

THE ABUJA ACTION STATEMENT

ON PROTECTION IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN – ONE YEAR ON

Adopted on 8 June 2016 by the Governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger at the **Regional Protection Dialogue** on the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin, hosted by the Federal Government of Nigeria with the technical support of UNHCR.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Forced displacement and freedom of movement (*Actions 1 – 6*)

- Government and humanitarian actors supported the *voluntary relocation* of over 4,000 refugees from high risk areas in **Niger** between June 2016 and June 2017 and 120,000 persons of concern from high risk areas in **Chad** in 2016. (*Action 1*)
- *Border and protection monitoring* was enhanced in all countries. (*Action 3*)
- Over 12,000 representatives of government authorities, international organizations and civil society were *trained* on the limits and safeguards of refugee and IDP protection in **Cameroon, Niger and Nigeria**. (*Action 4*)
- **Cameroon** *formally acceded* to the Kampala Convention in 2017. (*Action 6*)

What is the Abuja Action Statement?

State commitments to enhance the protection and solutions environment for IDPs, refugees and other affected populations.

24 concrete actions **5** priority areas of protection concern

Civil-military coordination & civilian character of refugee and IDP hosting areas (*Actions 7 – 10*)



The Nigerian National Human Rights Commission facilitates a discussion on international humanitarian law at a training of the Nigerian armed forces in Borno State in May 2017, organized by NHRC/UNHCR. Photo: UNHCR/Werner Matthijs Hof

- *Trainings of military and security forces* were conducted in all countries on protection, human rights and humanitarian principles. (*Action 7*)
- 800,000 civilians in **Nigeria** became *newly accessible* in 2016 to humanitarian actors due to military advances and coordination. (*Action 8*)
- *Civil-military coordination* was strengthened in all countries through the creation of CivMil focal points and coordination structures. (*Action 8*)
- *Access to justice* was enhanced in **Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria** through strategic partnerships and engagement of national and local actors. (*Action 10*)

Persons with specific protection risks (Actions 11-15)

- *Identification of persons with specific needs* was enhanced through vulnerability assessments in all countries. (Action 11)
- Protection and/or GBV *referral pathways* were created or strengthened in all countries. (Action 12)
- 100%* of reported refugee *SGBV survivors* in 2016 received appropriate support. (Action 13) *RRRP EYR data 2016
- Over 492,000* boys and girls in the affected areas benefited from *psycho-social support* through child friendly spaces in 2016. (Action 13) *UNICEF/Situation Report/ORS/countries



Girl and boy refugees in Cameroon's Minawao camp learn the alphabet in a child friendly space run by ALDEPA and UNICEF. Photo: UNICEF

A comprehensive solutions approach (Actions 16 – 19)

- Comprehensive solutions were advanced in **Chad** through a new Government policy in 2016 to enable *alternatives to camps* and inclusion of refugees, IDPs and returnees in the *UNDAF*. (Actions 16 & 18)
- Over 307,000* boys and girls affected by the crisis were supported by humanitarian actors to *access education* and 423,739* received *school materials* in 2016. (Action 16) *UNICEF/Situation Report/ORS/countries
- On 2 March 2017, **Cameroon, Nigeria and UNHCR** signed a *Tripartite Agreement* to ensure refugee returns are voluntary, in safety and dignity. (Action 17)
- Humanitarian and State actors continue to conduct *monitoring and advocacy* to ensure access to asylum and returns are voluntary, in safety and dignity. (Action 17)



Nigerian refugees in Chad continue as fishermen, often in partnership with their Chadian counterparts from the host community. Through the RRRP, 980 refugees and members of host communities received livelihoods kits/inputs in 2016, representing only 42% of the target. Photo: UNHCR/Oualid Khelifi

Continued support of the international community and non-governmental actors ...

Alignment of key humanitarian response plans (**2017 HRPs**, **2017 Nigeria RRRP**)

Development of the **Regional Protection Strategic Framework for the Lake Chad Basin 2017-2018** guiding the humanitarian response in support of the Abuja Action Statement

Development of a **Typology of Movements in the Lake Chad Basin and Voluntariness Verification Tool**

Organization of the **Oslo Humanitarian Conference** in February 2017 to raise awareness of the crisis and increase funding for the humanitarian appeals

Development and validation of a draft inter-agency **Strategy on protection, return and recovery for North East Nigeria**

Nationality and documentation (Actions 20 – 23)

- *Awareness raising* campaigns on the importance of civil registration were conducted in all countries, including over 14,000 persons reached in **Niger** and multi-lingual radio broadcasts conducted in North East **Nigeria**. (Action 20)
- 522 refugee children *births were registered* in **Chad** through mobile registration centres between January 2015 and January 2017. (Action 21)
- **Niger** endorsed and prioritized the *Diffa Administrative and Humanitarian Census Project*, which aims to register the entire population of Diffa and is slated to begin in January 2018. (Actions 21 & 22)
- **Nigeria** and **Niger** developed *national action plans to eradicate statelessness* and designated Government Focal Points on statelessness issues. (Action 22)



RADH Project Document Validation Workshop, Niamey 20 April 2017. From left: Mr. Hamidou Garba, Governor of Niamey; Mme. Lamidou Ousseini Salamatou, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Bazoum Mohamed, Minister of Interior; Mr. Abdouraouf Gnon-Konde, UNHCR Representative a.i. Photo: UNHCR

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Challenges and Next Steps

Important progress has been made since June 2016, yet the protection issues identified at the Regional Protection Dialogue continue to be of concern, and all action points elaborated in the Abuja Action Statement remain of relevance to further strengthening the protection and solutions environment for IDPs, refugees and other populations affected by the crisis in the Lake Chad Basin.

Significant achievements have been made in all countries toward implementation of the commitments made in Abuja, and one State – Niger – has elaborated a draft action plan for the implementation of the Action Statement (Action Point 24).

The Governments of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger as well as humanitarian, human rights and other key stakeholders will continue working together in the coming period to ensure the protection of the affected populations and to further implementation of the Abuja Action Statement.

A renewed and reinvigorated commitment is needed by all actors to enhance the protection and solutions environment for the IDPs, refugees and other affected populations.

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LINKS

Nigeria situation web portal: <http://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/nigeriasituation>

The information in this report was compiled by UNHCR and reflects key achievements and progress made by Government, humanitarian and other protection actors. This update is not intended to provide a comprehensive update of all progress made on implementation of the Action Statement.