

# NIGERIA - FACTSHEET

January - June 2025

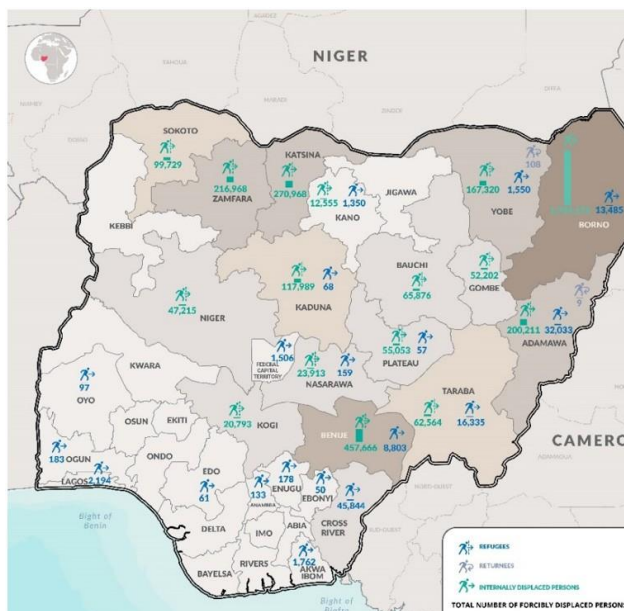
About 269,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were assisted through the flood response in the Northeast and North central Nigeria.

**UNHCR provided essential items to 13,500 forcibly displaced people and multi-purpose cash assistance to about 5,600 IDPs in Northeast Nigeria.**

UNHCR strengthened self-reliance through collaboration with government and private sector partners to secure land, integrate refugees into livelihood projects, and deliver cash assistance, enhancing dignity and response efficiency.

## DISPLACED/STATELESS POPULATION

## FUNDING (AS OF JUNE 2025)



## Working with Partners

- **UNHCR maintains regular coordination and consultation with State, Local Government authorities and with humanitarian partners across Nigeria.** In collaboration with the Nigerian Bar Association, UNHCR provides legal assistance in ten states, reinforcing access to justice for displaced populations.
- As the lead agency for the Protection Cluster in the Northeast, UNHCR plays a central role in safeguarding the rights and well-being of affected communities. UNHCR co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster, working to enhance living conditions in displacement sites, facilitate safe and dignified relocations, and improve access to essential services. UNHCR supports the Shelter and Non-Food Items (SNFI) Cluster, ensuring that displaced individuals receive critical relief items to meet their basic needs.
- UNHCR actively participates in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and continues fundraising jointly with other UN agencies.
- UNHCR has reinforced strategic collaboration with government institutions and private sector stakeholders to advance durable solutions for displaced populations. This includes securing land for livelihood interventions, integrating refugees into national social protection systems, and promoting innovative financing and employment generation initiatives.

## Main Activities

### Protection

- The Northeast hosts 63% of the displaced population, followed by Northwest (20%) and North-Central (17%). Displacement is driven by insurgency, communal violence, and adverse weather events such as flash floods.
- Security incidents surged in early 2025, particularly in Borno State. In Benue State, over 10,000 people were displaced. The Middle Belt now hosts over 600,000 IDPs due to escalating violence and resource conflicts.
- Protection assessments of 7,500 individuals in the Northeast show 20% of people face risks of attacks and killings. Assessments of 5,000 refugees in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba (ABCT) States reveal critical service gaps.
- UNHCR assisted over 119,000 Cameroonian refugees and asylum-seekers across Nigeria, mainly in ABCT States, Adamawa, and urban centres. Nigeria also hosts over 3.5 million IDPs.
- Three thousand individuals registered in Borno and Adamawa; over 500 asylum-seekers were processed in Kano, reducing the backlog by 49%. Over 12,000 Cameroonians were granted prima facie status.
- Over 3,000 refugees and asylum-seekers from Cameroon and Niger were relocated to Damasak (Borno) and Mubi (Adamawa). 75 new asylum applications were received, one-third female.
- **The National Human Rights Commission and UNHCR** trained community protection groups in 11 refugee-hosting states on registration and monitoring systems.
- The Senate passed the Kampala Convention, the African Union Convention for the protection and assistance of IDPs. The process is now with Presidential assent to become national law.
- Borno State relocated 5,230 households from Muna Camp to Mafa and Dikwa LGAs, aiming to close the camp by year-end. However, 3,630 of 7,000 refugees repatriated from Chad returned due to insecurity, despite support including 50 latrines, 60 water pumps, and food aid.
- Flooding in Borno affected nearly 300 households and destroyed over 80 shelters, further compounding humanitarian needs.

## Access to Justice

- UNHCR provided legal protection and psychosocial support to over 80 refugee children through legal representation.
- Benue: 80 stakeholders were trained on gender, justice, and civil documentation.
- Northeast: UNHCR and partners conducted protection monitoring across 19 LGAs providing legal aid, including court representation, dispute resolution, and mobile courts. Mediators and prosecutors were trained to handle rape cases, enhancing justice access and protection under the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) (VAPP) Act.

## Education

- Around 3,000 pupils across seven schools in Cross River, Benue, and Taraba States benefited from the ProFuturo Connected Education programme, with 50 teachers trained in ICT skills.
- Nearly 600 refugee pupils in Ogoja and Benue received school materials.

## Health

- UNHCR is strengthening access to quality primary healthcare for displaced and host communities in Nigeria through support to national health systems.
- 10 primary healthcare centres (PHCs), in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Taraba States, were solarised, bringing the total number of solar powered health centres to 38.
- 13 PHCs in Damaturu LGA, Yobe were equipped with essential items, including mattresses, benches, tables, and chairs.
- Over 5,000 refugees received medical care in 38 UNHCR-supported health centres, and 65 refugees were provided with disability aids.

## Shelter, Cash and NFIs

- Over 15,500 forcibly displaced people (including around 4,000 newly individuals displaced in Yobe State) received essential items, including safe water bags donated by a philanthropist. 150 new refugees in Taraba State received NFIs such as mosquito nets, buckets, solar lamps, blankets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mats, soap, and tarpaulins.
- 9,000 essential items were distributed to over 500 flood-affected IDPs in Mokwa LGA, State.
- 50 Nigerian refugee returnees from Cameroon received cash assistance in Banki, Borno State, to support small business ventures.

## WASH/Livelihoods

- In Ogoja, Cross River State, an irrigation project was launched on farmland donated by authorities to support climate-smart, year-round farming for refugees and hosts. Solar-powered boreholes will be installed to enhance agricultural productivity and access to water.

## Gender Based Violence (GBV) Response/Child Protection

- ABCT States: UNHCR and its partners strengthened prevention and response to violence against women and girls through case identification and psychosocial support for survivors and at-risk people across the States.
- 240 members of the paralegal committees, government officials, community structures and partners were trained to improve service delivery in the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, GBV, access to justice and civil documentation.
- Awareness sessions were conducted for nearly 9,000 persons to strengthen prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), GBV prevention, risk mitigation, safe disclosure and community response.
- Over 640 best interest assessments were conducted for children at-risk of child neglect, physical abuse or sexual abuse, ensuring their protection and rights.
- Over 500 children were issued birth certificates, securing their legal identity and enhancing access to essential rights and services

## Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion

- UNHCR continues to advance livelihoods and economic inclusion across Nigeria through targeted interventions that promote self-reliance, skills development, and community-based economic empowerment for refugees and host communities.
- In Borno State, UNHCR supported the establishment of two vocational training centres, which will train 600 individuals annually.
- In Benue State, UNHCR and NCFRMI handed over three sewing and grinding machines to Refugee-Led Organizations (RLOs).
- In Cross River State, 18 cooperatives, each comprising 10 refugees and five host community members, are cultivating 15 hectares of donated land to strengthen food security and support agricultural livelihoods.

## Energy and Environment

UNHCR continues to enhance access to sustainable energy and climate-smart solutions for refugees IDPs and host communities, supporting protection, health, and livelihoods through solar-powered infrastructure and equipment.

- Solar lamps were distributed to 150 new refugees in Taraba State.
- There are now 38 solarised healthcare centres in Akwa Ibom, Cross River and Taraba States.
- Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems:

In Borno State, UNHCR partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture to establish a solar-powered irrigation system benefiting 560 farmers, enabling year-round cultivation.

In Katsina State, a partnership with the State Government and Tropical General Investment (TGI) Group will develop irrigation on 600 hectares, benefiting 3,000 IDPs with access to land, equipment, training and markets.

- Hydro-Geophysical Surveys: Conducted in Katsina and Borno States to support sustainable, year-round agricultural production.

## Solutions

### Advocacy and Economic Inclusion

■ **One-Stop Resource Centres:** UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ministries of Commerce, Trade and Investment, launched One-Stop Resource Centres in Cross River and Akwa Ibom States. Managed by RLOs, these hubs connect refugees and host communities to employment opportunities, markets, and government services, advancing UNHCR's advocacy for inclusive policies and supporting Nigeria's commitment to the Global Compact on Refugees.

■ **Economic Inclusion & Export Readiness:** Through UNHCR's advocacy for refugee participation in national value chains, the Nigerian Export Promotion Council conducted a two-day training on coffee and tea production to five RLOs in Ogoja. The training included topics on practical nursery setup and supporting refugee integration into export value chains.

### Agriculture Livelihoods and infrastructure Support

■ **Cassava Processing Facilities:** UNHCR supported the construction of shelters for cassava processing across seven locations in ABCT States, enabling agricultural cooperatives to engage in value addition and income generation.

■ **Livestock Feed Mill Installation:** A fully equipped feed mill was installed in Gembu, Taraba State, to strengthen the livestock value chain and support agribusiness development for refugee and host communities.

■ **Plastic Sheeting Distribution:** Agricultural cooperatives in Cross River State received plastic sheeting to support farming activities, including crop drying, nursery development, and soil moisture retention.

■ **Land Allocation in Taraba State:** 450 hectares of farmland were allocated by two host communities to support refugee and host community farming. UNHCR and Taraba SEMA initiated assessments on 200 hectares in Sufa area for the upcoming wet season.

■ **Access Road Construction:** UNHCR began constructing a 3.5 km road with culverts and drainage from Adagom refugee settlement to 54 hectares of donated farmland, ensuring equitable access for both refugees and host community members.

### Protection and Durable Solutions

■ **Resettlement Support:** UNHCR submitted 64 individuals to the UK's 2025 resettlement quota, prioritizing high-risk cases previously screened for the U.S. pipeline in 2024.

■ **Livestock Feed Mill:** Installed in Gembu, Taraba State, to strengthen the livestock value chain and promote agribusiness.

## Impact of Funding Cuts on the Operation

■ **Severe reduction in services** such as community-based protection, child protection, GBV programming, cash assistance, WASH, health and livelihoods, has increased protection risks and limits access to healthcare for refugees. Operational scope has reduced with activities in fewer States and LGAs.

■ **Suspension of activities of eight local partners** across 45 LGAs, creating critical service gaps and increasing vulnerability among displaced and host communities.

■ **Delayed integration efforts** due to reduced solutions-based interventions, stalling access to housing, education and employment, and prolonging the dependency on aid.

■ **Increased protection risks** as economic hardship and insecurity drive some individuals toward negative coping mechanisms, including engagement with armed groups.



- **Diminished emergency response capacity**, with funding shortfalls limiting UNHCR's ability to deliver life-saving aid and meet urgent protection needs.
- **Food aid reductions by WFP** and halted humanitarian assistance have compounded the crisis, escalating risks for forcibly displaced populations.

## Efficiency Measures Adopted by the Operation

In response to significant funding cuts, UNHCR Nigeria launched a series of strategic reforms under its Business Transformation Programme, aimed at enhancing cost-efficiency and sustaining critical services for 3.6 million refugees and IDPs:

Severe reduction in services such as community-based protection, child protection, GBV programming, cash assistance, WASH, health and livelihoods, has increased protection risks and limits access to healthcare for refugees. Operational scope has reduced with activities in fewer States and LGAs.

■ **Operational Streamlining:** The number of implementing partners was reduced from 22 to 8 by 2025, with protection services streamlined and overheads cut. Direct service delivery in WASH, housing, and education was phased out, while cash assistance continues to support the most vulnerable.

■ **Community Integration:** Refugee settlements were integrated into host communities to promote self-reliance, reduce aid dependency, and optimize resource use.

■ **Agricultural Innovation:**

Katsina State Government and TGI Group is developing irrigation infrastructure on 600 hectares, supporting 3,000 IDPs with land access, farming tools, cooperative training and market linkages.

■ **Emergency Response & Digital Inclusion:** In emergencies such as the 2024 Borno floods, UNHCR replaced traditional logistics with cash assistance, accelerating response and empowering beneficiaries. Large-scale documentation drives via mobile units improved access to identity and financial services.

■ **Efficiency Gains:** Internal reforms, including staff restructuring, office optimization, solarization, smart travel, and tech upgrades resulted in \$1.8 million in savings, strengthening resilience and operational sustainability.

## Recognition of Donors

UNHCR expresses its gratitude for the generous support of donors to UNHCR's response in Nigeria, as well as to those who have contributed to UNHCR's operations globally and regionally through unearmarked and softly earmarked funding, including:

Australia | Belgium | Denmark | European Union | France | Germany | Ireland | Italy | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) | Norway | Republic of Korea | Sweden | Switzerland | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland | United States of America | Central Emergency Response Fund | Australia for UNHCR | España con ACNUR | Japan for UNHCR | Sweden for UNHCR | UK for UNHCR | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe and private donors in Italy, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, and in the United Arab Emirates

## External / Donor Relations

[Regional portal - UNHCR operation page](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook-Recent PI story](#)