

# ICRC IN NIGERIA

JANUARY - DECEMBER 2019



*“As humanitarian workers, it is our obligation to focus all our attention and energies on the plight of persons whose lives have been irrevocably changed by the reverberations of armed conflict and violence. Despite the various challenges that we face in the course of our work, our commitment to the displaced, sick, wounded and detained remains steadfast; to continue to alleviate human suffering by doing the best we can with the resources we have.”*

Eloi Fillion Head of ICRC delegation, Nigeria

The security situation in Nigeria remains precarious with the evolution of the armed conflict in the north-east and the complex nature of communal violence in many states of the North Central and South-South regions. In the states of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe, it is estimated that more than 50% of the population is in need of humanitarian assistance (UNOCHA).

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is a non-religious humanitarian organisation that has worked tirelessly to provide lifesaving assistance and sustained development initiatives to affected populations. In 2019 alone, the ICRC assisted about three quarters of a million persons in Nigeria with food and household items while about five hundred thousand were supported to either establish or enhance streams of income to help them build sustainable livelihoods. During the same period, more than half a million patients, mainly women and young children, benefited from medical consultations at ICRC supported primary health care centres. While massive numbers of persons displaced were reached, the needs continually exceed available resources and manpower.

A recent development to the many challenges poised against the provision of humanitarian assistance is

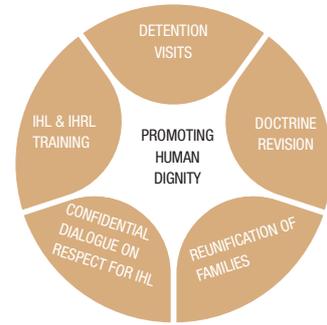
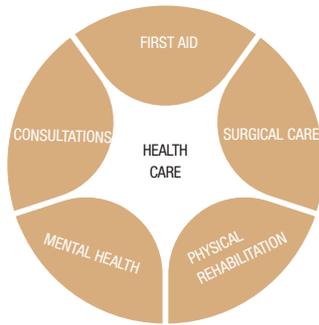
the increased threat to the lives of aid workers in the areas where the ICRC had previously gained access. The level of freedom and respect given to humanitarian workers in these areas contributes markedly to the quality of assistance as well as the reach of humanitarian interventions for affected populations. Humanitarian workers put their lives at risk to reach affected populations and must be respected and allowed to work unhindered if their labour is to have sustained impact.

With a staff of over 800 people in Nigeria consisting of varied nationalities and religions, the ICRC works to ensure that humanitarian assistance is dispatched in an impartial and neutral manner. This is done by placing priority on the needs of affected populations and speaking to weapon bearers about laws of war and how compliance with these rules can protect the lives and dignity of those caught in the cross fire. Consequently, the ICRC sensitized 4,500 weapon bearers by supporting the integration of international humanitarian law and international standards for law enforcement.

The ICRC continued its work with detainees across Nigeria by leveraging on its unique access to places of detention. At the heart of our detention activities

is the desire to ensure that detainees are treated with dignity and respect and accorded their basic rights. This year, over 20,000 detainees have had their conditions of hygiene and access to water improved. The ICRC is able to assess detention conditions and

the needs of detainees through regular visits and confidential discussions with the persons detained. The outcomes of these discussions are discussed confidentially with detaining authorities.



*“Providing sanitary items has changed my life a lot. Before, I used to sit at home idle, suffered depression and begged people to live. Now I employ youth and I help the displaced women and girls in the camps and host communities”.*

Zainab Dalorima, awardee,  
TEF/ICRC partnership, Maiduguri



## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS



**745,000**  
PERSONS ASSISTED

600,000 persons received food assistance improving their food consumption, while 145,000 persons received essential household items.



**548,000**  
PERSONS SUPPORTED

530,000 persons received productive inputs (seeds, tools...) to support their agricultural activities.

150,000 animals (cows, goats and sheeps) were dewormed, enhancing the livelihood source of over 18,000 persons.



**62,000**  
IDPs & RETURNEES

34,400 IDPs in Monguno, Damboa and Maiduguri benefitted from the construction of 5,800 temporary shelters. 23,900 returnees were assisted with shelter kits consisting of roofing materials, door and windows, while 3,700 people moved into permanent shelters built with stabilized soil bricks.



**507,000**  
PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED  
ACCESS TO WATER

Over 417,000 persons in armed conflict and violence areas had improved access to water and hygiene (285 boreholes or handpumps rehabilitated/built, 149,000 IDPs sensitized to hygiene, 94 washing facilities and 2,977 latrines built in IDP camps...) Al Hamduri, Urban Water Project in Maiduguri improved water supply to 90,000 people.



**18,000**  
INCOME GENERATION

Micro-economic initiatives in Port Harcourt and cash for livelihood or cash for work projects in Borno mainly, improved the income generation of over **18,000** persons.

**153** small and medium sized business owners received cash grants through the ICRC/TEF partnership.



### MAKING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBLE



**565,400**  
CONSULTATIONS MADE



**22,800**  
CHILDREN DELIVERED

**565,400** consultations were made across **18** ICRC supported primary health care centres and **1** mobile health unit.

More than **64,000** children under the age of five were diagnosed and treated using the ICRC supported tablet-based algorithm for the management of childhood illnesses.

Over **22,800** babies were birthed at ICRC supported health facilities or at home with ICRC trained traditional birth attendants in areas where access to the health facilities was impeded.

Over **7,700** patients received surgical care from the ICRC surgical team at the Maiduguri State Specialist Hospital.

**314** patients were fitted with artificial limbs through the ICRC physical rehabilitation program.

About **3,700** community members and arms carriers were trained in first aid techniques.

More than **3,200** persons received outpatient nutrition therapy while over **700** were treated for severe acute malnutrition.

Over **6,200** persons were sensitized on mental health care while **396** persons who experienced trauma in relation to the conflict received face to face consultations. **800** persons also attended group counselling sessions.

### ENCOURAGING HUMANE TREATMENT OF DETAINEES



**23,200**  
DETAINEES VISITED

About **23,200** persons in places of detention were visited and the conditions of their detention assessed.

**7,489** detainees were visited and monitored individually.

**20,000** detainees had improved access to water and hygiene conditions through ICRC supported water infrastructure projects and distribution of hygiene items.



### REUNITING SEPARATED FAMILY MEMBERS



**21,600**  
REPORTED MISSING

**21,630** cases of persons reported missing were being actively handled by the ICRC in collaboration with the Nigerian Red Cross Society as of December, 2019.

**159** separated children and unaccompanied minors were reunited with their family members.

Families of **886** missing persons received information about the whereabouts or fate of their loved ones.

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



Sessions on IHL or international standards for law enforcement were held on the frontline with the army and the police in Gwoza, Bama and Monguno notably. 3,100 armed forces personnel and 1,490 police personnel attended these sessions.

ICRC contributed to revise the Force Order 237 on the Use of Force and Firearms by the Police.

More than 20,000 persons in areas of armed conflict and violence attended information sessions on humanitarian principles.

In addition, sustained engagement with officials of the Economic Community of West African Standby Force and meetings to review IHL implementation in West Africa took place to encourage the integration and domestication of IHL.

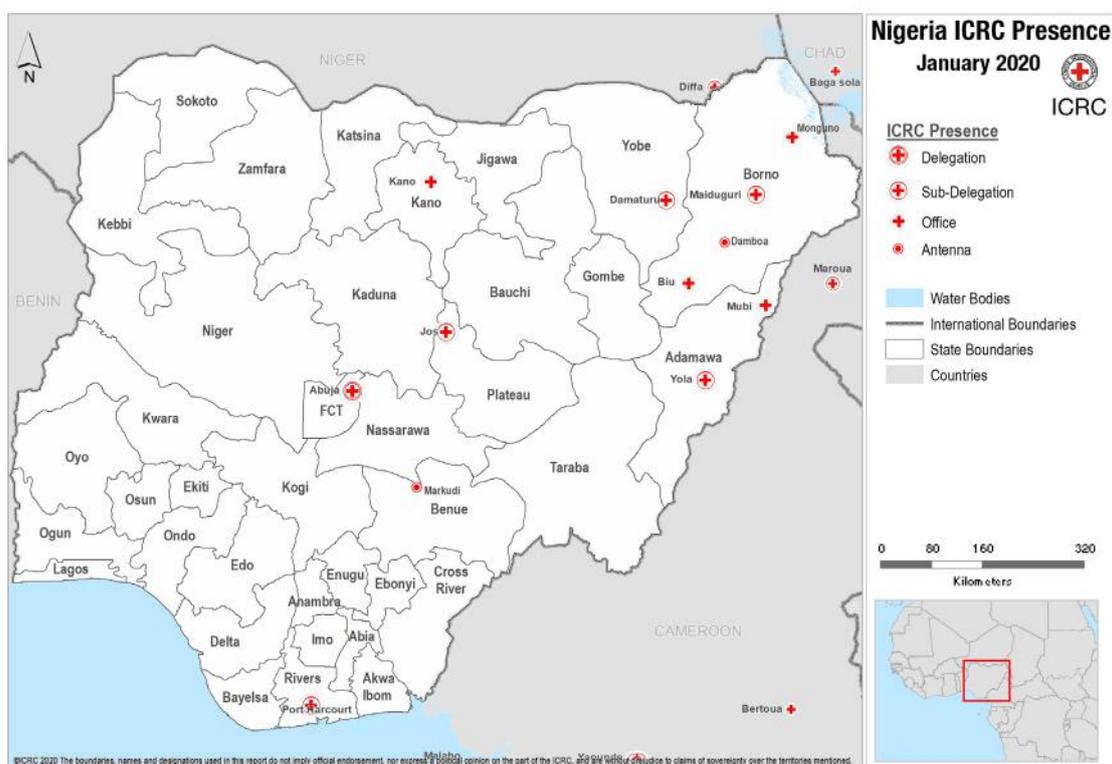
## ENHANCING THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (NRCS) RESPONSE TO EMERGENCIES



Over 3,900 volunteers and staff of the NRCS were trained on how to deliver humanitarian aid in a safe and secure manner.

The ICRC offered structural support to the NRCS with 4 structures built and furnished (notably the Branch office in Calabar) and the donation of 4 vehicles to the NRCS headquarters in Abuja, Anambra and Zamfara Branches. In addition 3 radio communication masts were installed at the headquarters, as well as at Borno and Yobe Branches.

The ICRC also contributed to the organizational development in the areas of financial and control mechanisms as well as programme monitoring and evaluation.



### About the ICRC

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is an impartial, neutral and independent organization whose exclusively humanitarian mission is to protect the lives and dignity of victims of armed conflict and other situations of violence and to provide them with assistance. The ICRC also endeavours to prevent suffering by promoting and strengthening humanitarian law and universal humanitarian principles.

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