In this issue
Displaced eager to return home P.1
Food security concerns P5
Humanitarians scale up P.6

HIGHLIGHTS
• More than three million people in north-east Nigeria will need urgent food assistance from May to Oct.
• The number of IDPs in the north-east has increased by more than 300,000 over the past two months.
• Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, now hosts half a million IDPs.
• IDPs in Adamawa state are keen to return home before the rains.
• Partners are scaling up their operations in the north-east.

FIGURES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>24.5 m (includes IDPs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In north-east Nigeria affected by insurgency</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of IDPs in the north-east</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of malnourished children under five &amp; pregnant, lactating women in the north-east</td>
<td>1.5 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of food insecure people in north-east Nigeria</td>
<td>4.6 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sources: IOM-NEMA

FUNDING
100 million requested (US$)
15% funded
Source: FTS

Insecurity restricts return of the displaced

The humanitarian situation in north-east Nigeria remains fragile with at least 1,300 people killed by the Boko Haram insurgency so far this year. Humanitarian needs are at a critical level with the conflict having left behind a massive trail of destruction of lives, livelihoods and basic services.

But at the same time as the Nigerian army ramps up efforts to destroy Boko Haram’s stranglehold over pockets of north-east Nigeria, many internally displaced persons (IDPs) have begun exploring their options to return home.

But as Boko Haram engages in skirmishes with army to retain control, particularly in the states of Borno and Yobe, IDPs have been asked to postpone their return to some of the local government authority (LGAs) areas, until security and essential services have been fully restored, according to humanitarian workers.

Internally displaced in north-east Nigeria by state

Map: OCHA, Source: IOM-NEMA
According to the Government, Boko Haram has now largely been confined to Sambisa Forest, which is spread over several northern states, from which they launch sporadic attacks.

Compared to the other states, a larger number of spontaneous returns are being recorded in the predominantly agricultural state of Adamawa, where Boko Haram had control over seven LGAs.

But the returns must not underscore the precarious conditions, most of the IDPs continue to live in, warn aid workers.

Some 9.7 million people live in the 34 worst affected LGAs hosting displaced people. However the entire population of north-east Nigeria of 24.5 million is indirectly affected by the current insurgency that has destroyed markets, schools, infrastructure, limited the free movement of people and businesses.

**Number of IDPs grows in Borno**

The new *Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)* produced by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) shows that the number of IDPs in Borno has increased significantly - by more than 28 per cent since the last assessment in January-February 2015. The total number of displaced in six north-eastern states largely as a result of the conflict in the north-east has risen to nearly 1.5 million from almost 1.2 million in February 2015. The number does not include IDPs elsewhere in the country. The data is based on surveys conducted in LGAs that were accessible.

The DTM analysis reasons that the number of IDPs has increased because violence continues to plague parts of Borno and because Nigerian refugees returning from Niger and Chad (number not confirmed) have been unable to make their way home to LGAs that remain affected by the insurgency. The refugees unable to return home are counted as IDPs.

In the past few days, some 2,000 IDPs fled the towns of Gwoza and Bama to the Borno capital, Maiduguri, according to government sources. Gwoza, (former Boko Haram headquarters) is located near Sambisa Forest. Many IDPs have also postponed their return until the new government assumes office on 29 May to get a sense of the kind of support they will receive when they return home, according to some government officials.
People emerging from confinement

Aid workers say there could be another reason for the increase in the number of IDPs, particularly in Maiduguri, which is now home to the largest number of IDPs (592,272) in Nigeria. Boko Haram had confined women, the elderly and children to their homes in towns such as Gwoza and Bama, which have recently been recaptured by the Nigerian armed forces.

After months in captivity, people have begun to flee to Maiduguri, which has a strong security presence, to access social services such as food aid, clean water and health care - all of which have been destroyed in their home towns and villages, according to aid officials.

The numbers in this third round of assessment by IOM-NEMA are also up because more areas are now accessible and researchers are now able to record IDPs in more LGAs.

Many are traumatized

Many of the IDPs emerging from captivity are severely traumatized and in need of psychosocial help, according to Government officials. Among them are dozens of women and children, who have emerged from confinement imposed by Boko Haram in Gwoza and Bama. Many of them are emaciated and weak. More than half the total number of IDPs in Nigeria are female (52 per cent) and most of them are girls aged below 18, according to the DTM. Children aged less than 18 form 57 per cent of the IDP population, and more than half of them are five years old or younger. Reports indicate that women and girls have been trafficked, raped, abducted and forcibly married.

On 28 April, the army rescued 200 girls and 93 women from Sambisa Forest. Many of them were in need of urgent medical assistance, say government officials. An additional 160 people including women and children were rescued on 30 April.

Humanitarian partners working in the nutrition sector expect a caseload of at least 100,000 severely malnourished children in the formal camps run by the state. Only 10 per cent of the IDPs are in formal sites.

Government authorities are also demining the recaptured areas while also exhuming corpses before allowing communities to move in. Over 100 bodies were discovered in a home in Michika after its recapture from Boko Haram recently.

No other assistance is being provided at the moment.

Concern remains over the existence of mines/IED/UXO in locations where IDPs are planning to return, which needs to be addressed.

Most of the humanitarian community and government assessment teams are challenged by the lack of access to some of the LGAs that border Sambisa Forest because of security concerns, and have to rely on anecdotal evidence to build their situation analysis.

“A strong security presence is needed in vulnerable LGAs such as Michika and Madagali, which border Borno, to instill confidence in returning IDPs”

“A strong security presence is needed in vulnerable LGAs such as Michika and Madagali, which border Borno, to instill confidence in returning IDPs.”

Many of IDPs in Adamawa are like Mrs. Patience Iliya, a 35-year-old mother of four, who wanted to return home prepare her land ahead of the rains next month.

“Many of IDPs in Adamawa are like Mrs. Patience Iliya, a 35-year-old mother of four, who wanted to return home prepare her land ahead of the rains next month.”

Authorities also need more support with medical supplies and life-saving medicines such as antiretroviral drugs in the recently recaptured towns.

“A strong security presence is needed in vulnerable LGAs such as Michika and Madagali, which border Borno, to instill confidence in returning IDPs.”
Many on the move in Adamawa

Undeterred by the lack of services in towns recaptured in the second-most affected state, Adamawa, IDPs have begun to make their way home. Adamawa has the second largest number of IDPs (222,882) after Borno (939,290) and after a long ordeal is relatively safer than its northern neighbour.

The state authorities are still firming up lists of returning IDPs whom they intend to support with construction material, agricultural implements and seeds. Aid workers fear it might be too late for many IDPs returning home already.

The International Rescue Committee has reported that the number of IDPs in some of the sites they work at in Adamawa has halved in recent weeks. The IOM/NEMA team has recorded some of these movements and these will be reflected in the next DTM.

A strong security presence is needed in vulnerable LGAs such as Michika and Madagali, which border Borno, to instil confidence in returning IDPs, according to senior government officials in Adamawa.

The redeployment of civil administration officials in recaptured areas would also trigger the sustainable return of IDPs.

The authorities also need more support with medical supplies and life-saving medicines such as antiretroviral drugs in the recently recaptured towns. Medicines are being supplied by the Nigerian armed forces from their own stocks.

Persistent danger

The return of IDPs has also been stalled in Yobe, which has the third largest number of IDPs (139,591), as sporadic attacks by Boko Haram continue.

On 27 April, 21 IDPs who attempted to return home to Gujba LGA to recover some of their harvest were killed by Boko Haram. Gujba had been recently recaptured from the insurgents, but authorities had warned IDPs against returning yet.

The Local Government Primary Health Care department in Yobe has deployed public health staff to carry out polio vaccination of children under the age of five in the IDP camps. Essential drugs are also being supplied to the formal camps.

The state administration has also begun registering displaced children for a special education programme designed for children in their situation.
At least three million will need food aid

Most of the people in north-east Nigeria are either small farmers or pastoralists. As the rains approach (May-June), the lean or planting season looms.

More than three million people are expected to be in need of food assistance in the north-east in the coming months, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).

Areas likely to be in food crisis until October 2015

Almost the entire population in Borno is expected to be in crisis or Phase 3 of the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) scale, says FEWS NET. Parts of Adamawa and Yobe will also be in crisis through to the main harvest in October 2015.

Despite the recapture of most of the areas by the Nigerian armed forces, the impact of the conflict continues to affect farmers’ access to their land and the functioning of markets within the north-eastern states and cross-border trade.

Food prices are atypically high in Maiduguri, says FEWS NET. According to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), stocks of food with the host community has also depleted considerably. The numbers of meals in a family in the north-east has been reduced since December 2014.

Adamawa considers farm support

While efforts to provide agricultural support in Borno are limited because of security concerns, the state authority in Adamawa is already conducting a survey among the IDPs on the kind of support they would require to farm.

At least 35,000 farming households spread over four LGAs - Michika, Madagali, Hong and Gombi - are in urgent need of agricultural support such as implements, fertilizer and seeds, according to the state’s Ministry of Agriculture. The households’ livestock, stolen by Boko Haram, has to be replenished.
The short-staffed administration is still processing the findings of its survey. It has managed to raise support for 1,000 IDPs with the help of FAO.

The IDPs are to be provided land in safer surroundings in Adamawa.

North-east Nigeria is home to some of the biggest livestock markets in West Africa. Adamawa’s senior officials say the markets are limping back to normalcy, with 45 per cent of IDPs returning home in the state.

FAO has warned that some of the areas are already in crisis. IDPs in southern and eastern Borno, north Adamawa and southern Yobe are already in IPC Phase 2 and 3 (stressed and crisis level).

Planning for the distribution of food aid is also underway.

With the help of funds from the Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF), FAO and partners, Oxfam, Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI) and Adamawa Peace Initiative, will provide food aid to targeted households with most of the assistance to be distributed in Borno from May through to July, covering three of the four months of the lean season.

### Food aid distribution by UN and partners (May-July)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>States</th>
<th>Number of people</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Borno</td>
<td>24,914</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adamawa</td>
<td>12,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yobe</td>
<td>12,456</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>49,828</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Households will receive a monthly food basket for a period of three months adequate to meet the daily dietary needs for a household of seven members at 2009Kcal/person/day.

In addition, the International Committee of the Red Cross has started a larger food distribution programme targeting the most vulnerable in host communities.

### Humanitarians to maximize their operations

The insurgency in the north-east has led to enormous needs. Since May 2013, the north-east states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe have been under a state of siege due to the conflict.

Both Government and humanitarian organizations within the country have had to keep pace with the rapid rise in the number of IDPs, which jumped from less than half a million in December 2014 to 1.2 million in February 2015.

Since May 2013 nearly 200,000 people have fled to neighbouring Cameroon (74,000), Chad (29,000) and Niger (102,000).

### Enormous strain on local population

Internally displaced people from this crisis largely seek refuge among host communities, the latter reporting serious strains on already scarce resources.

Basic services- notably schools and health facilities- were destroyed by insurgents. More than 300 schools have been severely damaged or destroyed in the north-east.

The Government has been leading the response by focusing on providing assistance to the displaced in official camps, which house 10 per cent of the total IDPs.

Local NGOs have been providing support to the majority of the IDPs, who live in communities and informal settlements, with some support from INGOs.
Humanitarians scale up

The support has been inadequate and the resources strained. Members of the humanitarian community have now stepped in to scale up their operations to prevent a critical situation from deteriorating.

The number of NGOs in the north-east has risen from nine in 2014 to 24 in 2015.

Urgent need to improve conditions of IDPs

One of the most critical issues in the ongoing process of returns is that accountability to the affected population is addressed. Humanitarian partners are therefore working with the Government to ensure that IDPs are fully involved in the planning and implementation of their own return (as currently is the case in Adamawa state), which includes better communication with communities to enhance the ability of the IDPs to take informed decisions while planning their returns.

The partners want to ensure that the Guiding principles on Internal Displacement are respected, and that any returns should be voluntary, safe and dignified.

OCHA is concentrating on providing operational support to the State Emergency Management Agency in the various affected states and to NEMA at the federal level to help coordinate the humanitarian response.

Health and shelter sectors have received no funding so far

Adamawa Peace Initiative organized a food aid distribution in Yola in early April. The distribution was funded by OCHA’s Emergency Cash Grant.

Credit: OCHA/Nick Horne

OCHA is also supporting the SEMA and NEMA in enhancing information management services, which will lead to better data quality and improved data and situational analysis.

This in turn will lead to better needs assessment and gap analysis to allow for targeted and prioritized humanitarian response.

Aid actors need significant amounts of funding to provide basic services to IDPs who continue to live in dire conditions. As most of the IDPs are living with host communities, who are often too poor to support them or have themselves been affected by the conflict.

Less than 40 per cent of health facilities in conflict-affected areas are operational and lack of adequate water and sanitation and increasing malnutrition are of concern.
In the nutrition sector, partners delivering life-saving assistance have exhausted their supplies. The $100 million ask for the Strategic Response Fund in support of the overall humanitarian response has only received 15 per cent funding.

While the food security sector is 33 per cent funded, health (0 per cent), shelter, non-food items (0 per cent), nutrition (10 per cent), protection (14 per cent) and water and sanitation (13 per cent) remain very poorly funded, severely constraining relief efforts on the ground besides the issue of lack of access to insecure LGAs.