Humanitarian Impact of Communal Conflict in Nasarawa State

OCHA and NEMA Assessment Mission to Nasarawa State

From 13-15 September 2013 intercommunal conflict in Nasarawa state left 70 persons killed, at least 500 injured, over 40,000 persons displaced and an estimated 1000 houses burned down. The conflict occurred between the Alago and the Eggon ethnic groups of Nasarawa state affected the following communities; Odobu, Obi and Assakio in Lafia and Obi Local Government Areas.

OCHA HAT and the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) conducted an assessment which included IDP interviews to determine humanitarian needs. A debriefing of the assessment to the Deputy Governor, the Secretary to the State government and the Special Adviser to the Governor on security at the deputy governor’s office in Lafia, OCHA HAT and NEMA representatives expressed solidarity with the affected population and government of Nasarawa state committing to mobilise national and international actors to assist the state government in providing immediate relief and durable solutions to the situation.

The deputy governor thanked OCHA for the mission and assured the UN that the government has adopted a community-based conflict resolution approach to resolve the crisis. He requested the assistance of the UN to build the capacity of state actors vis-à-vis peace education and conflict management. The Deputy Governor, lamented the proliferation of small and sophisticated weapons in Nasarawa state and requested DDR assistance targeted at youth.

OCHA HAT is calling for the security of the over 40,000 displaced persons who are presently sheltered in school buildings and in the confines of the palaces of the Osana of Keana and the Osana of Agwatashi in Keana Local Government Area.
Relocating Communities on Floodplains

Over 2 million Nigerians reside in flood plains

As part of implementing long term solution to flood disasters in Nigeria, the Government of Nigeria is promoting the relocation of communities and populations living on floodplains. Populations in Kogi and Benue states are particularly vulnerable as the states are located along the plains of River Benue and at the confluence between the rivers Niger and Benue respectively. Yobe and Kaduna state are also facing the need to relocate communities in implementing long term flood disaster risk reduction.

OCHA and NEMA conducted a joint assessment in September 2013 in Kaduna state following flooding in Bashama road in Kaduna South LGA, Babban Saura village, Kamazou, Unguwar Barde Juji, Sabon Tasha, Gonin Gora, Trikaniya, Nasarawa, Karatudu Gabas, Gora Sakiya Karatudu, U/Yelwa, Gbagi villa, Sabon Tasha, U/Sunday, U/Boro, and U/Pama. The assessment found that over 10,000 persons have been displaced and 1,297 houses destroyed. The displaced communities that have been requested to relocate told the assessment team that they were willing to move but were not sure where to go.

No national policy currently exists on the relocation of at risk populations, however individual state governments have developed state based policies that address such issues as they arise.

Over 2 million Nigerians reside in floodplains in Sokoto, Kebbi, Zamfara, Kaduna, Katsina, Niger, Kwara, Kogi, Benue, Plateau, Jigawa, Adamawa, Taraba, Cross Rivers, Rivers, Bayelsa, Delta, Imo, Anambra, Edo, Ondo, Ogun, Lagos, Akwa Ibom and Nasarawa states. In June this year, the Federal Government announced that it will be embarking on the mapping and delineation of flood plains in the country, towards reducing the disaster risks in prone areas. NEMA is working with state governments (e.g. in Benue and Cross Rivers) to relocate populations from flood plains.

Over 2 million Nigerians were displaced by the 2012 floods. Many of the displaced have returned to their homes in communities located on floodplains thereby remaining exposed to the risks posed by recurrent floods, namely displacement, disease outbreak and loss of livelihoods.
Education of school age children was affected by the 2012 floods since many school premises were used as IDP camps. To address this, the federal government through NEMA has been supporting state authorities to set up camps as part of its emergency preparedness activities. So far 15 camps have been established in 12 states; Delta (Asaba), Cross Rivers, Kaduna, Zamfara, Bauch, Plateau, Bayelsa (Yenegoa and Igboigne), Oyo, Kogi, Ogun, Kwara and Imo (Oguta).

Update on North East Nigeria

UN presents preliminary findings from a joint mission to northeast Nigeria

From the 15-20 September a joint assessment mission was undertaken by OCHA, FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), and the Nigerian Red Cross to gauge the damage and humanitarian needs in seven northeast states affected by the on-going violence between insurgent group Boko Haram and the Nigerian Armed Forces. The states visited included the three states where a state of emergency (SoE) was declared by the Government of Nigeria in May 2013 (viz. Borno, Adamawa, Yobe) and the surrounding states of Gombe, Bauchi, Jigawa, and Taraba, which have been impacted by the spill over of conflict and displaced persons from the SoE states.

Six Million Affected, three million women and children

The mission found that an estimated 5,973,692 persons have been affected in the SoE states, with Borno experiencing the highest affected population with 4,171,104 affected people; 3 million women and children continue to be the most vulnerable group of the affected population. Urgent needs include food insecurity, WASH and Protection. Human rights violations are on the rise, with children particularly at risk of recruitment to armed groups and separation from their families.

The mission found that humanitarian access was limited in the SoE states but not restricted; continued terrorist attacks on troops have led to the cessation of all development activities and impeded governance structures. It was observed that Local Government Areas under direct military surveillance were particularly difficult to access with a curfew still imposed in most towns outside of Maiduguri (in Borno state); telecommunications is largely unavailable in Borno State with only the use of satellite phones permitted, albeit restrictedly.
Recommendations of the mission underlined as urgent and in need of immediate attention are (1) cash transfers to address high food insecurity; (2) UNCT advocacy with the government of Nigeria towards the release of grains from the national reserve to address high food prices in the SoE states; (3) the provision of WASH services in areas of high IDP population influx; (4) access to basic health care services in communities bordering the SoE states; and (5) increased security along roads leading to and from the SoE states.

The Joint Mission is in the process of finalizing a full report of their findings to be made available in the coming weeks.

A Joint Humanitarian Action Plan for Nigeria

Humanitarian Sectors plan for JHAP Nigeria

Following the 2012 floods which affected 7.7 million Nigerians living in 33 out of 36 states, and caused the displacement of over 2 million Nigerians, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), as part of its commitment to ensuring a coherent, principled and coordinated response to humanitarian challenges in Nigeria sought the assistance of the UN to develop, a Joint Humanitarian Action Plan (JHAP) in collaboration with humanitarian actors across Nigeria.

The JHAP is a platform for the Government of Nigeria and the humanitarian community to address humanitarian crises in the country. It also provides an opportunity for a Government-led consensus building process for an understanding of the drivers of humanitarian issues, while ensuring that the UN agencies and the International community support the Federal Government’s humanitarian responses in a predictable and coordinated manner.

Since July 2013, NEMA and the humanitarian community with the support of OCHA have put in place a robust mechanism to facilitate national, sub-national and sector level consultations towards the development of the JHAP. A JHAP drafting workshop was held on 12-15 September where participants identified five

JHAP sectors’ technical teams at the Sectoral Needs Analysis submission meeting:
Photo by OCHA September 2013
key humanitarian issues in Nigeria including flood, conflict, environmental disasters, health epidemic and malnutrition.
The workshop was attended by sectoral experts from Protection, Health, Nutrition, WASH, Education, Camp Management, Security, Communications, Logistics, and Food Security and Agriculture. These sector representatives are currently developing sector analysis and contributing to humanitarian needs overview for Nigeria.

Public Health

Humanitarian Interventions in Public Health

In 2013 WHO reports that 1,150 suspected Lassa Fever cases with 34 deaths have been reported from 27 Local Government Areas in 14 States. The organisation duly noted that 476 suspected cholera cases resulting in 27 deaths were reported from 18 Local Government Areas in 11 States of Nigeria respectively. Sensitisation campaigns are underway by health officials in the affected states.

UNFPA has provided 85 cartons of reproductive health kits targeted at 200,000 persons and 3,440 dignity kits to health facilities in Adamawa State. The Agency also provided capacity training for high risk communities on Minimum Initial Service Package (MISP) for reproductive health, community sensitisation skills, basic Gender Based Violence (GBV) and HIV in emergencies. UNFPA is strengthening Reproductive Health Commodities Supply (RHCS) and data management in Bauchi and Jigawa states.

Funding Status Overview

More balanced funding needed especially in Protection, Human Rights and Rule of Law

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Country sector/cluster</th>
<th>Requirement (USD$)</th>
<th>Funding (USD$)</th>
<th>Coverage</th>
<th>Unmet Requirement (USD$)</th>
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<td>Nigeria</td>
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<td>1,080,000</td>
<td>76,864</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To date, Nigeria has received 68 per cent (USD$15 million) of the USD$22 million requested. Very slight increases are noted in the different sectors; however, Protection/Human Rights/Rule of Law and Food Security remain seriously underfunded. Additional and more balanced funding is needed to address the pressing needs of Nigeria and to move people out of the crisis.
GA Summit on Humanitarian Champions in Africa

NEMA makes presentations

The African Humanitarian Champions and Partnerships event took place in the margins of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on 25 September 2013. This High Level Event highlighted the rise of African partnerships towards humanitarian action, with a particular focus on the role of public and private sectors and women in humanitarian action. The event offered the opportunity to demonstrate and showcase best practices that are unfolding on the continent and conveyed the changing narrative about Africa’s response to humanitarian situations.

The side event was co-hosted by OCHA and the African Union with Valerie Amos hosting as the USG for Humanitarian Affairs and Zainab Hawa Bangura, SRSG for Sierra Leone; H.E. Aisha Abdullahi co-hosted as the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs. Speaking at the side event were Mr. Sani Sidi, Director General, Nigerian Emergency Management Agency and Ms. Tokunboh Durosaro, Director of the Oando Foundation as official speakers. In attendance were H.E. Salma Kikwete the First Lady of Tanzania; H.E. Mahboub Maalim, IGAD Executive Secretary and Mr. Bekele Geleta, Secretary General of the IFRC.

This was the first African Union-OCHA co-hosted event in the margins of the UNGA, and has provided momentum for the organisation of similar fora in future or African Union Summits. The side event attracted over 130 participants, who came from a diverse group of African Member States, Regional Economic Communities, development partners, UN agencies, private sector, diaspora, civil society, and emerging humanitarian actors.

Themes explored during the side event were (1) Public Ownership and Leadership in Emergency and Disaster Management, (2) National Societies and Communities as First Responders, (3) Private Sector as Partners and Leaders for Humanitarian Action, and (4) Regional Institutions as Norm Setters and Coordinators.

Mr. Sani Sidi of NEMA provided an outline of the various disasters affecting Nigeria, notably the 2012 Floods and lessons learnt for the 2013 flood response, the array of its institutional response mechanisms and frameworks, as well as the various forms of assistance the Nigerian government has provided to other member states towards humanitarian response. Subsequent to this high-level event, NEMA briefed the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) in New York on its various initiatives and dialogue on how it can better partner with IASC members. Both events were able to showcase the capacity of Nigeria to not only respond to its own disasters, but also provide assistance to other Member States. It also enabled NEMA to engage and network with a wider set of humanitarian stakeholders and actors-highlighting potential areas for partnerships.

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