Western Africa Refugee Crisis

OVERVIEW

192,000 of refugees and returnees
80 percent displaced women and children

The conflict in northern Nigeria is causing a regional humanitarian crisis, with some 192,000 people fleeing the border into Niger, Chad and Cameroon. About 80 percent of the displaced are women and children.

IMMENSE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Since 2014, attacks by armed groups in Northern Nigeria spread to Cameroon, isolated incidents were also recorded in Niger and Chad. The influx of Nigerian refugees is placing a heavy strain on the host communities in neighbouring countries, putting additional pressure on scarce resources such as water, food and health services.

In the region of Diffa in Niger, lack of clean water has contributed to a regional epidemic of cholera. Hundreds of cases have been reported, mainly among displaced people.

HOW CARE IS RESPONDING

CARE HAS REACHED ALMOST 72,000 PEOPLE WITH FOOD, CASH, DRINKING WATER AND HYGIENE KITS IN EASTERN NIGER AND IS PLANNING TO SCALE UP ITS RESPONSE TO THE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS IN THE REGION.

CAMEROON:
CARE is monitoring the situation.
39,000 Nigerian refugees in Northern Cameroon. Clashes between armed groups from Nigeria and Cameroonian forces are increasing.

NIGER:
150,000 people (both Nigerian refugees and returning Niger nationals) from Nigeria have been registered in Diffa, over 80% are taking shelter in host communities. Two refugee camps are currently set up in the Diffa region, the first one (Sayam Forage) is already opened and currently hosts 1,300 people. CARE delivers water to the camp and organizes transport for refugees from transit sites to the camp.

The fighting on the Nigerian border is causing displacement of people inside Niger as well. In a region already suffering from chronic poverty and food insecurity, the arrival of refugees and the internal displacement of Nigeriens puts enormous stress on resources and host families.

Gambo Moussa, a refugee woman from Nigeria, inspects the goods she has received from a CARE distribution in Eastern Niger.

“My three kids slept under one blanket. Now they each can have their own, plus a mosquito net.”

Gambo Moussa, a refugee woman from Nigeria, inspects the goods she has received from a CARE distribution in Eastern Niger.

“My three kids slept under one blanket. Now they each can have their own, plus a mosquito net.”

© Frederic Courbet/CARE