

NIGERIA

FACTS & FIGURES

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“While the world was at a standstill because of the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, armed conflicts and other situations of violence continued unabated. The pandemic has brought to the fore the particular vulnerabilities of people affected by war and violence. It has also challenged humanitarian actors on the frontlines to come up with new ways to continue to meet the needs of affected communities, while bringing the risk of infection down to the barest minimum. At the heart of all this, ensuring that everyone is safe has been paramount. It has been a challenging but rewarding experience.”

Eloi Fillion, Head of Delegation, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Nigeria.

The severity of the humanitarian situation in Nigeria has been further exacerbated with the onset of COVID-19 in February 2020 and its subsequent spread. The virus has since spread to all 37 states of the country with serious impact on daily lives.

At the same time, people continue to suffer displacement due to armed conflict and other situations of violence. In the North-East alone, the number of people needing humanitarian assistance has risen from 7.9 million to 10.6 million due to COVID-19 (source-OCHA). Camps for displaced people and host communities are stretched to capacity with overcrowding becoming a common feature.

In Nigeria’s North-Central and South-South areas, persistent communal clashes and urban violence, have left a growing number of people in dire need of basic amenities. The spread of the pandemic and the resultant lock down worsened the difficulties of people struggling to make a living for themselves.

Furthermore, fears of stigmatization linked to

COVID-19 brought to light the challenges for health care workers to reach people in need in areas where access to healthcare and mental health support is already precarious.

The ICRC has adapted its response to the new situation. It remained committed to ensuring that humanitarian needs are still being met in a manner that reduces risks to a population that is already vulnerable. To do this, it immediately incorporated COVID-19 preventive measures during humanitarian interventions such as social distancing, handwashing and mask wearing.

Working with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), the ICRC has contributed to improving access to clean water and provided handwashing stations and hygiene materials to encourage handwashing and reduce the risk of infection. Strong sensitization campaigns were also produced in a bid to create awareness of COVID-19 preventive measures and avoid an outbreak in high risk areas, such as camps for displaced people, communities and prisons.



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

COVID-19 RESPONSE

More than **225,280** people received soap through ICRC and NRCS interventions to improve hygiene and reduce COVID-19 risks. **63,480** of them were in Monguno, Dikwa and Damboa Local Government Areas (LGA) in Borno state.

More than **121** patients admitted to the State Isolation Centre and University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital Center in Borno state were supported with **3** daily meals.

Over **333,480** persons were sensitized on hygiene measures and COVID-19 preventive measures as part of ICRC and NRCS awareness campaigns in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps and host communities in Adamawa, Benue, Borno and Cross River states.

17 hand washing structures were installed in various IDP camps and host communities in the North-East.

13,000 detainees in **17** places of detention received hygiene materials including raw materials for soap production.

The ICRC together with the NRCS provided **251,405** persons with food assistance improving their food consumption, while **91,085** persons received essential household items.

In addition, more than **11,415** persons received cash support to initiate and improve sources of livelihood.

More than **35,560** persons benefitted from veterinary material donations provided to the Senator Ali Modu Sheriff Veterinary Clinic in Borno state.

In collaboration with the NRCS, the ICRC also provided more than **159,405** persons with agricultural support of seeds including cowpeas, hot pepper, maize, okra, melon, rice, watermelon, cabbage, tomato, soya beans, sorghum and cucumber. Agricultural tools including rakes and hoes were also distributed in anticipation of the rainy season. In addition, over **69,015** farmers in secure locations with functional markets received cash assistance.

In Borno state, **40** NRCS volunteers improved their knowledge of assessment and data collection during distribution processes.

33 community animal health care workers in Plateau state were trained in animal healthcare services and disease detection.

Over **215** community animal health care workers in Plateau state received material donations to support treatment of animals in remote locations.

More than **165,115** IDPs, host community members and returnees had improved access to water in Adamawa, Benue, Borno, and Cross Rivers states.

3,620 IDPs, host community members and returnees had their sanitation facilities improved in Adamawa, Benue, Borno, and Cross River states.

5,150 returnees benefitted from the construction of permanent shelters while over **1,130** persons received shelter kits consisting of roofing materials, door and window parts.

11,145 IDPs in Borno state benefitted from the construction of temporary shelters.

Over **170** persons received grants through the ICRC-Tony Elumelu Foundation partnership to start their own businesses.





MAKING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBLE

COVID-19 RESPONSE

In the North-East, North-Central and South-South, the ICRC supported several healthcare facilities as part of the COVID-19 response. This included providing hand washing points and an initial 3-month supply of standard personal protective equipment such as face masks, shields, gloves, thermometers, gowns, as well as surface and hand disinfectants. The support was given to:

21 Primary Health Care Centers

9 isolation centers

2 hospitals with nutrition stabilization centers

7 places of detention

12,985 beneficiaries attended health education sessions specific for COVID-19 in ICRC supported health facilities.

1000 individual face shields were produced through the rehabilitation program and distributed to support isolation centres. **19,540** IDPs and returnees were sensitized about COVID-19 preventive measures in order to minimize the risk of infection.

294,215 consultations were carried out in **23** ICRC supported Primary Health Care Centers.

Over **11,490** newborns were delivered at ICRC supported health facilities or at home with ICRC trained traditional birth attendants in areas where access to the health facilities was impeded.

More than **2,290** persons received outpatient nutrition therapy and over **340** children under **5** received treatment for severe acute malnutrition.

The ICRC's surgical team at the Maiduguri State Specialist Hospital received over **350** surgical admissions and carried out more than **1,450** surgical interventions. **11** critical patients were referred to University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital.

Over **8,460** casualties received first aid assistance from ICRC trained Community First Aiders and Emergency First Aid Teams from the NRCS while more than **445** community members and arms carriers were trained in first aid techniques by the NRCS.

More than **140** persons with disabilities benefitted from the ICRC supported rehabilitation programme at the National Orthopaedic Hospital in Kano. **67** assistive devices were produced, fitted and delivered to persons with disabilities.

In collaboration with the NRCS, over **755** persons were sensitized on mental health care while more than **1,080** persons who experienced trauma in relation to the armed conflict received face to face consultations. Over **1,365** persons also attended group counselling sessions.



ENCOURAGING HUMANE TREATMENT OF DETAINEES

COVID-19 RESPONSE

The ICRC supported the Nigerian Army, Police and Nigerian Correctional Service by providing general guidelines on preparedness to prevent and respond to COVID-19 in places of detention.

Considering the risk of increased tensions in places of detention resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the ICRC shared guidelines on ways to ensure a secure prison environment in full respect of fundamental rights.

3,000 posters containing sensitizing information on COVID-19 in English, Hausa and Kanuri were distributed to places of detention across the country.

21 handwashing stands were installed in various detention facilities.

The ICRC Supported Kirikiri Maximum Security Custodial Centre in Lagos with a Soap Production project. **40** inmates and prison staff learnt technical skills and received raw materials and bottles that enabled them to produce **765** litres of antiseptic soap, **885** litres of multipurpose washing soap, **840** litres of germicide and **300** bottles of sanitizer which were distributed to **244** places of detention in **37** states in the country.

5 places of detention in Abuja, Borno, Kaduna and Port Harcourt are being supported with the construction of fever clinics.

27 detention medical staff from Nigerian Army, Nigerian Police Forces and Nigerian Correctional Services attended **4** training sessions organized by ICRC and facilitated by Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC) on preventive and infection control measures and on the Management of the Dead.

Detention and monitoring visits improved detainees' access to food, water, health care and hygiene and allowed the exchange of Red Cross messages with their families.

24 visits to **16** places of detention were conducted to monitor conditions of detention and the treatment of over **19,615** detainees.

Over **4,300** detainees were individually followed up by the ICRC.

More than **13,000** detainees benefitted from hygiene items distributed for a period of 6 months.

Over **495** detainees had improved access to water and sanitation.



REUNITING SEPARATED FAMILY MEMBERS

More than **22,930** cases of persons reported missing are actively being handled by the ICRC in collaboration with the NRCS as of June 2020.

Families of **257** missing persons received information about the whereabouts or fate of their loved ones. **22** separated children and unaccompanied minors were reunited with their family members.

1,091 Red Cross messages were exchanged between separated family members with help from the ICRC and the NRCS.

69 families of missing persons received psychosocial, economic, protective, legal and administrative support through the accompaniment of Families of the Missing Project.

Messages on prevention of separations were widely disseminated on Twitter and Facebook and through posters, raising awareness about the need to keep in touch with family members in uncertain times.

More than 635 Red Cross messages were exchanged between detainees and their families.

Continued cooperation with the federal authorities and other stakeholders on the elaboration of a national policy on the management of the dead in emergency situations and drafting of a revised coroner's law.



PROMOTING RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

The ICRC held meaningful bilateral and confidential dialogue on protection of civilian population with relevant authorities.

The ICRC cooperated with the House of Representatives to organize a workshop on the implementation of IHL in Nigeria for Honourable Members and Staff of the House of Representatives.

In response to COVID-19, the ICRC engaged with civilian and military authorities with advisory notice and guidelines to encourage continued respect for IHL and international human rights law while responding to the pandemic.

Together with the NRCS, the ICRC organized a roundtable on the protection and use of the red cross emblem in Nigeria with the participation of health and emergency agencies as well as representatives of the armed and security forces.

A summary of key safeguards under IHL and recommendations during pandemics was sent to the Nigerian Army and other interested stakeholders.

A 13-minute mini lecture on the application of IHL during pandemics was recorded and disseminated to the Nigerian Army and other interested actors, including 27 universities and the members of the National IHL Committee.

A training video was prepared for the Nigeria Police Force advocating the use of nonviolent means first and avoiding excessive use of force when enforcing COVID-19 related restrictions.

Sessions on IHL and international standards for law enforcement were held for armed and security forces and community defence groups. This included over 630 armed forces personnel, 2,863 members of the Police Force and 63 Civilian Joint Task Force members.

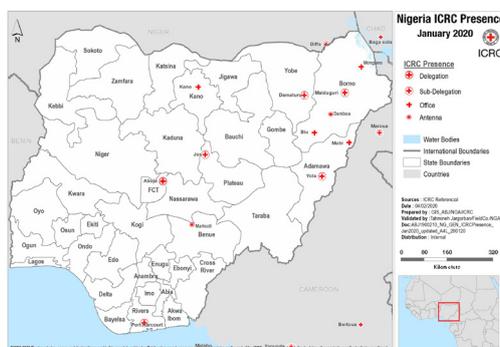
Following the protocols put in place because of the COVID-19 pandemic, IHL sessions were pre-recorded and shared with over 100 participants.



SUPPORTING THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY'S (NRCS) RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES

The ICRC financially supported the implementation of the NRCS COVID-19 Plan, including Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE), Hygiene Promotion, Psychosocial Support and Contract Tracing, in Adamawa, Borno, Plateau, Rivers and Yobe states. Nine additional branches of the NRCS in the North-East, North-West, North-Central and South-South received

financial support to implement RCCE activities at the onset of the emergency. As part of its institutional support, ICRC supported the capacity to operate of 13 NRCS branches in Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Cross River, Delta, Borno, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano, Taraba, Yobe, Rivers, Plateau though financial contribution towards staff salaries and office running costs.



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