

# ICRC IN NIGERIA

JANUARY - JUNE 2019



*“The best way to counter the long-term impact of protracted armed conflicts, violence and hatred, which can affect whole generations, is to prevent violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law. At the heart of IHL lies the protection of civilians, of detainees, of the wounded and sick, and others not participating in hostilities. It is this shared humanity that gives IHL its relevance, its legitimacy, and its universal sense. Use your power to ensure that war has limits – every day, in every armed conflict, and for everyone – because wars without limits are wars without end.”* Eloi Fillion, ICRC Head of Delegation for Nigeria.

While the armed conflict in the North-East has been ongoing for years, the protection of the life and dignity of people not taking a direct part in hostilities is just as topical as ever. In the Lake Chad region, suffering is often wrongly seen as an inevitable consequence of the armed conflict, when in fact it is frequently a violation of international humanitarian law. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has pursued its dialogue with a range of influential stakeholders to promote compliance with this law and close the existing implementation gap. So that commitments can be even more often followed by concrete actions in order to profoundly influence behaviours on all sides.

During the first half of this year, the upsurge of attacks led tens of thousands of people to flee, once again, and to settle within host communities or overcrowded camps. In Maiduguri, the Teachers village camp for instance, built to accommodate a maximum of 10,000 persons, was host to more than 30,000 displaced persons by the end of February 2019. Along with other humanitarian actors, and in partnership with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), the ICRC has supported an emergency assistance for the newcomers in Monguno and Maiduguri, delivering food, cash assistance, essential household items, improving hygiene conditions –

including access to water – as well as building shelters.

In parallel, the ICRC has continued to support coping mechanisms for host communities and displaced people. Over 290,000 people in the North-East were supported for agricultural activities during the rainy season. They received a mix of staple seeds (maize, millet, rice, cowpea, hibiscus, sesame) and vegetable seeds (sweet pepper, okra, water melon, hot pepper). Similarly, to improve in a sustainable way the provision of water in Maiduguri, the ICRC in collaboration with the State Ministry of Water Resources, has developed the infrastructures of Alhamduri water plant, that now provide water to 80,000 people.

During the same period, other regions in Nigeria faced humanitarian problems. In the North-Central, clashes between communities (“farmers” versus “herders”) has continued to generate large displacements of populations, and disrupted crop farming activities as well as the coverage of veterinary services for cattle. In the South-South, victims of urban violence, communal clashes and people who fled Cameroon remain also of big concern. The ICRC has focused on building the resilience of the affected persons through a community-centered approach, that puts affected communities at the center of the design of the humanitarian response.

## PROMOTING RESPECT OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

Firmly convinced that better respect of international humanitarian law improves the fate of people affected by the armed conflict, the ICRC has developed a range of activities to reach out to the actors of influence on the issue. It helps at various levels, for the integration and implementation of IHL, so that States can fulfil their commitments under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other treaties of international humanitarian law.

 **2,000** WEAPON BEARERS

Over **1,500** personnel of the Armed Forces of Nigeria attended sessions on IHL/International human rights law in their training institutions, and IHL was introduced at the Defence Academy with the support of the ICRC. Over **530** personnel of the Police attended sessions / seminars on standard for law enforcement operations and/or other IHRL issues.

 **3,400** PEOPLE

Over **3,400** people in areas affected by the armed conflict or other situations of violence attended sessions on humanitarian principles, the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, as well as the red cross emblem. Among them were **2,500** people displaced, **240** weapon bearers, **230** community leaders, **190** health personnel, **185** NRCS members and **115** civil society members. ECOWAS Community Court of Justice members improved their understanding of IHL during a workshop organized by the ICRC.

## RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND BUILDING SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

Food, water, shelter and systems for sustainable livelihoods are essential needs for persons directly affected by the armed conflict and other situations of violence. The ICRC in partnership with the NRCS, is supporting people displaced and host communities to meet their basic and most urgent needs, while also offering them, as soon as the conditions allow, resources and training to rebuild their lives.



 **640,000** PERSONS

Over **423,000** people who had been displaced or from the host communities, received staple crops seeds. Among them, over **245,000** persons were from the North-East (of whom over **150,000** in Borno and over **86,000** in Adamawa), and **112,000** in the North-Central (of whom over **42,000** in Benue and **42,000** in Plateau).

Over **420,000** persons received food assistance and/or cash relief for food. Among them, over **402,000** persons were from the North-East (of whom over **319,000** in Borno, and over **66,800** in Adamawa). Some of them also received the staple crops seeds mentioned above.

Over **73,000** displaced persons, mainly in Borno (over **65,000** people) but also in Benue (over **5,700** people) and Kaduna received essential household items comprising of solar lamps, kitchen sets, blankets, wrappers, buckets, mosquito nets and hygiene materials.

**271** persons benefitted from training on livestock care and growth in Maiduguri (**183** people), Kano (**54** people) and Jos (**34** people). Over **7,000** vulnerable people benefitted from vocational training or cash for livelihood, that helped them to launch and/or support their income generation activities. Among them, over **4,300** were from Port-Harcourt and **2,700** from Damaturu.

 **1600** SHELTERS

Temporary shelters were built for newly displaced people in Borno including **1,000** in Maiduguri Stadium Camp, **300** in Gubio and **300** in Monguno. Roofing materials were also provided to over **1,100** households in Rann to help them rebuild their shelters.

 **296** WATER POINTS

**296** water points (including solar-powered water schemes) were constructed / rehabilitated for IDPs and residents in rural areas including Monguno, Gubio and Mubi. In addition, over **200** latrines were constructed to improve sanitation in IDP camps and rural areas.

## MAKING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBLE

Access to physical and mental health care remains a challenge in the North-East and other places covered by the ICRC. In Borno, most of the health care centers have either been damaged or dramatically lack qualified personnel. In hard-to-reach areas, the ICRC has relied on a community-based approach to ensure the continuity of services in the primary health care centers supported with drugs and equipment. Surgical care for weapon wounded continues to be offered at Maiduguri hospital with ICRC staff support, as well as the physical rehabilitation services at the National Orthopedic Hospital Dala, Kano state. Psychosocial support is provided at Maiduguri hospital and at community level for victims of violence, as well as helpers.


 **129** PERSONS

129 persons with disabilities from Kano and Maiduguri, accessed physical rehabilitation services which enhanced their integration back into the society.

82 physiotherapy sessions, 81 crutches, 119 prostheses and orthoses were fitted and delivered.

 **258,000** PERSONS

More than 258,000 persons accessed health care across 20 ICRC supported primary health/ health posts centres while over 735 patients were referred to secondary health care facilities.

 **37,850**  
CHILDREN  
VACCINATED

37,850 children of under 5 years old received vaccines while over 7,550 children were fully immunized.

 **440** PERSONS

448 persons wounded by weapons were taken care of by the ICRC surgical team at Maiduguri state specialist hospital.

 **52,000** WOMEN

Over 40,800 pregnant women had access to quality antenatal care. More than 11,200 pregnant women delivered at ICRC supported facilities aided by trained traditional birth attendants.



## REUNITING SEPARATED FAMILY MEMBERS

In situations of armed conflicts, family reunification is a right under international law. The national authorities have the primary responsibility for reuniting separated families following conflict, disaster or other situations of humanitarian need. The ICRC, in collaboration with the NRCS, helps reunite family members mainly in situations related to armed conflict and other situations of violence.

 **21,000** PERSONS

At the end of June, over 21,000 persons are still looked for by the ICRC, following tracing requests made by families. During the first semester of 2019, over 180 new tracing requests were received by ICRC.

 **286** PERSONS FOUND

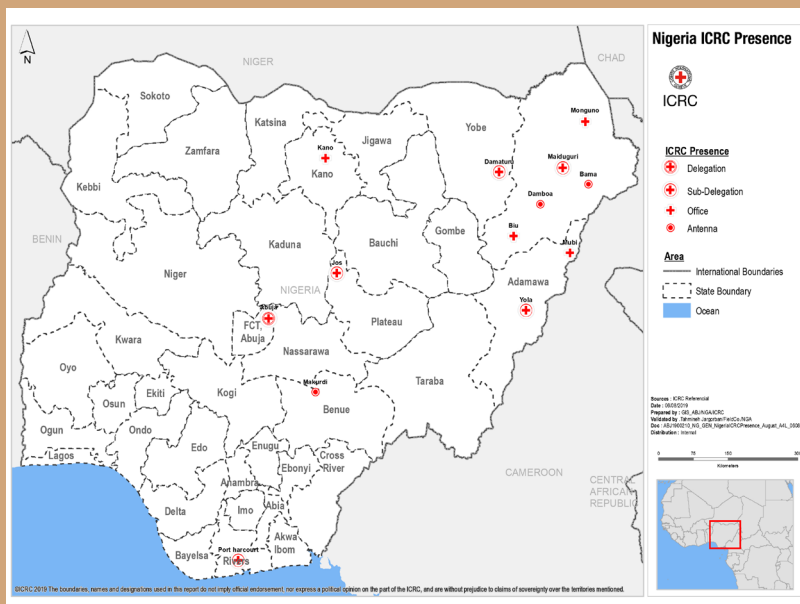
286 persons whose relatives had lost contact with, were found or their whereabouts clarified by the ICRC and the NRCS. 44 minors or vulnerable adults were reunited with their families. Over 800 Red Cross Messages were exchanged between separated relatives.

## DIGNITY OF DETAINEES




Detainees in general, and detainees arrested in connection with the armed conflict or other situations of violence, are regularly visited by ICRC staff, who engage with them in private. The ICRC maintains a confidential and bilateral dialogue with the detaining authorities on issues related to their living conditions and treatments, using notably the Nelson Mandela Rules as reference. These visits also allow detainees to maintain or re-establish links with their family through the Red Cross messages.

 **22,400** DETAINEES VISITED

22,400 detainees were visited in 21 places of detention, including over 7,200 who have been follow-up individually. 37 detentions visits have been carried out. 1,600 Red Cross Messages exchanged in detention.



**ICRC Abuja**  
5 Queen Elizabeth Street  
Asokoro District, FCT  
P.M.B 7654  
T +234 810 709 5551/2  
abuja@icrc.org  
[www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)  
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### About the ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.