



ICRC

FACTS & FIGURES

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HUMANITARIAN SITUATION

In Nigeria's north-east people continue suffering the severe consequences of protracted conflict between the government and the armed opposition. More than five million people in Adamawa, Borno and Yobe states are in dire need of food, while an estimated two million persons have been displaced from their homes in Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe and Yobe states. The situation is further compounded by the steady flow of returnees from neighbouring countries of the Lake Chad Basin who took refuge there during the peak of the armed conflict in Nigeria.

In places of return, the scale of devastation is astounding and implies continued hardship for those heading home. People's sources of income have been decimated: their fields have been left uncultivated, pastoralism has been disrupted and trading opportunities cut off. The conflict has separated families, and destroyed access to food, water, education, shelter, and health care.

To help mitigate the conflict's humanitarian consequences, the ICRC has been delivering emergency aid, as well as supporting health-care services and livelihoods, particularly in remote areas where few other humanitarian organisations are able to operate. Together with Red Cross societies in the Lake Chad Basin, the ICRC searches for more than 10,000 persons who have been separated from their families by the conflict.

Apart from the conflict in the north-east, communal clashes in the Middle Belt and urban violence in the Niger Delta have led to forced displacement, disruption of health services and long-term psychological trauma.

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 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

In all:



Almost **398,380** people in the north-east and the Middle Belt regions received food for three months or longer;



Over **47,770** 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;



76,460 people received agricultural inputs including seeds, fertilizers, machinery and tools to start farming or to increase their farming production through donations in-kind and vouchers;



More than a dozen villages like Egba in Agatu LGA Benue State, devastated by several years of communal violence are receiving assistance to rebuild homes and livelihoods. Photo: ICRC/Adavize Baiye



26,150 people including widows received cash and basic training on small businesses to help them start a sustainable livelihood. In addition, **17, 620** persons received repeated multi purpose cash assistance.

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.

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 Niger Delta states.

In all:



Close to **255,300** patients attended **23** ICRC-supported centres for primary health care and **3** mobile clinics serving the displaced, returnees and residents in north-east Nigeria and the Middle Belt;



An ICRC surgical team treats a bomb blast victim at the State Specialist Hospital Maiduguri. **Photo: ICRC**



Over **13,050** children were delivered in ICRC supported clinics;



Around **6,520** children under **5** suffering from severe acute malnutrition were treated in ICRC-supported clinics in north-east Nigeria, including **170** children with medical complications from Borno South treated in Biu stabilization centre;



Over **990** patients benefited from free surgical care with **720** of them treated as out-patients while **360** patients were admitted to the ICRC surgical ward and a total of **820** surgeries were performed;



33 NRCS and community volunteers were trained and supported by the ICRC to provide basic mental health and psychosocial support.



Over **100** sensitization sessions to raise awareness of mental health issues stemming from conflict and violence were organized with a total of **5,060** community members and **14** health staff in attendance;

Almost **5,510** displaced persons benefitted from ICRC's mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) program. **260** victims of violence received group counselling support while **60** hospitalized wounded patients benefitted from individual counselling support. In all, **1,030** group and **90** individual MPHSS sessions were conducted;



Around **6,000** casualties were treated and evacuated by the NRCS emergency first aid teams, while **660** community first aid responders in **15** states covered by the ICRC-supported First Aid program were trained.

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 have built over **6,700** emergency shelters to house the displaced across northeast Nigeria. **Photo: ICRC**

In all:



Over **213,000** displaced persons, returnees and residents in north-east Nigeria and Middle Belt got access to clean water; **16,000** residents of shanty towns in Port-Harcourt had access to safe drinking water through provision of boreholes, water storage and distribution networks;



Almost **106,000** displaced persons in north-east Nigeria improved their sanitation and hygiene conditions;



Almost **10,000** returnees and persons affected by communal clashes in Michika (Adamawa), Barkin Ladi, Riyom and Bokkos (Plateau) received ICRC support to rebuild **860** houses;



Over **40,000** displaced persons in camps in Borno State, north-east Nigeria, live in **120** family tents built by the ICRC;



In Borno, the ICRC improved access to health services for **310** people through the construction and rehabilitation of health care facilities.

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.

In all:



4,590 new tracing requests were opened by persons looking for relatives with the ICRC or the NRCS;



*Falmata is overcome with emotion when she is reunited with her grandson - her only surviving relative - after two years of separation. .
Photo: ICRC/Adavize Baiye*



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



730 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.



210 visits were made by the ICRC protection team to camp authorities, security forces and leaders of displaced persons in Borno and Yola state, to highlight the rights of civilians and the best international standards for their protection.

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 **21,790** 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;



Specifically, **450** detainees in Abuja had access to safe water through increased storage capacity by the ICRC while **6,500** detainees in various states received regular hygiene distributions and campaigns which improved their sanitation and hygiene conditions;



46 staff members of the Nigerian Prison Service benefitted from technical trainings conducted by the ICRC.

SUPPORT FOR THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (NRCS)

The ICRC continues to work with the network of Nigerian Red Cross Society volunteers around the country to meet the needs of vulnerable people in a rapid, secure and efficient manner. Several capacity trainings are conducted for volunteers across the country by the ICRC.



245 volunteers from NRCS in Adamawa, Benue, Borno (Biu division), Kaduna, Nasarawa, Niger, Taraba and Yobe branches were trained to carry out needs assessment exercises. **120** volunteers

from Akwa Ibom, Benue, Borno, Cross Rivers, Kaduna and Nasarawa branches received information on how to enhance their security while working in dangerous circumstances.

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 **27** Nigerian universities in order to enhance the teaching of IHL.

In all:



70 Nigerian scholars of IHL attended a workshop organised by the ICRC in collaboration with the Nigerian Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (NIALS) where discussions centred on the challenges of implementing IHL and the way forward; **350** lecturers and students in all received support for the teaching, research and study of IHL;



Over **2,000** military and security forces, as well as civil society actors in almost 20 Nigerian states received information on the current humanitarian concerns and ICRC's work, while more than **740** army and police personnel increased their knowledge of IHL and IHRL;

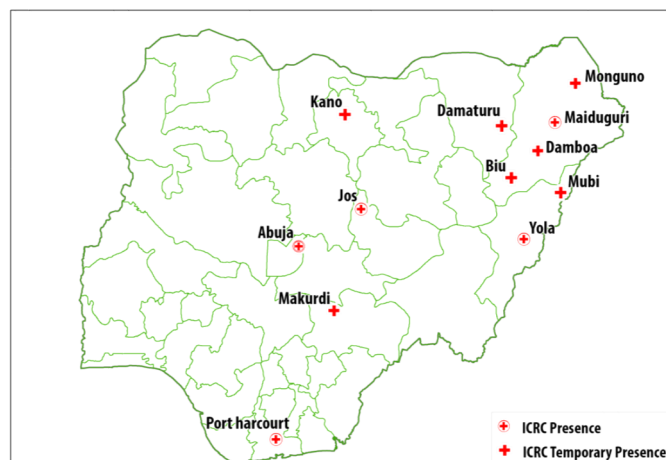
Over **14,200** people affected by conflict and violence received information on humanitarian services available to them.

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 June 2017, **580** national and international staff were working for the ICRC in Nigeria.



ICRC in Nigeria

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