



BACKGROUND PAPER

Side-event on Response and Recovery towards Durable Solutions

Co-facilitated by the Government of Nigeria, UNHCR and OCHA

23 February 2017. Oslo, Norway

Background

The side-event is aimed at drawing increased attention to the need to provide regional longer-term solutions as people displaced by the protracted conflict in Nigeria's north-east return to their areas of origin from other localities or refuge in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The Boko Haram insurgency and its spill over into neighbouring Cameroon, Chad and Niger have caused the displacement of over **2.3** million people in the region, of whom **1.77** million are internally displaced in Nigeria, while some **201,600** Nigerian refugees have sought asylum in Cameroon, Chad and Niger. The refugee-hosting countries also have sizeable IDP populations (Cameroon: **198,889**; Chad: **103,876**; and Niger: **121,391**). Conflict continues to cause new and secondary displacement. At the same time, spontaneous returns of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and of refugees have been observed in north east Nigeria, including in some newly recovered areas. These returns have not always been voluntary, safe or dignified. Access to food and basic services is considerably limited and often result in negative coping mechanisms. Livelihoods, including from cross-border trade, continue to be severely constrained, and the social cohesion among communities has been badly damaged. The situation is further compounded by the fragile socio-economic context of the Sahel, which includes chronic poverty, harsh climatic conditions, poor infrastructure and limited access to basic services.

Challenges

The search for solutions in Nigeria's north-east is taking place against the backdrop of an environment which presents serious challenges, including insecurity and ongoing conflict. Infrastructure **and access to basic services** have suffered significant damage, while cross-border trade continues to be limited. Those returning have little or no resources to restart their lives owing to the depredations of conflict and prolonged displacement. The vast number of IDPs still remain in host communities with growing needs, risks and vulnerabilities. The UNHCR / World Bank joint assessment "*Forced Displacement by the Boko Haram conflict in the Lake Chad Region*" showed that Boko Haram related forced displacement also has a specific impact on social fabric, socio-economic factors, protection and security in the region and not merely on human needs.

Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities to find solutions to displacement in Nigeria and in the region, including the Government's plan and commitment. There is a growing engagement by development actors, and strong commitment to collaborative, coordinated and joint approaches by both humanitarian and development actors. This coincides with the growing international consensus for a new and comprehensive approach to meet the challenges of displacement that goes beyond addressing immediate humanitarian needs, and to improve the lives of the displaced while seeking to identify durable solutions. The New Way of Working for collective outcomes provides a concrete path to move from providing aid to reducing needs, risk and vulnerabilities, thus contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to Leave No One Behind. This is also in line with related commitments to multi-year planning, localization and the humanitarian-development nexus.

Next Steps

In March 2015, ECOWAS requested the World Bank and UNHCR to jointly produce an assessment on "Forced displacement by the Boko Haram conflict in the Lake Chad Region." The main objective of this assessment was to analyse the impacts of forced displacement caused by the Boko Haram conflict, identify its root causes, come up with recommendations to address the developmental needs in the region and propose a holistic approach in implementing solutions. After extensive research undertaken in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger and a joint World Bank/UNHCR Regional Workshop held in Dakar in May 2016, in which Government delegations, UN partners and other key stakeholders participated, the report came up with a comprehensive roadmap to address both the complex humanitarian

and development needs emerging from the crisis, and to close the gap between humanitarian and development efforts. The deliberations were brought to the next level in National Dialogues organised in Niger and Chad in November 2016. Currently, the World Bank and UNHCR are jointly identifying next concrete steps together with the concerned Governments. The call for a paradigm shift for new approaches to displacement – from meeting people’s needs to achieving a measurable reduction in their risk and vulnerability and improving their ability to become more self-reliant - is a common theme across the World Bank / UNHCR assessment, the new approach to internal displacement and the New Way of Working. As a next step, actors in the region will therefore further discuss how to better link their analytical, planning and partnership frameworks to ensure collective outcomes for the displaced and host communities. Reducing the vulnerabilities of those displaced and host communities over time will also help the displaced to make an informed choice on durable solutions, i.e. return, local integration or settlement elsewhere.

Objectives

1. Highlight the regional aspect of the Boko Haram conflict and its consequences in the Lake Chad Region. Present initiatives, such as the joint WB/UNHCR project, that are already underway in the region, addressing issues such as poverty reduction, inclusive growth, good governance and peaceful coexistence, aimed at providing solutions to protracted refugee crisis, by including refugee populations into national and/or regional development plans.
2. The UNHCR / World Bank joint assessment on the Lake Chad Region came to the conclusion that first of all, finding and implementing durable responses for the Nigeria and Lake Chad Region affected by the Boko Haram conflict, require a shift towards a new paradigm. This coincides with other international policy developments around a new approach to internal displacement and the New Way of Working for collective outcomes to reduce needs, risk and vulnerability. The session will raise awareness for the need for new ways of thinking and working, discuss practical ways on how this paradigm shift can be accelerated and collect views on good practices.
3. Exchange experiences of how countries in the region are considering (or could consider) addressing the challenges of return and recovery.

Format

The hour-long discussion at the side-event will consist of a panel including the High Commissioner for Refugees, Mr. Filippo Grandi; the UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Nigeria, Mr. Edward Kallon; the Governor of Borno State, Nigeria, His Excellency Kashim Shattema; the World Bank, Ms Indira Konjhodzic, the Norwegian Refugee Council, Mr. Jan Egeland, and a discussion with participants focusing on the role of international partners in supporting returns, modalities of forging closer links between emergency response and long-term recovery, ensuring greater involvement of national and local authorities in assisting families restart their lives and that the particular needs of women and girls are addressed. Panel discussions will be led by Mr. Bill Swing, IOM followed by contributions and questions from the floor.

Background documents

- ★ Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan 2017 <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria>
- ★ Nigeria 2017 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP), [Here](#)
- ★ HCT Framework on Durable Solutions for Displaced Persons and Returnees and Operational Checklist
- ★ Protection and Solutions Strategy for the North East Nigeria, UNDP and UNHCR, 2017 (being drafted)
- ★ Summary of Maiduguri Consultation on Solutions Strategy for the North East Nigeria
- ★ Regional Protection Dialogue on the Lake Chad Basin - Abuja Action Statement, 8 June 2016 <http://reliefweb.int/report/nigeria/regional-protection-dialogue-lake-chad-basin-abuja-action-statement-8-june2016>
- ★ Forced Displacement by the Boko Haram Conflict in the Lake Chad Region, The World Bank and UNHCR, June 2016 <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/52535>
- ★ North East Nigeria Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment, June 2016, <http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/brief/recovery-peacebuilding-assessments-fags>
Forcibly Displaced – Towards a development approach supporting refugees, the internally displaced, and their hosts; WB / UNHCR 2016 <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/25016>
- ★ After the World Humanitarian Summit: Better Humanitarian Development Cooperation for Sustainable Results on the Ground (2016) and Addressing Protracted Displacement: A Framework for Development-Humanitarian Cooperation (2015), OCHA, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and the World Bank, supported by the Center on International Cooperation, http://cic.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/final_whs_hdag_thinkpiece_june_14_2016.pdf and http://cic.nyu.edu/sites/default/files/addressing_protracted_displacement_a_think_piece_dec_2015.pdf