Situation Overview

The security situation in northeast Nigeria remains volatile impacting on access to population caught in the conflict between insurgents and the government forces. Attacks on communities in the northeast Nigeria have been occurring at nearly a daily pace since January 2015, with an increasing degree of violence and humanitarian consequences. The situation is continuously evolving as insurgents amend their attack strategies to include the capturing of towns.

Fierce fighting that started on January 23 continues for the fourth day as the military battles to reclaim the captured town of Monguno from Boko Haram insurgents. The challenges to recovering the town, according to the military, are directly related to "desert terrains and the inability of the fighter-jets to effectively operate after sunset in a hazy atmosphere for clearer visibility."

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has registered over 8,000 IDPs who managed to make the 140 kilometers journey from Monguno to Maiduguri.

Between January 3 to 7 2015, Boko Haram insurgents attacked Baga town and its environs, in Borno State, burnt down hundreds of houses and killed indiscriminately. An estimate of those killed remains unknown, although the Government of Nigeria has placed the figure at 150 persons. According to an Amnesty International satellite report, over 600 houses are projected to have been burnt down in the attack. The situation is further exacerbated by isolated incidences in which female children, some as young as ten years old are increasing being used as suicide bombers.

Highlights

- Attacks on communities in the northeast Nigeria occurring at nearly a daily pace since January 2015.
- Approximately 981,416 people displaced across the country of which more than 90% are located in the Northeast states.
- Households in areas worst affected by insurgency in the Northeast to face acute food insecurity, from January to July 2015 according to FEWS NET.
- Humanitarian Partners finalize electoral risk preparedness plan targeting 1.8 million people for response.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Number of IDP Camps being managed by NEMA</td>
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<tr>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>Children at risk of severe malnutrition (UNICEF)</td>
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<td>600</td>
<td>Houses razed down in Baga by Boko Haram (Amnesty Intl.)</td>
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<td>981,416</td>
<td>est. IDPs in Nigeria (NEMA)</td>
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<td>540 MT</td>
<td>Relief Items to Nigerian Refugees in Cameroon, Niger and Chad (NEMA)</td>
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The attack in Baga and Doron Baga, resulted in a massive exodus of residents from Keikenu, Budur, Yoyo and Mile 90 communities in Borno State. The displaced persons who are moving out of fear of possible attack by insurgents are reported to be moving to Monguno enroute Chad, Niger or Maiduguri. The four communities which host about 10,000 people lie 40 kilometers south of Baga.

A little over two weeks after the Baga incident, on January 25, the insurgents launched a simultaneous attack on Maiduguri and Mongunu in Borno State. The invasion on Maiduguri through the Njimtilo area began just after midnight and that on Mongunu later in the morning. According to local sources, up until 11 a.m., shelling and loud explosions were heard with military helicopters circling the Maiduguri metropolis. A 24 hour curfew was imposed as Nigerian troops and the civilian Joint Task Force repelled the attacks.

The frequent attacks on Maiduguri puts the over half a million IDPs in the town at risk and in a more precarious situation. About 8,000 IDPs from Monguno are being offered food and non-food items as well as psychosocial support by humanitarian partners in Maiduguri.

On Monday January 26, Michika Local Government Area in Adamawa State was reportedly attacked by the insurgents. A joint force of the military and civilian joint task force are responding to repel the insurgents from taking control of the town and its environs. About nine civilians were killed and several houses were burnt down. Hundreds of people living in the affected communities fled to the surrounding hills and forests. Michika has witnessed several attacks from the insurgents since 2014.

Multinational forces led by Chadian troops on January 29, dislodged the insurgents from the Nigerian border towns of Kingallam in Kukawa Local Government Area and Malam Fatori in Abadam Local Government Area after two days of heavy fighting. Thousands of displaced persons fleeing the conflict are reported to have fled to Bosso and Diffa in Niger Republic and Maiduguri, the Borno state capital.

The African Union (AU) has endorsed a plan for a regional task force comprising of a 7,500-man army to the insurgents. The decision was taken at the AU Peace and Security Council (PSC) session on January 29. Earlier in the month, Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad and Benin had urged AU to seek UN Security Council mandate for a multinational force.

State of the IDPs

According to NEMA as at January 15, 2015 there are 981,416 IDPs in Nigeria of which 868,235 are in the North East. While 107,997 IDPs are in camps in Adamawa, Yobe, Gombe, Bauchi and Taraba states, 802,148 are being hosted by communities. 66,087 of the number are people displaced by natural disasters.

NEMA in conjunction with the State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAs) currently manages 22 IDPs camps in the northeast. The majority of IDPs live in informal settlements or settlements within host communities. Many of them are hosted by private individuals who opened their homes to IDPs in an impressive solidarity effort. Nevertheless, some of these temporary living arrangements lack sufficient access to food, water and sanitation, health and Non-food Items.

Food Security

Many IDPs abandoned their farms and agricultural activities out of security concerns due to insurgency. According to the alert, IDP host families have reportedly exhausted their food stocks and have resorted to eating grain reserved as seedlings for the next planting season.

Household food stocks are significantly below average and incomes are declining since the conflict has interrupted off-season livelihood activities and the seasonal increase in labor demand. This trend is expected to persist until September 2015. Food access and markets have also been adversely impacted by the insurgency and the periodic border closings with neighboring Cameroon.

Over 8,000 IDPs that have fled the ongoing fighting between insurgents and the Nigerian military are receiving food assistance from NEMA. According to the FEWSNET food security alert of January 2015, as much as three million Nigerians living in the north-eastern states of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa risk being unable to meet their basic food needs by July 2015.
Most of the north east is currently facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) acute food insecurity. NEMA reports that the conflict in the northeast has strained the teeming number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in the area, who in turn have reverted to negative and unsustainable coping strategies.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has established two new camps in Maiduguri to accommodate the recent influx of IDPs from Baga, Monguno, Abadam and Konduga after Boko Haram attacks in the area. This brings the number of camps in Maiduguri metropolis to 12 and the total number of recognised camps in the north east to 22.

The new camps located at the Madinatu Muslim League hosts an estimated 2,000 IDPs from Baga and surrounding communities and Mohammed Goni College of Islamic and Legal Studies hosting about 1,500 IDPs from Mobbar community. With the latest addition, the numbers of IDPs in established camps in Maiduguri have risen to 108,473. The population in other IDP camps have also witnessed slight increases; Government Girls Secondary School, Biu (4,93), Government College, Maiduguri (18,011), Teachers Village (6,558), Christians Association of Nigeria (CAN) Secretariat, Maiduguri (26,576), Sanda Kyrarimi (5,340), NYSC camp (6,608), Arabic Teachers College (17,331), Women Teachers College (4,164), Government Girls College (14,148) and Yerwa Government Secondary School (5,839).

Funding for activities in the Nigeria Strategic Response Plan (SRP) fell 71 per cent in 2014 compared to 2013. In 2014, donors provided US$16 million out of the US$93 million requested (17 per cent) for humanitarian activities in Nigeria through the SRP, down from US$19.4 million provided out of the US$22 million (88 per cent) requested in 2013.
To support Nigeria’s electoral contingency planning, OCHA has been working with National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA)s, relevant government ministries, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Civil Society groups, NGOs and the United Nations to map required capacities and gaps in 15 states, in the context of electoral risk preparedness. The Electoral Risk Preparedness Plan estimates that about 1.8 million people are likely to be affected through displacement by electoral violence in the upcoming elections.
The Humanitarian Country Team has prioritized the strengthening of the sectors for appropriate, effective, efficient, and coherent delivery of humanitarian services in the light of increasing insurgency. A Coordination Capacity Matrix has been set up to support coordination of the nine sectors led by government agencies and co-led by the UN.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) on Thursday January 29, delivered 540 metric tonnes of assorted relief items including food items and non-food items approved by the Federal Government to Nigerian refugees in the Republic of NIGER who are taking shelter in different locations in the Diffa region. The refugees had fled as a result of recent attacks by Boko Haram insurgency in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States.

The Red Cross Movement is supporting the Nigerian Red Cross (NRCS) with improved emergency response strategies and equipment. Over 200 Red Cross volunteers in the north east have been trained and its warehouses have been stocked with contingency relief items. The Nigerian Red Cross is actively engaged in CCCM activities at the camps as well as awareness campaigns as part of its emergency preparedness

North East Information and Data Collection

To strengthen information gathering particularly in the area of disaggregation of data of affected population in the north east, NEMA and IOM initiated a DTM project to support the Government of Nigeria in establishing a comprehensive system to collect and disseminate data on IDPs by strengthening the capacity of State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) offices, Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and other partners in the field to undertake IDP assessments in a unified and systematized manner. The DTM assessments were carried out by Local Government officers, SEMA and NRCS staff from October to December 2014 and cover Adamawa Bauchi, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe States. This report encompasses both the data collected through the assessments conducted in all Local Government Areas (LGAs) and wards where IDP presence has been reported either in camps or in host communities and the results of the camp profile exercises conducted in the sites identified in Adamawa State.

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