

CHAD EMERGENCY UPDATE

LAKE CHAD PROVINCE

Individual registration of newly arrived Nigerian refugees starts

Individual biometric registration of newly arrived Nigerian refugees started on 23 January 2019 in Dar Es Salam camp, near Baga Sola in the Lake Chad province and is expected to last for 12 days. Following an attack by the armed group known as Islamic State in West Africa (former Boko Haram) in Borno state, Nigeria, on 26 December, over 6,500 people according to government estimates fled to Chad. A total 4,627 individuals were transferred by UNHCR and partners from the border area, in Ngouboua, to Dar Es Salam refugee camp, home to about 8,000 already registered refugees.

As of 26 January 2019, 1,482 individuals were individually registered, an average of 370 persons registered daily. The registration process includes security screening by Chadian authorities, to preserve the civilian character of asylum and to detect fraud, a medical check as well as protection screening to identify people with specific needs. The Préfet himself visited the registration centre in Dar Es Salam to greet the teams and launch the registration exercise. UNHCR reminded all newly arrived refugees that all humanitarian services are provided free of charge in Dar Es Salam and explained how to report fraud or corruption.

Detailed gap analysis for the refugee response is on-going. Identified key priorities include:

- Improvement of the Baga Sola airstrip to improve humanitarian access;
- Resupplying of vaccines to avoid shortages;
- Access to water and sanitation;
- Provision of emergency shelters;

- Stepping up camp security, with a focus on prevention of sexual and gender based violence (for instance through setting up public lighting).

The Préfet from Baga Sola continues to hold regular crisis committee gathering humanitarian actors involved in the emergency response. Now that all new arrivals have been transferred away from the border area to Dar Es Salam refugee camp, UNICEF's partner Action Contre la Faim is currently closing and cleaning the site used to host new arrivals in Ngouboua, a Chadian village by the shores of Lake Chad. Emergency water and sanitation infrastructures were dismantled and stored, to be reinstalled in case of need.

Further new arrivals, this time from Niger, were reported by protection monitors at the border between Chad and Niger. New arrivals are reportedly holding documents delivered to internally displaced people by UNHCR in Niger. Together with the government asylum agency (CNARR), UNHCR and WFP are planning a joint mission to assess the situation.

In addition, spontaneous internal displacements were also reported since late December 2018, with over 1,000 households (an estimated 5,000 people) newly displaced. Help Tchad conducted a rapid assessment in one of the sites, Kafila, pending security conditions allowing inter-cluster missions to assess needs in all sites. Key protection gaps include the lack of female staff and reduced protection monitoring capacities.

Emergency response

Protection: 1,482 people out of a total 4,627 transferred to Dar Es Salam refugee camp were individually registered as of 26 January. The vast majority (72%) are children. All registered households receive a refugee attestation and adults receive an identity card. Women and girls represent 54% of registered individuals so far. In addition to a security and medical screening, individual registration includes protection monitoring. This helps to reunify families; seven children were reunited with their family so far. Individual registration also allows to collect information on, among others, education level, livelihoods and intentions regarding return. In terms of education, this will for instance facilitate the integration of newly arrived school-aged children into schools.

Initial protection monitoring indicate that the areas of origin of the newly arrived refugees had been targeted already in 2015. Back then, some people had fled to Maiduguri, Nigeria, to come back after a few months, while others fled to Chad and settled in Dar Es Salam camp. Some of the newly arrived refugees may therefore reunite in Dar Es Salam with relatives from the same areas that had fled to Chad back in 2015.

Shelter & Core Relief Items: As of 25 January, UNHCR built 600 emergency shelters and 158 new Refugee Housing Units (an innovative shelter option that has a 3 year lifespan, compared to 6-month for emergency shelter). This represents a total of 758 families now living in their individual shelters. There is still a need for 492 emergency shelters and 75 solar street lamps. Newly arrived households received core relief items (blankets, mats, kitchen sets and mosquito nets) as well as hygiene items.

Water & Sanitation: Four boreholes, in addition to the existing two, are now operational in Dar Es Salam. This brings to 14 litres the average amount of water available per person per day, below the UNHCR emergency standard of 20 l/p/d. UNICEF's partner ACF and HELP are working on the remaining needed boreholes, covering 80% of needs. There is currently a gap for the last two of 10 needed boreholes in total, as well as for 90 emergency latrines and four collective latrines, 25 sanitation kits, 40 handwashing kits, 10 washing areas, and five waste management bins.

Food security: On 21 January 2019, newly arrived refugees received food assistance distributed by the World Food Programme. 1,596 households (3,562 individuals in total) received a ration composed of rice, oil, corn and dates.



Newly arrived Nigerian refugees receive food distributed by WFP in Dar Es Salam camp. Chad, January 2018 © UNHCR / A. Ngargoune

Coordination

UNHCR is supporting authorities (central and local) to coordinate the refugee emergency response, in close collaboration with the clusters already active in the Lake Chad area for the Internally Displaced People (IDP) and returnees. The Government refugee agency (CNARR) is deploying additional capacities to respond, notably to carry out registration. With the support of NGOs and UN agencies, existing government services are assisting refugees.

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