

NIGERIA





OPERATIONAL UPDATE

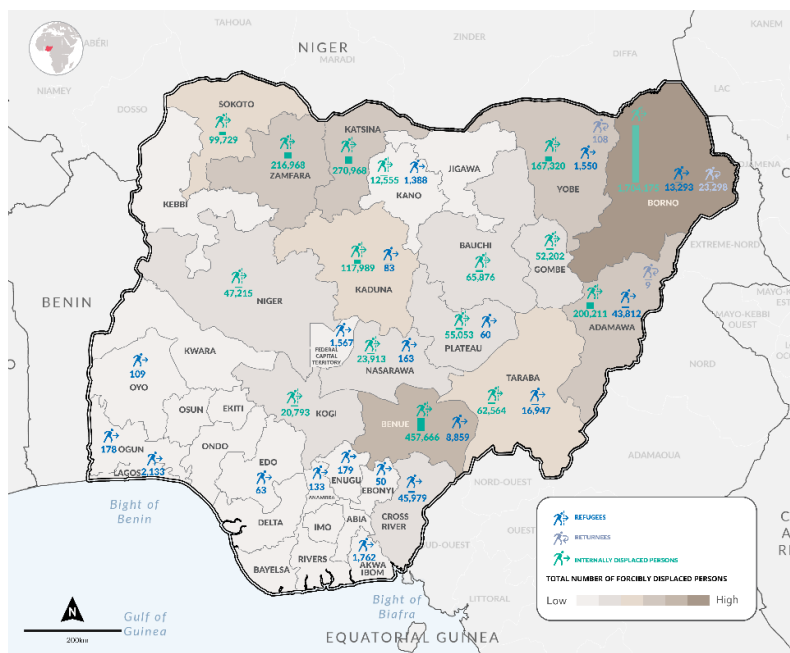
Quarterly | April-June 2025









Displacement Overview

Key figures on population displacement

	139,462 Refugees & Asylum-seekers
	3,575,114 Internally Displaced Persons
	23,723 Nigerian refugee returnees
	408,561 Nigerian refugees in Chad, Niger & Cameroon



UNHCR Nigeria at a Glance

	13,500 forcibly displaced persons received non-food items		12,500 protection assessments were conducted across Nigeria covering refugees and IDPs		7,776 refugee and host individuals of reproductive age received Dignity Kits in Ogoja
	4,270 refugees and asylum-seekers were registered		1,000 refugee and IDPs benefitted from access to justice programmes including legal representation and counselling		500 households assisted in response to the 2025 floods in Niger State

Operational Context

Refugee Situation

- UNHCR is providing lifesaving assistance, protection and solutions to **119,000** Cameroonian refugees and asylum seekers in Nigeria. They are, primarily located in the Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba (ABCT) States, Adamawa State, and urban centres including Abuja, Lagos, Ogun and Kano.
- Recent protection assessments covering over **5,000** refugees in ABCT States have identified critical gaps in protection mechanisms and essential service delivery, showing the need for a strengthened community base.
- Significant progress was recorded in registration, with over **570** asylum-seekers processed in Kano and more than 3,000 individuals registered through in-situ operations launched in June in Borno and Adamawa. These efforts led to the reduction of asylum application backlog from 2,064 in January to 1,021 in June representing a 49 per cent decrease.
- *Prima facie* status has been granted to over **12,000** Cameroonian nationals, which provides them with temporary legal protection. Moving forward, priorities include completing registration in Kano and Damasak, continuing targeted interventions until the end of the year to address all remaining asylum applications and strengthening protection frameworks.

IDP Situation

- Nigeria currently faces a complex internal displacement crisis, with over 3.5 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) across multiple regions. The Northeast bears the heaviest burden, hosting 63 per cent of the displaced population, followed by the Northwest (20 per cent) and North-Central (17 per cent) regions. This displacement stems from various factors including persistent insurgency, recurring communal violence and increasing extreme weather events such

as flash floods. Security incidents escalated during the second quarter of the year, particularly in Borno State where 147 civilian fatalities were recorded, underscoring the fragile protection situation.

- Nigeria achieved a critical milestone with the Senate's passage of the African Union Convention that addresses the protection and assistance needs of IDPs, after over a decade of advocacy around the Kampala Convention. The Bill now awaits Presidential assent and gazetting to become national law.
- Borno State authorities relocated **5,000** households from Muna Camp to Mafa Local Government Area (LGA) and **230** households to Dikwa, advancing plans to close Muna Camp by the end of the year. However, **3,630** of **7,000** refugees voluntarily repatriated from Chad in Government-organized operations, went back to Chad, due to difficult conditions and insecurity in return areas, despite provision of **50** latrines, **60** water pumps and food aid by the Borno State Government.
- Protection assessments covering over **7,500** people in the Northeast revealed that **20 per cent** of protection risks are those associated with attacks on civilians, unlawful killings and attacks on infrastructure.
- Communal conflict in Benue State since 2018 worsened during the second quarter of the year, with a series of coordinated attacks launched in the communities of Yelwata and Daudu, Guma LGA causing displacement of over 10,000 individuals and killing over **100** individuals.
- The humanitarian situation in Nigeria's Middle Belt worsened with intercommunal violence, banditry and resource-based conflicts driving further internal displacement with over **600,000** IDPs now living there.
- Floods affected nearly 300 households in Borno State and destroyed over 80 shelters.

Main achievements in sectors

Refugee Situation

- UNHCR in collaboration with partners and refugee communities, commemorated World Refugee Day between 18-20 June, across ABCT States and Abuja with over 10,000 refugees participating. The celebrations included events to build peaceful coexistence, strengthen advocacy efforts, promote education and support better access and inclusion of refugees in local systems and services.
- Over **3,000** refugees and asylum seekers from Cameroon and Niger have been registered by The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), with support from UNHCR. The families have been relocated to Damasak, Borno state and Mubi, Adamawa State. Families will now have access to international protection and essential services, as part of Nigeria's commitment to upholding the rights and dignity of persons in need of asylum.
- UNHCR and NCFRMI conducted a vulnerability assessment to identify the protection needs of 60 refugee families in Abuja, Lagos and Kano. Over 20 were defined as extremely vulnerable and were recommended for cash assistance, an additional 16 vulnerable families were referred for further assistance.
- **Education:** Three Cameroonian refugee youths departed Nigeria for Kenya to pursue undergraduate studies at the United States International University-Africa, supported by the Mastercard Foundation scholarship.
- UNHCR, through the partner, distributed school kits including, bags, uniform, sportswear, socks and sandals, to approximately 100 refugee pupils in Ogoja. Additionally, around 1,400 pupils across seven schools in Cross River, Benue and Taraba States benefitted from the ProFuturo Connected Education programme, with 50 teachers trained in Information and

Communications Technology (ICT) skills to support this digital learning model.

- **Livelihoods:** UNHCR handed over three sewing machines to refugees in Ikyogen to support self-reliance and economic empowerment. NCFRMI donated grinding machines to two active Refugee-Led Organizations in the settlement.

IDP Situation

- UNHCR and its partners distributed 9,000 kits of non-food items (NFIs) to over **500** flood affected IDPs in Mokwa LGA, Niger State, as part of the emergency response.
- Over **11,500** forcibly displaced persons received non-food items, including about **7,500** households who were given safe water bags donated by a philanthropist through UNHCR. Nearly **4,000** individuals, including IDPs who recently fled from Gujba to Damaturu LGA, Yobe State, received NFIs to address immediate needs. UNHCR also supported 13 Primary Health Care Centres in Damaturu LGA, Yobe with essential items, including 60 mattresses, 40 benches and 20 tables and chairs.
- UNHCR provided tarpaulins to 10 Refuge-Led Co-operatives to support post-harvest processing of agricultural produce.
- **Capacity Building:** UNHCR trained officials from Borno State Emergency Management Agency on the Complaint and Feedback Mechanism, strengthening local capacity to better respond to the needs of the forcibly displaced populations.
- **Gender Based Violence (GBV):** UNHCR identified and supported 33 GBV cases with psychosocial interventions across ABCT States. Four awareness sessions were conducted and nine follow-up visits were carried out to monitor cases involving physical, psychological and sexual violence,

as well as forced marriage. Community sensitization focused on GBV prevention, survivor rights and referral pathways, reduce stigma, promote reporting, and strengthen community-based protection. Over 7,500 women and girls of reproductive age in three refugee settlements in Ogoja received dignity kits comprising buckets, face towels, sanitary napkins, rechargeable torchlights, whistles, toothbrushes, toothpastes, slippers, wrappers, shaving sticks, and toilet soaps.

- **Child Protection:** Child protection efforts in Benue, Akwa Ibom and Cross River States addressed 47 cases of neglect, malnutrition, and severe medical needs. Over 100 refugee children received birth certificates. Awareness raising sessions promoted child safety, child labour reduction and back to school programmes. In Akwa Ibom, child protection committee members were trained on case identification and referral. Across ABCT States 18 child protection cases were reported and referred.
- **Protection Monitoring:** Protection monitoring was conducted in key IDP camps in Benue and Cross River States using structured surveys to assess protection risks and inform targeted interventions. This included IDP camps in Makurdi and Kwande (Benue) and Ogoja, Obanliku, and Etung (Cross River). Additionally, UNHCR partner conducted nine border monitoring visits in Kwande LGA to track new arrivals.
- **Access to Justice:** UNHCR and its partners enhanced legal support to displaced people across ABCT States, improving access to justice for over 1,000 refugees and IDPs through legal counselling, rights awareness, referrals for dispute resolution and sensitization during border monitoring. Thirty six individuals received legal counselling and representation. In Ogoja, a UNHCR partner conducted a

three-day training on access to legal aid, barriers to justice, strategies to strengthen legal protection, conflict resolution, effective communication and emotional intelligence for mediators.

- UNHCR, through its government partner the Nigerian Bar Association, completed a training for key personnel involved in prosecuting rape cases in Borno State, including police officers, medical staff and community leaders. The training focused on enhancing understanding of legal and procedural requirements under the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Law.

Solutions

Refugee Situation

- A three-day training was conducted for refugees and host community fish farmers and processors in Akwa Ibom State, on trade flow analysis, export branding and packaging and value chain strengthening. The training was organized by the Akwa Ibom One-Stop Centre in collaboration with the Nigeria Export Promotion Council and the State Ministry of Agriculture aligning with the State's shift towards agricultural export.
- In May, UNHCR installed a fully equipped livestock feed mill in Gembu, Sardauna LGA, Taraba State, to enhance food security and improve livelihoods of refugee and host community members. The intervention aims to promote agribusiness and strengthen the livestock value chain.
- UNHCR supported the construction of shelters for cassava processing facilities across seven locations in ABCT States. The initiative enables agricultural cooperatives to engage in value addition, promoting food security, income generation and economic inclusion.

- UNHCR provided plastic sheeting to agricultural cooperatives in Cross River State supporting farming activities, temporary shelter construction, nursery development, crop drying and soil moisture retention.
- A Refugee-Led Organization in Adagom 1 Settlement is providing ICT training in Microsoft PowerPoint, Digital Marketing, Python Programming and French as a Second Language.
- A 17-year-old refugee was successfully reunited with his family after 10 years of separation, with the support of UNHCR Cameroon and Borno state. Family tracing was completed by ICRC five years ago, but earlier reunification attempts were unsuccessful until UNHCR intervened to facilitate the process.
- Support to local organizations dropped significantly with eight partners in 45 LGAs suspending operations, leaving major service gaps. Cuts to cash assistance, WASH, health and livelihoods programming has increased risks for displaced and host communities. Health services are now reaching fewer refugees and vulnerable groups are exposed to heightened protection risks. These setbacks threaten recent progress and escalate the protection crisis across the region.
- Reduced scope of solutions-based interventions has delayed camp integration into host communities. Access to housing, jobs, education, and services is stalled, prolonging reliance on aid and straining local resources.
- Major funding cuts have disrupted essential services like health, education, and employment, especially for vulnerable groups. Combined with economic hardship and rising insecurity, some individuals turn to armed groups for survival, deterring investment.
- UNHCR's emergency response capacity is severely limited due to funding shortfalls, affecting its ability to deliver life-saving aid and meet urgent protection needs.

IDP Situation

- UNHCR signed two Memorandum of Understandings with Borno State Ministry of Education to enhance access to vocational skills for IDPs, promoting self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods. UNHCR and government partners conducted hydro-geophysical surveys in Katsina and Borno States to support plans for year-round agricultural production.

Impacts of Funding Cuts and Efficiency Measures

Impact of Funding Cuts

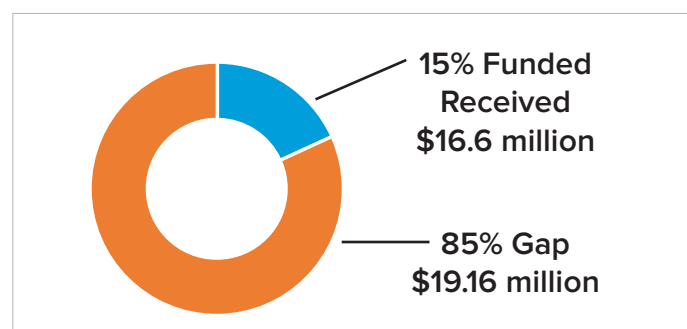
- Significant budget cuts from a number of major donors continue to impact UNHCR's protection and humanitarian activities in Nigeria. It has been necessary to drastically reduce community-based protection, child protection and GBV services and to focus the operational scope to a reduced number of States and LGAs.

Efficiency Measures

- To address funding cuts, UNHCR implemented strategic reforms under the Business Transformation Programme to improve cost-efficiency and service delivery for 3.6 million refugees and IDPs in Nigeria.
- Key actions have included reducing implementing partners from 22 to eight by mid-2025, streamlining protection services and reducing overheads. Refugee settlements were integrated into host communities to promote self-reliance, enabling UNHCR to phase out direct services in WASH, housing, and education, while maintaining support for the most vulnerable through cash assistance.

- UNHCR also strengthened collaboration with government and private sector actors, securing land for livelihoods, integrating refugees into national safety nets, and developing blended finance and job creation initiatives. Large-scale documentation drives improved access to identity and financial services via mobile units.
- In emergencies such as the widespread Borno floods in 2024, cash assistance replaced traditional logistics, speeding up response and empowering beneficiaries.
- Operational efficiencies included staff restructuring to increase cost effectiveness, office space optimization, solarization, more efficient travel plans and tech upgrades. These measures, including improved procurement and fraud controls, have saved nearly USD 1.8M and boosted resilience, autonomy and cost-effectiveness across the operation.

FUNDING AS OF 30 JUNE 2025



Work in Partnerships

- UNHCR continues regular coordination and consultation with State and Local governments and other humanitarian actors. UNHCR partners with Nigeria Bar Association in ten states and leads the protection cluster in the Northeast region. UNHCR also co-leads the Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster focused on improving living conditions in displacement camps, facilitates relocations and works to improve access to services; and supports the Shelter and Non-Food Items Cluster, ensuring displaced persons receive essential relief items.
- UNHCR is an active member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and continues to fundraise in partnership with other UN agencies.



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