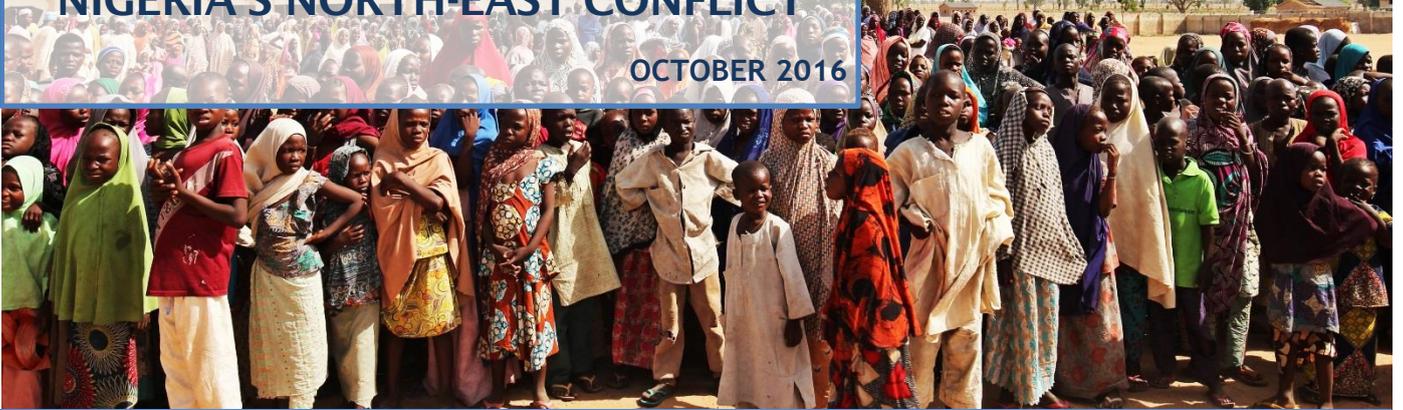


BUSINESS BRIEF

NIGERIA'S NORTH-EAST CONFLICT

OCTOBER 2016



This document provides a road map for companies in responding to the conflict arising from Boko Haram insurgency in northeast Nigeria. The focus of this brief is on effective partnership and on how companies can best participate in the humanitarian response.

OVERVIEW OF THE CRISIS

The conflict in Nigeria's north-east provoked by Boko Haram, resulted in widespread displacement, violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, protection risks and a growing humanitarian crisis.

Since the start of the conflict in 2009, more than 20,000 people were killed, countless women and girls abducted and children drafted as suicide bombers into Boko Haram. Up to 2.5 million people fled their homes, 2.2 million of whom are internally displaced and 211,713 crossed into neighbouring countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

In Adamawa, Borno, Gombe and Yobe states up to 15 million people are directly affected; with 7 million in need of humanitarian assistance, more than 50 per cent of whom are children. More than 4.5 million people are food insecure and 250,000 children in Borno state alone are in danger of falling into severe acute malnutrition over the coming year. Without the required nutritional interventions, as many as 134 children could die every day.

Across the four states, there is severe disruption to basic services such as health care education and general infrastructure. Grave public health risks, including the risk of cholera is a result of poor access to clean water and sanitation, exacerbating malnutrition among children under five. After two years without a registered case of polio, three cases of wild polio were confirmed in Borno state, an indicator of the urgent need to address the escalating health crisis.

The latest information is available at <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/nigeria>

HOW CAN BUSINESSES HELP?

1. MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION: In the early stages of the humanitarian response, relief specialists consider financial contributions to reputable humanitarian agencies as the most valuable and effective form of response. Money is easily transferable and does not use scarce resources such as transportation, staff time or warehouse space. This would be most helpful in addressing the life threatening situations in the nutrition, health and livelihoods sectors.

2. IN-KIND RELIEF AID: The United Nations urges donors to make cash rather than in-kind donations, for maximum speed and flexibility, and to ensure the most appropriate aid is delivered effectively to those most in need. If you can only make in-kind donations in response to disasters and emergencies, please write to Uche Hilary-Ogbonna on hilary-ogbonna@un.org. Please be as specific as possible in what you

are donating including the time-frame for delivery and any conditions. We will then pass your offer to the most appropriate organizations.

3. FUND SPECIFIC PROJECTS UNDER THE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN: The Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) aims to target emergencies such as the situation in the north-east that requires humanitarian assistance both within the country and from international partners. In Nigeria, the Humanitarian Response Plan is jointly developed by the government and UN agencies. The plan articulates the shared vision of how to respond to the assessed and expressed needs of the affected population across the sectors: food, water, sanitation and hygiene, emergency shelter, early recovery and livelihoods, non-food items, nutrition, education, protection etc.

4. CONTRIBUTIONS TO LONGER-TERM RECOVERY: Recovery/development activities should resume at the onset of the crisis, while humanitarian needs are still being addressed. Longer term contributions of technical expertise, infrastructure (re)-development and economic investment are key and must be coordinated with national priorities. The United Nations encourage donors and private organizations to support activities that allow the affected local communities to return to normalcy as soon as possible, through longer term investment in basic structures and institutions of the concerned.

REGISTERING AND RECOGNIZING YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS: OCHA manages the Financial Tracking Service (FTS), which records all reported humanitarian contributions (cash, in-kind, multilateral and bilateral) to emergencies. Its aim is to give credit and visibility to donors for their generosity and to show the total amount of funding and resource gaps in humanitarian appeals. (For in-kind donations, please provide as much detail as possible about type, quantities, and dispatch, so that the UN's LogIK system – which receives automatic updates from FTS – can track its physical progress.)

Please report your contributions to fts@un.org and copy to pss@un.org.

WHO WE ARE

OCHA is the part of the United Nations Secretariat responsible for bringing together humanitarian actors to ensure a coherent response to emergencies. OCHA also ensures there is a framework within which each actor can contribute to the overall response effort.

- Mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors in order to alleviate human suffering in disasters and emergencies.
- Advocate the rights of people in need.
- Promote preparedness and prevention.
- Facilitate sustainable solutions.

CRITICAL REMINDERS

- All response activities should be guided by the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. Stakeholder engagement is key to corporate engagement in humanitarian response. Relief efforts succeed when they collaboratively mobilize civil society.
- Business contributions to the UN response efforts must comply with the Guidelines on Cooperation between the UN and the Business Sector www.business.un.org/en/documents/guidelines.

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