



ICRC

# ICRC RESPONSE TO COVID-19

## NIGERIA, MARCH-APRIL 2020



*Some two million people are displaced in the North-East of Nigeria. Many have been displaced more than once and had to leave everything behind when they fled their homes. Prolonged displacement undermined their resilience and if the global pandemic reaches these communities, the consequences could be devastating. At the same time, the ongoing armed conflict in the North-East continues to wreak havoc on people's lives.*

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continues to respond to the humanitarian needs of the ongoing armed conflict and other situations of violence, while adapting its activities to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Moreover, the ICRC joins the efforts of the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), the authorities and other humanitarian actors to curb the spread of the virus.

- **Weapon-wounded patients** continue being treated by ICRC surgical team in Maiduguri, with additional **measures put in place to identify potential COVID-19 cases** and minimize the risk of the spread of the infection. ICRC installed a triage tent at the entrance of the Maiduguri State Specialist Hospital and increased the space between the beds at its surgical ward to ensure sufficient physical distance between the patients.
- ICRC supported Borno State health authorities in setting up the **isolation center** for treatment of COVID-19 patients at Maiduguri General Hospital.
- Women and young children from violence affected areas continue to represent the vast majority of the patients at the **18 primary healthcare facilities** supported by ICRC with human resource incentives, drug supplies and prevention initiatives.
- Internally displaced people and local communities have received accurate information on COVID-19 via **radio programs, posters and social media content** developed with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) in **Shuwa Arab, Kanuri, Hausa and English**.

- The ICRC continues to improve **access to shelters, hygiene facilities and clean water** for displaced people. Improving living conditions and ensuring proper hygiene and access to clean water is one of the key strategies to prevent the spread of COVID-19. NRCS volunteers have been spreading the information on COVID-19 using public speakers in 37 IDP camps with ICRC support. Over 12,500 households in IDP camps received soaps.
- The ICRC continues to **support livelihoods** for the most vulnerable communities through cash grants, seeds and tools distributions, at the time when these communities suffer the economic consequences of the pandemic.
- **Detainees** received **hygiene items** from the ICRC. Furthermore, the **detaining authorities** have been supported by the ICRC to enhance preventive measures against the spread of COVID-19, with guidelines and best practices, notably on medical screening procedures, training of detention health staff and delivery of handwashing stands and information posters.
- Following 10 written and numerous oral demarches towards political authorities, armed and security forces as well as aviation authorities, the ICRC could get exemptions from the restriction of movement put in place by the Nigerian authorities at federal and State levels. The exemptions granted to ICRC vehicles, ICRC aircraft, as well as its helicopter located in the North-East, are crucial to move teams and goods and pursue essential humanitarian activities.
- Various tools were developed to support the Nigerian authorities preparing for - and responding to - the COVID-19 outbreak. In particular, general guidelines on preparedness and response to COVID-19 in places of detention - providing practical information on measures to be taken by detaining authorities - were sent to the Nigerian Army, Police as well as Correctional Service. In addition, as restrictive measures are enforced by the authorities (such as lockdowns and State border closure) general guidelines were sent to the Nigerian Army and Police to remind them of their obligation to comply with relevant international rules and standards. A short video presentation was filmed to sensitize the Nigeria Police Force on the necessity of enforcing the COVID-19 related restrictions using non-violent means first and avoiding excessive use of force.

Finally, as the conflict in the North-East intensified, a summary of key IHL safeguards and recommendations during the pandemics was sent to the Nigerian Army, the Department of State Security Services, the Nigerian Human Rights Commission, as well as the Nigerian Emergency Management Agency, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs and the members of the National IHL Committee. A short video summarizing the applicable rules was prepared and will be sent to the Nigerian Army (virtual training).



Essential assistance to displaced people continues, adapted in accordance as per health guidance. In March and April, over 60,500 people received cash or in-kind assistance in Cross Rivers, Plateau and Borno States. People were served in small groups (20 to 40) at different timeslots and with respect to social distancing norms. Hand washing stations were set up at the distribution sites.



The ICRC supports **Kirikiri Maximum Security Custodial Center in Lagos** with a soap production project. Forty inmates and prison staff learnt technical skills and received raw materials and bottles that enabled them to produce hygiene products for detention facilities across the country.



Personal and collective hygiene items such as soaps and washing powder have been distributed to 5 places of detention, for a total of **7,500 detainees**. 2,000 COVID-19 information posters in English, Hausa and Kanuri were delivered and 16 handwashing stands installed in various detention facilities.



In the **State Specialist Hospital of Maiduguri**, the ICRC set-up a "fever clinic" to facilitate the triage of COVID-19 patients at the entrance of the hospital.



In 2019, over **417,000 displaced** people benefited from improved access to water and hygiene. Urban Water project in Maiduguri provides water to **90,000 people**.

**Me zaka iya yi don ganin ka kare kanka da sauran al'umma daga kamuwa da cutar korona?**

1. A labafatar am bi umumin zama a gida idan hukuma ta bukaci
2. A tsammi wako kasoma da rona da shuka - wannan sai taimaka don rufe sassa cececeka kamar saazabin lassa
3. A kiyoyi yawan taba fuka
4. A niwanci kusan al'umma na kusa da shuka mita
5. Yi tafi ko saifinasa a guntar hukumu ko tsakadar France majalis, wa zama a yi jirgajirgan jirga da a kwallin shara

Kungiyar ICRC na taimakawa don a yaki cutar korona ta hanyar ilmantar da al'umma da kuma taimakawa mutanen da ke cikin mummunar yanayi

**Jiriyi-ro shi Kwasa Corona virus y3 ad3 tar'tin?**

- Sandoni njihibu kanz3 au chi kam doni kwasa d3 sha s3tama y3-m3n.
- A'gaima tar'ten sa nya kam' da l3t3wnya au na'a l32na so nyi-y3 l3n3miya.
- Shi Kwasa ad3 nduso-wa s3fain, taji shima Sna kemye ndau yayi, hta ndason yayi au addin ndason yayi.

Shi Karapka ICRC y3ad3 kila'ja'mi y3 fata-mben kwasa coronavirus y3da baru d3yoro ba'na sidin kuru ja'mi duno ngana' a bana futa'm3n.

**If you have symptoms of the novel coronavirus, such as:**

**Fever**      **Cough**      **Shortness of Breath or Difficulty in breathing**

**You should:**

- Isolate yourself at home
- Call the NCDC Toll free No 08009700010
- Wait to get tested and then for the result

The ICRC is helping the fight against coronavirus through public education and increase in support to vulnerable populations.

Posters, social media content and radio programs have been developed with the NRCS in local languages.