.

Country coalition

As violence committed by Boko Haram is increasing, neighbouring countries (Chad, Niger, Cameroon and Benin) have become increasingly involved in military operations to assist Nigeria in its attempt to defeat the militants. Their military deployment has achieved numerous successes. In early March 2015, troops from Niger and Chad [launched both ground and air offensives](#) in Borno state, and by the time of writing, 36 towns in Borno had been recaptured. However, the [inability to maintain control](#) of liberated towns (such as Gamboru and Marte in Borno state, which have been retaken by Boko Haram) threatens their long-term success.

A new country coalition was [agreed upon](#) in February 2015, comprising Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Cameroon and Chad. The headquarters of the country coalition is planned to be in Chad's capital N'Djamena. It has not yet been specified when exactly operations will begin. The failure to set a start date has been heavily criticised by national and international observers, especially considering that operations were initially planned to start on 31st July 2015. This attempt failed due to a lack of funding and political disputes between the participating countries. There is currently discrepancy over the level of authority and control of each member country of the coalition. Buhari [insists](#) on controlling the counter-insurgency efforts and recently [announced](#) a US\$ 30 million contribution to the country coalition.

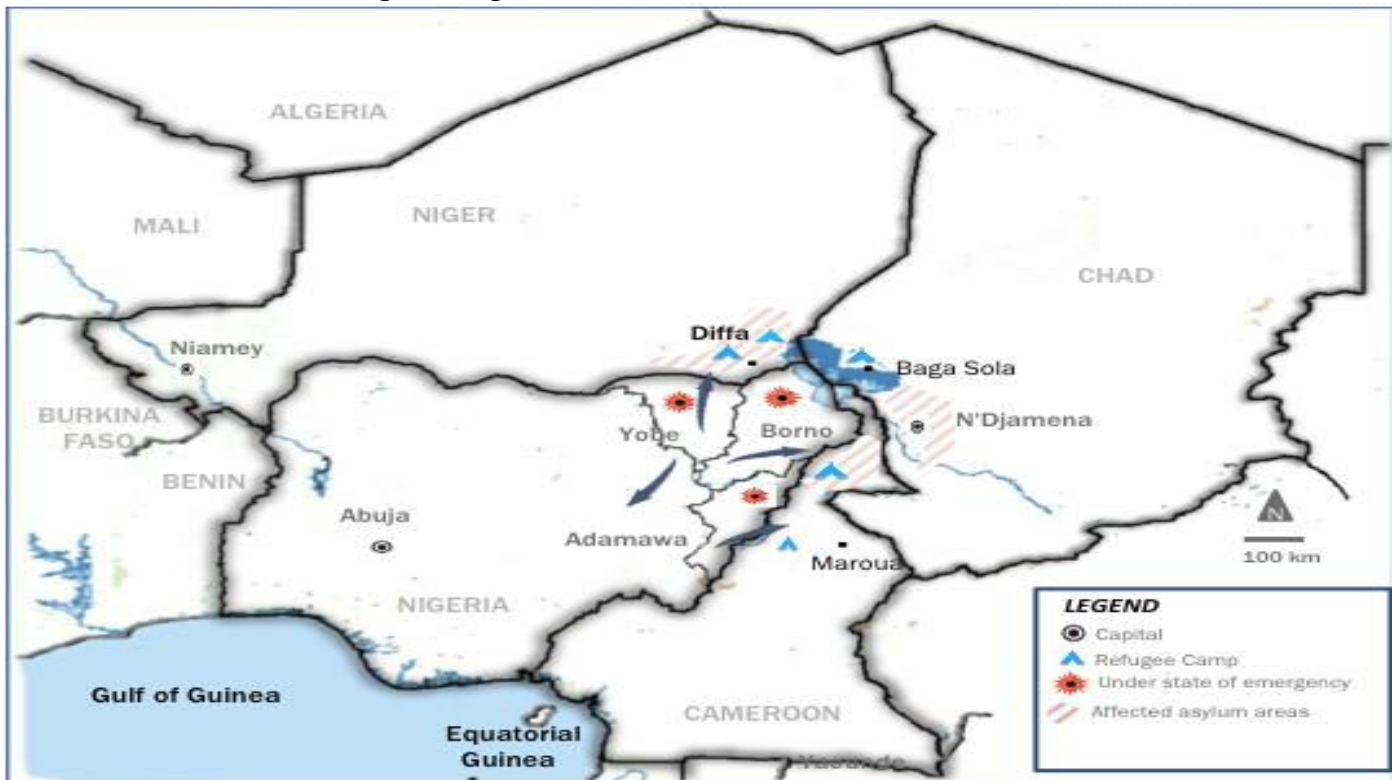
The MJTF comprises around 8,700 soldiers from Nigeria, Niger, Chad, Benin and Cameroon. In mid-August, MJTF has not yet begun its operations, but a significant development has been made as a [Nigerian commander](#), Maj. Gen. Iliya Abbah, was named the head of the MJTF. The country coalition is a positive and hopeful development, as there have been [allegations](#) in the past that Nigeria shares a rather frosty and inefficient relationship with its neighbours, hindering collaborative action.

HUMANITARIAN UPDATES

- The [Global Emergency Overview for August 2015](#) estimates that a total of 9.7 million people are currently residing in 34 areas that have been hit the worst by Boko Haram insurgency. The total population of northeastern Nigeria (24.5 million people) are indirectly affected by the insurgency.
- [IDPs overall](#): 1.6 million. 27% of [registered IDPs](#) do not receive any form of assistance. There are currently 42 official camps and camp-like sites. [UNOCHA](#) (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs): Number of Internally Displaced people in Borno exceeds 1 million as of June 2015. Approximately 200,000 IDPs from Adamawa state returned to their homes but now urgently require food, shelter and health care. [UNHCR](#) (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), as of June 2015, estimates a gap of 83% of their requested funding (which amounts to US\$ 115 million)
- [Overall trend](#): All states, except Borno (where displacement is highest and likely to rise), have witnessed a decline in forced displacement. 80% of total IDPs are from Borno; 7.6% from Adamawa; 6.7% from Yobe. Bauchi, Taraba and Gombe states [require](#) urgent assistance as well. Another dramatic development is the explosion of numbers of displaced Unaccompanied and Separated Children (currently [1.7%](#) of IDPs). 57% of the [total number](#) of IDPs are children, half of them are under the age of five.
- According to [UNOCHA](#), the key priority noted by refugees is food (56%), followed by shelter (12%) and employment (7%). **Presence of international aid and relief agencies is limited** and the Global Emergency Overview [estimates](#) a total of 2.3 million people not having access to humanitarian assistance. For those agencies that are on-site, accessing those who require aid is the most difficult and restricted due to daily attacks. In Boko Haram-controlled territory, assistance is heavily restricted. In territories controlled by the insurgents, up to 80% of infrastructure has been destroyed.

- It is becoming [increasingly difficult](#) for journalists to operate in the area, not only because of general insecurity and daily attacks, but also because Boko Haram has destroyed media and communication infrastructure.
- Continuing and increasing Boko Haram attacks furthermore [disrupt](#) trade and markets and hence deprive local people of their income and threaten their food security and livelihood systems.
- 3.5 million people are in need of [health support](#); health facilities in the northeastern part of Nigeria have either been destroyed or closed, or people do not have access to them. Mortality rates are increasing and Malaria is prevalent in camps.
- Women are particularly vulnerable and in need of protection. Sexual violence and trafficking is a serious problem in refugee camps. In Boko Haram territory, women and girls continue to be kidnapped, raped, trafficked and forcibly married. In the past months, women and children have been increasingly used as [suicide bombers](#) by Boko Haram.
- End of July 2015, Nigeria celebrated its first anniversary without a single case of [polio](#).

Humanitarian Situation in Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad



Source: UNHCR (<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/DiffaSituationOverviewJune2015.pdf>) June 2015

Borno State, Nigeria

There are weekly, often daily, attacks across Borno state, resulting in continuous population displacement. As of August 2015, 1,002,688 people have been Internally Displaced within [Borno State](#) (Adamawa State records around 114,000 IDPs, Yobe State more than 125,000). UNICEF states that IDP numbers in Borno State continued to rise since April 2015. The [Famine Early Warning Systems Network](#) records that only 10% of the total number of displaced people are currently residing in official refugee camps and settlement zones, while the majority found shelter at host families or in other sites of informal settlements. 27% of identified IDPs stated that they have not yet received any form of assistance or support (IOM, [International Organisation for Migration](#)). Out of these 27%, the majority were located in informal settlements (host communities). As of July 2015, there were [22 official camps](#) across Borno state.

The [International Organisation for Migration](#) estimates that 56% of total IDPs are children, and half of that percentage is under the age of five. [UNICEF's funding gap](#) for Borno, Adamawa and Yobe is 51% (almost US\$ 13.6 million received compared to their request of US\$ 26.5 million).

Because of exorbitant levels of insecurity, families have restricted access to their fields and hence agricultural production has been reduced. In addition to this, a poor rainy season is expected for 2015 for northeastern Nigeria. This means that harvest is expected to be well below average, and the [Famine Early Warning Systems Network \(FEWSNET\)](#) warns that in Borno (and Yobe), food security is expected to dramatically decrease over the summer months. FEWSNET classified Borno at "crisis" and "emergency" food insecurity level. The worst affected areas will be the [IDP settlements around Maiduguri](#), "with increased risk for acute malnutrition and excess mortality". Maiduguri is hosting more than half of the total IDP population from Borno state ([IOM estimates](#) almost 655,000 IDPs in the city). Without adequate humanitarian support and assistance, FEWSNET furthermore estimates a potential 3.5 million people without access to basic food needs. [USAID](#) estimates that 30% of the total population in the Maiduguri area are facing global acute malnutrition. [Important trade routes](#) in the northeastern part of the country are disrupted, and currently there is only one partially functioning trade connection between Maiduguri (Borno State) and Damaturu (Yobe State), both locations have been attacked on various occasions in the past months.

The majority of IDPs fled their homes in 2014 (more than 75% of total IDP number), indicating that humanitarian relief assistance needs to be supported by long-term development initiatives for those suffering protracted displacement. Issues of utmost concern in Borno state remain:

- Forced displacement
- Attacks on civilians and freedom of movement
- Gender-based violence
- Child abduction and conscription
- Forceful property occupation/eviction

[USAID](#) furthermore reports that by May 2015, Boko Haram were responsible for the destruction of at least 75 health facilities across Borno state, leaving thousands of people without access to health care. IDP camps in Borno (and Adamawa and Yobe State) currently do not provide adequate hygiene and sanitation facilities.

Diffa Region, Niger

As the Boko Haram insurgency is growing, so is the number of refugees and Internally Displaced People (IDPs). The situation for both of them is, at best, dire – in Niger's southeastern Diffa region alone, more than 150,000 [people lack access](#) to adequate and often life-saving support, including clean water and health care, but also shelter and education. In the past two years, the refugee influx to Diffa has caused the population to increase by one third [in a region](#) that largely depends on foreign aid and is affected by chronic food shortages. In addition to the 100,000 Nigerian refugees who arrived in Diffa, there are [50,000 Internally Displaced People](#) who are now seeking shelter in the area. Because Boko Haram attacks have spilled over into Niger, the government [declared and recently extended](#) (beginning on 24 February) a state of emergency in the whole of the Diffa region, which resulted in a [standstill of Diffa's economy](#), furthermore increasing the vulnerability of its population.

According to [Michel Hulais](#), head of the World Food Programme in Diffa, "*The food situation in Diffa has always been that of chronic shortage. But since the start of recent events that have affected security, this situation has increasingly deteriorated.*" Save the Children estimates that at least 65% of displaced (IDPs, refugees, returnees) do not have adequate access to food and 43% of households urgently require food ([UNOCHA](#)). Even though numerous international humanitarian agencies are on-site (ICRC – International Committee of the Red Cross, WFP – World Food Programme, IRC – International Rescue Committee, CARE), UNOCHA [reported](#) in March that "*due to a lack of resources, the food assistance to displaced people and*

host populations did not cover all the identified needs". Malnutrition rates, especially those of children under five, [continue to deteriorate](#). The [global acute malnutrition rate](#) of Diffa region is 13.8%, as of March 2015.

In addition, more than half of the total displaced population did not find a place of temporary residence in camps or official settlements and "live in makeshift shelters built around trees", [according to the ICRC](#). Host communities offer crucial support and assistance, and the [UNOCHA estimates](#) that each local family is hosting an average of 17 people in their homes. This places a dramatic burden on host communities, as resources are limited.

[Humanitarian Access](#) to the region, in particular areas surrounding Lake Chad, is restricted. In July, the security situation in the Diffa region has further deteriorated and the entire region remains highly insecure as border clashes continue. In May 2015, 27,500 people were [evacuated](#) from Islands of Lake Chad (currently the front-line of fighting between the MJTF and Boko Haram). There have been [attacks](#) on the 14th-15th of July, killing 10 civilians.

Funding for humanitarian assistance is a serious issue, and, according to UNOCHA's Financial Tracking Service, the UN's Strategic Response Plan appeal for Diffa has only been 55% funded. Because of the severe lack of funding for relief and assistance, "the displaced population [survives](#) through the solidarity of the host population".

Far North Region, Cameroon

The Far North Region in Cameroon has always been marginalised and lacked social and economic development, with [80% of the population](#) not having adequate access to basic services such as food commodities. Malnutrition rates among children under five have always been rather high in the Far North Region (pre-Boko Haram) but have [deteriorated](#) since the beginning of the insurgency. The refugee population is putting additional burden on the host population.

The area has recently become a target for suicide attacks on behalf of Boko Haram. In parallel, the increasing numbers of refugees and IDPs contribute to the instability in the area. According to a recent [UNHCR report from early July 2015](#), "spontaneous arrivals" of refugees are currently at 100 people per day, many making their way to Minawao/Gawar camp (about 40 kilometres west from Maroua, the regional capital, which has been [targeted](#) several times by Boko Haram attacks). The camp, which has been established in 2013, runs [over-capacity](#). Constructed for a maximum of 20,000 refugees, it currently hosts almost 45,000. Minawao camp is not adequately funded and currently only 60% of water needs are provided. The very limited number of sanitation facilities makes life in the camp extremely difficult. Health concerns are increasing in the camp, as there are not enough latrines (280) and borehole hand-pumps (30). In April, a [cholera outbreak](#) in the camp left more than 100 people dead, leaving the camp "more crowded and dirty than ever".

While current arrival levels are high, they seem to be decreasing significantly in July compared to the previous month. At the moment, there are around 150-300 [daily arrivals](#), compared to around [400 daily arrivals](#) in April and May (UNHCR). Official statistics put the number of refugees in Cameroon at a little less than 50,000, with a little over 80 000 Internally Displaced Cameroonians. While the majority of registered refugees (around 42 000) live in the Minawao/Gawar complex, IDPs often seek shelter with host families or end up having [nowhere](#) to go but the bush. Birth rates in camps are exorbitantly high. [ECHO](#) (EU Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection) warns that high levels of insecurity severely limit the operations of aid agencies in the Far North Region, including assessment and assistance. Therefore, reliable data on the situation outside the official Minawao camp complex is difficult to obtain. UNHCR, WFP and the national government have agreed on building an [additional camp](#), however funding appeals have been only met by less than one third.

Food insecurity is becoming a life-threatening issue. According to [latest reports](#), more than 70% of farmers in the region have deserted their fields and can no longer perform key agricultural activities (e.g. timely seeding). Last year, production of cereal crops (rice, sorghum, millet) dropped by more than 50%. When

food is available, a dramatic upsurge in price makes it often times impossible for families to supply themselves with enough nutrition. The [growing refugee population](#) often has no other place to “settle” than on former farmland, further reducing food outcome. Hence, for a larger number of people, lower amounts of food are available. IDPs have [reported](#) that the greatest need is for food, water and health care, but also long-term livelihood support.

Lake Chad Region

The Lake Chad Region is a [remote and arid area](#) of Chad. According to [UNICEF](#), the end of June saw a total of more than 48,000 people displaced in the Lake Chad Region – almost 15,000 refugees, about 12,500 Chadian returnees and over 14,000 IDPs, and around 6,400 people whose status is yet pending. In early August, Chadian authorities have relocated around 20,000 civilians from the Lake Chad islands (following Boko Haram attacks in the area), not only depriving people of their homes and livelihoods and increasing their vulnerability, but also putting increased pressure on host societies. The Lake Chad Region is highly sensitive for cholera outbreaks, increasing the physical insecurity of displaced people. The rainy season (in addition to daily threat of attacks) makes humanitarian access difficult, leaving thousands of people without adequate support.

The majority of Nigerian refugees are currently residing in the Dar Es Salam camp (about 7000 people; located outside the town of Bagasola ([UNHCR](#))). Chadian IDPs are mostly residing with host families in the Lake Region. As of mid-July 2015, [UNHCR funding](#) for refugee protection and assistance in Chad has been estimated at US\$ 16.5 million, with currently US\$ 5.4 million met, leaving a significant funding gap.

In addition to increasing insecurity due to Boko Haram violence, people living in the Lake Chad Region are currently affected by dramatic increase in food prices. The [Charter for Food Crisis Prevention and Management \(PREGEC\)](#) estimates a one third price increase compared to average numbers over the last five years.

Updates from Partner states – Bauchi, Kano and Plateau

- As of June 2015, the [International Organisation for Migration](#) estimates the number of IDPs in Bauchi state at 76,504 individuals. 11,278 IDP households form an average household size at 6.8 people. IOM furthermore states that all identified IDPs in Bauchi state live in informal settlements rather than official camp sites (host communities, families and friends).
- In [August](#), floods destroyed more than 400 houses in Bauchi state, and 197 farms submerged. Crops such as rice, corn and millet were washed away and the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) is currently “*working to ensure that relief materials were given to the victims*”.
- On [5th July](#), two explosions hit Jos city, Plateau state, killing between 44 and 51 people. The attacks took place simultaneously in a crowded restaurant and a mosque.

BOKO HARAM INSURGENCY – TIMELINE OF ATTACKS AND RELATED NEWS

February

- [1st February](#): five people killed in suicide attack at a mosque in Gombe Town
- [6th February](#): First raid in Bosso, Niger. On 8th and 10th February, attacks in Diffa took place. Niger declared [state of emergency](#) in Diffa
- [7th February](#): Presidential and legislative elections were postponed for six weeks because of Boko Haram violence
- [12th February](#): attack in Mbuta village (15 miles northeast of Maiduguri), 8 people dead; suicide attack in Biu (100 miles southwest) killed more than a dozen people
- [13th February](#): First attack in Chad; around 30 attackers, estimated 10 deaths
- [14th February](#): large scale military operation by Nigerian army to retake Boko Haram territory

- [15th February](#): teenage suicide bomber killed 16 people in Damaturu, capital of Yobe state
- [20th February](#): Boko Haram shooting at a market near Chibok, 21 people killed
- [24th February](#): 27 people killed in two suicide bombings at bus stations in Potiskum and Kano
- [26th February](#): twin explosions in Biu (north-eastern Nigeria) and Jos (central Nigeria), 35 people dead

March

- [7th March](#): five suicide attacks in Maiduguri killed 54 people. Soon after, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS
- [8th March](#): Forces from neighbouring Niger and Chad began to launch ground and air offensive, mainly targeting Borno state (which has been worst affected by Boko Haram insurgency). One day later, on [9th March](#), troops from Chad and Niger took back the Nigerian town Malam Fatouri from Boko Haram (near the border to Niger)
- [17th March](#): according to Nigerian military, troops reclaimed “small but strategically important” north-eastern city of Bama
- [18th March](#): troops from Chad and Niger took back the city of Damasak (near the border to Niger), which was held by Boko Haram. A mass grave with more than 90 people was discovered
- [27th March](#): Nigeria’s military recaptured the town of Gwoza, Borno state, the “headquarter” of Boko Haram (this is where they declared their caliphate from last year)
- [28th March](#): General election polls opened. 15 voters killed by unidentified gunmen. Muhammadu Buhari [wins presidential elections](#).
- [29th March](#): Boko Haram burned town northeastern town Buratai; 25 people dead

April

- [In April](#), 249 people are killed by Boko Haram attacks; 163 are killed by clashes between Boko Haram and military troops
- [1st April](#): attack in Malam Fatouri, Borno state. 9 dead – all of them Chadian soldiers
- [3rd April](#): Attack at bus station in Gombe, 20 people dead
- [5th April](#): attack in Kwajafa, Borno state; 24 people killed
- [9th April](#): at least 20 people killed in attack in Dile village near Askira Uba in Borno state
- [11th April](#): Boko Haram attack in Cameroon’s Far North region, bordering Nigeria. The attack took place near Dabanga locality, killing 3 civilians.
- [18th April](#): 16 villagers killed in Cameroon and 12 people slaughtered in [Gwoza](#), north-east Nigeria
- [19th April](#): attack in Baga, Borno state, close to Lake Chad, “killing an unspecified number of people”
- [25th April](#): Boko Haram attack on military camp in Dosso, Niger - “many feared death”; At the same time, Islamists retook town of [Marte](#) (border town at Lake Chad)

May

- [2nd May](#): According to the Nigerian army, 234 women and children were rescued from Boko Haram captivity in the Sambisa forest (their stronghold). In total, more than 700 people have been rescued in early May.
- [15th May](#): Marte, a town in Borno state, which has been liberated in February, was retaken by Boko Haram. Prior to that, two attacks in Maiduguri killed 12 people. An attack in the village of Kojiti (Adamawa state) left seven people dead
- [16th May](#): According to the Nigerian Security Tracker, attacks in Damaturu in Yobe State, Madagali and Gombi in Adamawa State and Chibok in Borno that week killed at least 60 people
- [30th May](#): attack in Maiduguri, Borno State, killed 11 people. On the same day, a suicide bombing inside a mosque killed 29 people (also in Maiduguri). A [few hour later](#), a bomb exploded at Gamboru market (Maiduguri), one person killed

June

- [2nd June](#): Attack in Maiduguri (suicide bomb, explosions and gunfire). At least 20 people killed. More than 30 people had died in attacks over the past weekend
- [10th June](#): attack in Huyum, Askira Uba district of Borno State, killed 15 people. Village was burnt, destroying 500 homes
- [18th June](#): Following twin attacks in Chad's capital N'Djamena on 15th June (death toll 38), Chad carried out [airstrikes](#) in neighbouring Nigeria on suspected Boko Haram positions
- [18th June](#): Boko Haram attack in Niger killed 38 people
- [23rd June](#): attack in the village of Yebi, near Bosso, southern Niger. At least 5 people dead
- [24th June](#): attacks in the villages of Debiro Hawul and Debiro Bi in Borno State. At least 40 people dead
- [25th June](#): ground and air offensives by the Niger's military presumably killed 15 Boko Haram militants. This was seen as a [response](#) to a Boko Haram attack the previous day in Yebbi, Niger, leaving five people dead

July

- [1st July](#): Cameroon began to release some of the 84 children (some of them as young as five) who were detained for more than six months after a raid on Koranic schools. According to officials, the schools were used to recruit Boko Haram fighters
- [3rd July](#): Within 48 hours, nearly 200 people were killed in multiple attacks across Borno state. A young female suicide bomber killed 12 in mosque attack in Borno; 50 gunmen attacked the village of Mussa, 25 people killed; *"survivors from three different villages in Borno state that the previous evening left at least 145 people dead and many houses burnt to the ground"*
- [5th July](#): Two explosions in Jos city, Plateau state in a restaurant and a mosque. Death toll rumours vary between 44 and 51
- [11th July](#): bombing at a market in Chad's capital N'Djamena killed 15 people. A day earlier, attack in Ngamdu, village near Maiduguri, killed 11. 11 residents were killed when Islamists [attacked Gamdu tow](#) in Yobe State
- [13th July](#): double attack on Fotokol market, Cameroon. At least 12 people dead. Six people dead in attack on Tetewa Island, Chad
- [14th and 15th July](#): attack on Gamgara, near Bosso, Niger, 10 civilians dead
- [16th July](#): 49 people killed in bomb attack on a market in Gombe city
- [18th July](#): two suicide bombers in Damaturu killed 50 people
- [19st July](#): attack on the northern strip of Cameroon as 80 militants stormed village. 23 people dead. A week earlier, bombs were placed in a local bar in the northern section of Cameroon, 14 villagers dead
- [22nd July](#): twin suicide attacks in Maroua, Cameroon (by two girls under the age of 15) – at least 11 people dead. Bombings at two bus stations in Gombe, north-eastern Nigeria, killed 42 people
- [25th July](#): Nigerian soldiers kill 20 Boko Haram insurgents in Dikwa, Borno State. One day later, 21 people killed in suicide attack in Damaturu, Yobe. On 27th July, 29 killed in Askira/Uba, Borno
- [27th July](#): attacks in three villages on Lake Chad, ten fishermen killed
- [29th July](#): ten people killed in attack on Kukuwa-Gari village, Yobe state
- [31st July](#): explosion in Maiduguri – ten people feared dead

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Amnesty International [Report](#) on war crimes committed by the Nigerian military

Amnesty International [Report](#) on Boko Haram's region of terror in northeastern Nigeria

[Nigeria Security Tracker](#) – documents and maps in detail violence in Nigeria
Previous [HART briefing](#) on Nigeria

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www.hart-uk.org/locations/nigeria*