June 2024

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Nigeria Response Report

Reporting Period
January - March 2024

Nigeria – Plateau Crisis

Situation Overview

On 24 December 2023, heightened tensions between farmers and herders resulted in a series of attacks against civilians in Plateau State in the North-Central region, affecting Bokkos, Barkin Ladi, and Mangu Local Government Areas (LGAs). By mid-February, health authorities in Plateau State reported 865 people killed, including 160 children.

Meanwhile, IOM documented 215 people injured, and 15,313 individuals displaced to at least 7 IDP camps and numerous host communities in Bokkos LGA/Plateau State and Dass/Bauchi/Toro/Tafawa Balewa LGAs in Bauchi State. Those who fled to Bauchi State all hailed from Mangu LGA. By the end of May, some IDPs continued to reside in camp settings. These attacks followed earlier farmer-herder clashes in April 2023.

Humanitarian Needs

IOM recorded food, shelter, non-food items, health, mental health, and psycho-social support (MHPSS) needs for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Plateau State, as well as a lack of food and non-food items for IDPs in Bauchi State. The multi-sector initial rapid needs assessment (MIRA) recorded security, food, health and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) as priority needs. During a UNICEF field visit in February, displaced adults and displaced children respectively emphasized that they were keen to return home and to their schools as soon as the security situation allowed. All children interviewed noted that they had attended school right until the attacks. The observed reliance on open wells in temporary IDP camps set up both in public buildings and in host communities, underscored the risk of water-borne diseases.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

865 People killed (160 of whom children)

215 People injured

15,313 People displaced (IOM January 2024)

UNICEF RESPONSE

20,000 Affected people accessed safe drinking water through chlorine disinfection and purification tabs

4,807 Persons benefitted from mobile medical consultation in temporary camps
RESPONSE

Coordination and Response

As per a Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) decision in July 2023, inter-agency humanitarian responses beyond Northeast Nigeria are to be government-led, time-bound, and supported by a volunteer member of the Humanitarian Country Team. In this context, WHO supported the Plateau State Government (Ministry of Health as the first responder to the attacks and the State Emergency Management Authority in coordinating the inter-agency response. Accordingly, the Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) was activated on December 29th. Nine government-led sectors were established, and bi-weekly coordination meetings with 26 aid agencies were convened as per established Coordination Terms of References (TOR).

Federal authorities via the National Emergency Management Authority (NEMA) facilitated the delivery of assistance to both affected farmers and herders, in terms of food, non-food items, as well as medicine. Other international and national aid organizations complemented these efforts, including also via the provision of medicines, as well as hygiene items and sanitation services.

UNICEF Response

With thanks to the availability of humanitarian flexible funding that allows the channeling of funding where it is most needed, and based on which contingency stocks had been stockpiled in 2023 for preparedness purposes, UNICEF delivered an integrated health and WASH response within one month of the eruption of violence. Based on the prioritized needs identified and complementing the government and other aid agencies’ response efforts, UNICEF’s health and WASH assistance was implemented by government partners in the 3 affected LGAs in Plateau State over a two-month period.

WASH

Complementing the non-food items (NFIs) provided by the government, the response focused on ensuring safe access to water in both IDP camps and host communities in the town centers of Bokkos, Barkin Ladi, and Mangu LGAs in Plateau State, taking into consideration the increased water and hygiene needs in communities hosting displaced people, mostly family relations. Specifically, UNICEF trained 24 community focal officers on using H2S vials for water quality monitoring, as well as aqua tabs for household water purification, further to which 32 wells were disinfected, benefiting over 6000 individuals.

Additionally, 4 million water purification tablets were distributed to IDPs and host communities, ensuring safe water access for 14,000 people. Due to these efforts, no increase in waterborne diseases was recorded despite the influx of people into town centers.

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Health

Based on a prioritization of needs, UNICEF provided incentive payments for 16 health workers who in teams of four delivered integrated medical services across temporary camps and host communities in Barkin Ladi, Bokkos, and Mangu LGAs in Plateau State. From its contingency stocks, UNICEF provided health supplies, such as 4 tents and midwifery kits to enable primary healthcare (PHC) services by the health workers, while other aid actors provided the medicines. Overall, 4,807 IDPs and host communities benefited from mobile medical consultations in temporary camps. Among these, 294 children under the age of 5 years diagnosed with pneumonia received antibiotic treatment. In support of antenatal care, 22 pregnant women received antenatal services.

External Communication

Through multi-media content and social media, UNICEF amplified the voices of affected populations, particularly of women and children. From the onset of the 24 December attacks, UNICEF brought visibility to the emergency, including to its response.

WATCH THE RESPONSE WHEREVER YOU ARE

Video on impact of violence:
https://www.instagram.com/p/C2zu4FGOqIZ/

Video on response:
https://www.instagram.com/reel/C3PulpqIry/?igsh=MWtoYjd5NDhpYWtv