



ICRC

FACTS & FIGURES

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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

Armed conflict and violence in Nigeria continue to create dire humanitarian needs following massive displacements of the population. The conflict in the country's north-east, which has spilled over to neighbouring countries, left millions in need of humanitarian assistance, while sporadic violent clashes and urban violence in the Middle Belt and Niger Delta continue to create fear among affected people.

In Nigeria's north-east alone, almost two million persons have been displaced from their homes – some of them more than once - and close to **70%** of the displaced have been received by local communities that lack resources to sustain them. Many have lost contact with family and are trying to find out the whereabouts of their loved ones. Food remains one of the most urgent humanitarian needs of these people and of those who have returned home, while insecurity and the proliferation of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) prevent farmers from producing crops for consumption and earning income. IEDs also obstruct humanitarian access. A sustained humanitarian access is critical for keeping the food crisis from escalating, especially if the ongoing insecurity should cause new waves of displacement. People returning to their original communities also require continued humanitarian assistance to rebuild livelihoods.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) continues working with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and community volunteers towards ensuring that the most basic needs of people affected by armed conflict or violence are met.

In January, six NRCS aid workers who were preparing a food distribution lost their lives in an airstrike on Rann, Borno state, while **14** others were injured. Despite this tragedy, the ICRC with the help of the local community distributed food to more than **25,000** persons in Rann, less than a week after the airstrike. The ICRC discussed humanitarian consequences of this event with relevant authorities with the aim to prevent its repetition.

We are extremely worried about the situation of the many displaced people located in areas which remain inaccessible to humanitarians due to the prevailing insecurity.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE & LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Farming has been inconsistent in many areas of the north-east, and the lack of food remains one of the most urgent humanitarian needs. People are bracing themselves for a prolonged lean season (May to October) due to the sporadic rainfall and several missed planting seasons. The situation of the most vulnerable, such as children, women and the elderly, is of particular concern. They will remain dependent on aid for some time to come, and sustained food assistance will be necessary to prevent further malnutrition and death.

The ICRC, in partnership with the NRCS, aims at meeting the immediate needs of the most vulnerable populations in hard-to-reach areas through the distribution of food and essential household items to the displaced, returnees and vulnerable residents.

Those returning to their homes that they had abandoned in search of security are apprehensive about rebuilding livelihoods. The ICRC has started, whenever feasible, to move from emergency food relief to greater support to livelihood initiatives for these affected communities, identifying with them ways and avenues to provide more durable and sustained solutions centered around resilience and self-reliance.

We seek to support sustained livelihoods through the provision of improved seed for farming activities as well as cash and vouchers in areas with active markets. In

particular, households where women and particularly widows are the main breadwinners receive cash for the purchase of items that they consider the most important.



*The ICRC and the NRCS continue to work together to meet the basic needs of people affected by armed conflict or violence.
Photo: ICRC/Adavize Baiye*

In all:



Almost **286,000** people in the north-east and the Middle Belt regions received food

for three months;



Over **33,000** people in the north-east and the Middle Belt received essential household items, such as cooking pots and water containers, as well as clothes, hygiene products, and sleeping and shelter materials;



6,000 people (through five agriculture cooperatives) received agricultural machinery and tools to start farming or increase their farming production;



Over **9,600** people including almost **1,500** widows received cash and basic training on small businesses to help them start a sustainable livelihood.

HEALTH CARE

The onset of armed conflict exacerbated the already difficult access to health care in the north-east of Nigeria, whose development had lagged behind the rest of the country. Many clinics and health care centres were destroyed and the health personnel fled for safety. The ICRC continues supporting primary health care centres of the Ministry of Health in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states with medicine and technical support for the identification and treatment of diseases.



An ICRC surgical team operates on a bomb blast victim at the State Teaching Hospital Maiduguri. Photo: ICRC/Adavize Baiye

Two ICRC surgical teams provide care for the wounded in need of emergency surgical care in the north-east, while the ICRC trains staff of Nigerian hospitals country-wide to enhance their skills in the treatment and management of wounded patients. Furthermore, the ICRC also provides psycho-social support for trauma-affected victims of the armed conflict and the NRCS volunteers working to assist them. The ICRC first aid training programme spans over **15** states and includes north-eastern, the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta states.

In all:



Close to **130,000** patients attended **23** ICRC-supported centres for primary health care and 3 mobile clinics serving the displaced, returnees and residents in North East Nigeria, the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta states;



Over **6,500** children were delivered in ICRC supported clinics;



Around **1,880** children under **5** suffering from severe acute malnutrition were treated in ICRC-supported clinics in Borno South, North East Nigeria, including **70** children with medical complications;



Over **420** wounded patients were treated by the ICRC surgical team in Maiduguri State Specialist Hospital, Borno, North East Nigeria, out of whom almost **190** were hospitalised;



850 people including NRCS members, community members, military/police personnel, religious groups and weapon bearers, were trained in first aid and emergency preparedness capacity;



Around **3,000** casualties were treated and evacuated by the NRCS emergency first aid teams and trained community first aid responders in **15** states covered by the ICRC-supported First Aid program;



Almost **2,000** displaced persons benefitted from ICRC's mental health and psychosocial support program.

WATER AND HABITAT

The high numbers of the displaced in the north-east put a strain on basic resources, such as water and sanitation installations. The ICRC creates or upgrades water points and sanitation facilities in the camps for the displaced and affected host communities. We also build tents and emergency shelters. To promote hygiene in the camps, the ICRC works with the NRCS and displaced persons on cleaning the environment. In areas where returns are possible, the ICRC has stepped up its work to repair or construct water systems benefitting both host communities and returnees.



We rehabilitated the water supply scheme for the Fursum Gora community in Jos, Plateau State. **3,120** people benefit from it. Photo: ICRC

In all:



Over **89,000** displaced persons, returnees and residents in North East Nigeria and Middle Belt got access to clean water;



Almost **66,000** displaced persons in North East Nigeria improved their sanitation and hygiene conditions;



More than **1,000** returnees in Michika (Adamawa) and over **1,000** persons affected by communal clashes in Barkin Ladi, Riyom and Bokkos (Plateau) received ICRC support to rebuild 430 houses;



Almost **24,000** displaced persons in camps in Borno State, North East Nigeria, live in almost **4,000** temporary or emergency shelters built by the ICRC.

RESTORING FAMILY LINKS

Many people lost contact with their families while fleeing the armed conflict or, more recently, when returning to their areas of origin. The situation is complex, as some have been displaced for a very long time, while others have had to flee on multiple occasions and some decided to return to their home areas and start rebuilding their livelihoods.

The ICRC works with the NRCS and other Red Cross societies in the Lake Chad Region to locate and where possible reunite families. With the use of Red Cross messages and free phone calls, separated family members have been able to get back in touch with their displaced relatives.



After two years of separation, a young boy sees a photo of his brother for the first time. Photo: ICRC/Michael Oyan

In all:



1,082 new tracing requests were opened by persons looking for relatives with the ICRC or the NRCS;



69 Red Cross messages containing family news were exchanged among separated family members;



98 free phone calls were made available by the Red Cross to persons searching for their family.

PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS

In some **90** countries around the world, including Nigeria, the ICRC works to protect people affected by the armed conflict and other situations of violence. The displaced persons in the camps and host communities in the north-east, as well as vulnerable groups affected by the armed violence in the Niger Delta and the Middle Belt, received visits of ICRC delegates to discuss their humanitarian concerns. The ICRC has taken up these protection concerns, through a confidential and bilateral dialogue, with State and Non-State armed groups in order to improve respect for the rights of the individuals and alleviate their suffering. Especially vulnerable people are supported to develop appropriate coping mechanisms aimed at reducing their vulnerability and exposure to risk.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS DETAINED IN RELATION TO THE CONFLICT

In Nigeria, the ICRC visits persons detained in relation to the armed conflict and other violence. It also supports the prison authorities in their attempt to ensure that the treatment and living conditions of detainees meet internationally recommended standards.

In all:



More than **17,000** detainees in prisons as well as police and military detention facilities country-wide were visited by the ICRC. Wherever needed, the detainees also benefited from improved access to clean water, sanitation or hygiene following ICRC rehabilitation activities and assistance.

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) AND HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES

Military and security forces, as well as civil organisations in almost **20** Nigerian states received information on the current humanitarian concerns, ICRC's work, international humanitarian law (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL). The ICRC worked with academics and students from **26** Nigerian universities in order to enhance the teaching of IHL.

The ICRC further strengthened its relationship with the Economic Community for West African States (ECOWAS) through a briefing on the implementation of IHL in the region for the ambassadors of ECOWAS states

and donor countries.

In all:



More than **1,600** army and police personnel including those deployed in the North East, in the Middle Belt and in Niger Delta states increased their knowledge of IHL and IHRL.



Around **1,200** civilian authorities, community / religious leaders, security forces and beneficiaries, also participated in information sessions on ICRC working modalities and its operations.



Around **120** national authorities at the state and federal level, community groups as well as humanitarian practitioners were briefed on the ICRC's recommendations to implement the African Union Convention on Assistance for and Protection of IDPs (known as the Kampala Convention).

THE ICRC IN NIGERIA

The ICRC protects and assists people affected by armed conflict and other violence in north-east Nigeria, as well as in the Middle Belt and the Niger Delta regions. It also promotes respect for the rules that protect people in such situations. Working with the NRCS and local communities, the ICRC delivers life-saving emergency assistance, provides first aid training and improves hygiene in the camps for the displaced.

The ICRC has had a permanent presence in Nigeria since 1988. Its main office is in Abuja, while seven more offices are in the field to maintain the organisation's proximity to people affected by armed conflict or violence, to understand their needs and to respond appropriately.

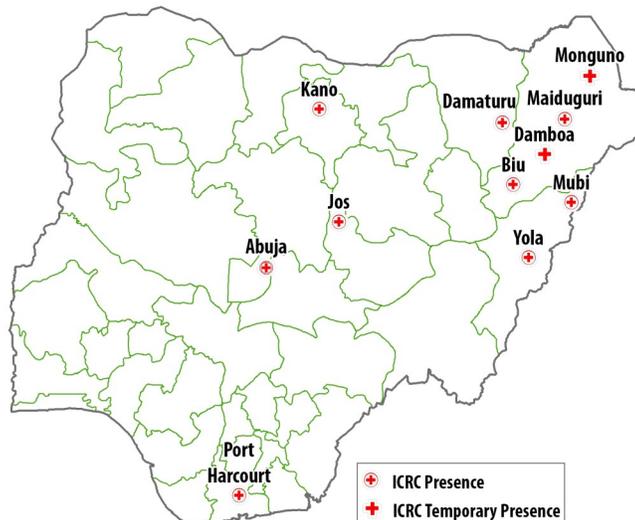
At the end of March 2017, **530** national and international staff were working for the ICRC in Nigeria.



The ICRC's Head of Delegation in Nigeria, Eloi Fillon receives a plaque from the Chief of Army Staff, Lt. Gen. Tukur Buratai. Photo: ICRC



We have built over **6,700** emergency shelters to house the displaced across north east Nigeria. Photo: ICRC/Umar Sadiq



ICRC

ICRC in Nigeria

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