



ICRC

FACTS & FIGURES

2017

Nigeria in Perspective: Meeting Evolving Humanitarian Needs

Now in its ninth year, the armed conflict in north-east Nigeria has had devastating humanitarian consequences for millions of people across the Lake Chad region. More than two million people have been forcibly displaced from their homes since the start of the conflict and desperately need food, water, access to health, shelter, and above all, safety and finding their loved ones. The conflict has had a particular impact on food security, with more than five million people in need of food aid. The risk of malnutrition was exacerbated by cholera outbreaks in 2017. At the same time, one million displaced Nigerians returned to their communities, where they faced destruction to their properties and livelihoods and continued to be reliant on humanitarian assistance.

In the middle belt of central Nigeria, continued clashes between farmers and herdsman displaced more than **130,000** people from Benue, Kaduna, Nasarawa, and Taraba states alone. The Niger Delta witnessed returns from Nigerian refugees and migrants in need of assistance as well as communal clashes and violence. Nigeria was the fifth largest ICRC operation globally in 2017. Throughout the year, the ICRC worked with the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and communities towards meeting basic needs for assistance and protection of vulnerable populations affected by the armed conflict or other situations of violence. Whenever possible, we replaced direct assistance with programmes aiming to help people earn their own income and become self-reliant. For that, we formed partnerships with the private sector, went crowd-sourcing for innovative ideas to strengthen resilience of affected communities, and coordinated with Nigerian and international humanitarian agencies. In designing our humanitarian response, we take into account priority needs and wishes of the communities.

By providing aid relief, livelihood assistance, and training we reached over **1,152,000** people in Nigeria's North East and middle belt regions. Together with other Red Cross societies in the Lake Chad region, we searched for more than **13,200** people on behalf of their families. In May, we facilitated the hand-over of 82 released "Chibok girls" upon the request of both the Government of Nigeria and the armed group that had held them, without taking part in negotiations that led to their release.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

Whenever immediate emergency response was not necessary or could be covered by another aid agency, the ICRC replaced relief with small grants, training, or cash assistance to displaced Nigerians and those returning to their villages to help them become self-reliant. We sought to enhance sustainable livelihoods by providing improved staple and cash crop seeds to farmers and vaccinating livestock. Despite security challenges and deficient rainfall, most assisted farmers have attained average harvest. In areas where markets were functional, the vulnerable families were assisted through cash and vouchers in order to boost local trade. Particularly vulnerable families, such as households where widows were the main breadwinner, were prioritised for assistance.

On the whole:



Almost **450,500** people in the north-east and the Middle Belt regions received food for three months or longer;



Almost **70,800** 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;



Around **500,250** returnees and residents who had been isolated in conflict areas received

agricultural inputs including seeds, machinery and tools to start farming or to increase their crop production;



More than **130,500** 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 cash assistance to cover their most pressing needs.



They received improved seeds to plant their fields barren by the communal violence in Benue state. Thanks to the good quality seed and good rainfall, the harvest turned out well. Photo: ICRC/Patience Nanklin Yawu

HEALTH CARE

The onset of the armed conflict exacerbated the already difficult access to health care in north-eastern Nigeria, where 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 supported 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 provided care for the wounded in need of emergency surgical care in the north-east while the ICRC trained staff of Nigerian hospitals countrywide to enhance their skills in the treatment and management of wounded patients. Furthermore, the ICRC also provided psychosocial support for trauma-affected victims of the armed conflict and the NRCS volunteers working to assist them.

and other severe medical conditions.

On the whole:



More than **581,330** patients, including **55,400** children, attended **25** ICRC-supported centres for primary health care and **4** mobile clinics serving the displaced, returnees, and residents in north-eastern Nigeria.



Over **26,770** children were delivered in ICRC-supported clinics.

Around **15,700** children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition were treated in ICRC-supported clinics in north-east Nigeria.



More than **190** amputees received prosthesis at the ICRC-supported physical rehabilitation center in Kano.



Over **2,600** patients benefited from free surgical care.

More than **230** Nigerian doctors and nurses improved their skills in emergency trauma and surgical management of the wounded from courses organized by the ICRC.



ICRC surgical center in Kano, functioning since 2016, enhances mobility of people who have lost limbs as a result of the conflict. Photo: ICRC/ Adewole Abiodun



Over **2,600** people, including NRCS members, community members, military/police personnel, religious groups, and weapon bearers, were trained in first aid and emergency preparedness.



More than **9,100** people affected by the armed conflict and other situations of violence received psychosocial support.



Around **17,300** casualties were treated and evacuated by the NRCS emergency first aid teams and trained community first aid responders in **15** states in north-east and the middle belt and Niger Delta regions through the ICRC-supported First Aid program.

WATER AND HABITAT

The high numbers of displaced people in the north-east put a strain on basic resources such as water and sanitation installations. The ICRC created or upgraded water points and sanitation facilities in displacement camps and affected host communities. It also built tents and emergency shelters. To promote hygiene in camps, the ICRC worked with the NRCS and displaced persons on cleaning the environment. In areas where returns are possible, the ICRC stepped up its repair or construction of water systems benefitting both host communities and returnees.

On the whole:



After receiving building material to rebuild her home destroyed during communal clashes in Kaduna, this lady rewarded us with a dance.

Photo: ICRC/Charles Dashe



Over **860,000** displaced persons, returnees, and residents in the north-east and the middle belt got access to clean water and **16,000** residents of shanty towns in Port-Harcourt had access to safe drinking water through the provision of boreholes, water storage, and distribution networks.



Almost **109,000** displaced persons in north-eastern Nigeria improved their sanitation and hygiene conditions.



Nearly **92,300** displaced people, returnees and persons affected by communal clashes in Adamawa, Borno, Plateau, Kaduna, and Benue

received ICRC support to rebuild their houses. The ICRC also improved access to health services for **2,000** 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. 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.

On the whole:



Over **8,800** new tracing requests were opened by persons looking for relatives with the ICRC or the NRCS.



Almost **1,100** Red Cross messages containing family news were exchanged among separated family members.



1,700 free phone calls were made available by the Red Cross to persons searching for their family.



After searching for many months, the Red Cross found Ima's mother, and could show Ima her picture. They were reunited, after being separated for four years. Photo: ICRC

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.



440 visits were made by the ICRC protection team to camp authorities, security forces, and displacement camp leaders in Borno and Adamawa states to build a protection dialogue.

PROTECTION OF PERSONS DETAINED IN RELATION TO THE CONFLICT

In Nigeria, the ICRC continued to ensure the protection of the lives and dignity of persons in detention. The ICRC supported the efforts of the authorities towards attaining adequate standards of living for detainees

On the whole:



Almost **29,000** 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 food, 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 **9,800** detainees in various states received regular hygiene distributions and campaigns which improved their sanitation and hygiene conditions.

In Yola prison, **600** detainees benefitted from better water quality and quantity through a solar water supply project and more than **1,000** detainees in Jos prison had new cooking facilities.

SUPPORT FOR THE NIGERIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY (NRCS)

The ICRC worked with the network of NRCS staff and volunteers around the country to meet the needs of vulnerable people in a rapid, secure, and efficient manner. Keeping Red Cross staff and volunteers out of harm's way was a priority throughout the year.

Over **3,000** volunteers and staff from Adamawa, Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Benue, Borno, Cross Rivers, Delta, Edo, Enugu, Kaduna, Lagos, Nasarawa, Ogun, and Rivers branches were trained on how to operate safely in sensitive and insecure environments and to gain access to communities in need.

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.

On the whole:



Nearly **450** students and lecturers received support for the teaching, research, and study of IHL, while **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.



Over **10,500** military personal, including the Navy, Airforce, and the Army in almost 20 Nigerian states, received information on the current humanitarian concerns and ICRC's work. In addition, almost **1,600** police officers, law enforcement agents, and non-state armed groups increased their knowledge of IHL and IHRL.

Over **29,000** 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-eastern 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, with seven additional offices 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 2017, **640** national and international staff were working for the ICRC in Nigeria in **12** different locations.

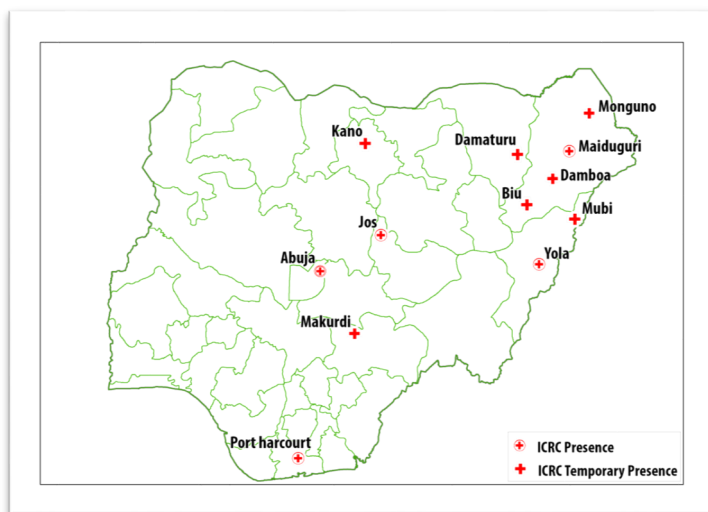


In a Port Harcourt's community which we assisted in building resilience and coping with armed violence, we gave cameras to teenagers who documented their lives.

Photo: ICRC/Adavize Baiye



The ICRC trained 3,000 NRCS staff and volunteers on how to assess the needs of communities displaced by the armed conflict or other situations of violence. Community representatives help design our humanitarian response. Photo: ICRC/Adavize Baiye



ICRC

ICRC in Nigeria

5 Queen Elizabeth Street, Asokoro District, Abuja, FCT

T: +234 700 5000 4000 Email : abj_abuja@icrc.org

