

NIGERIA

Displacement in Plateau state

On 23 June Fulani herdsmen attacked Berom farmers in Plateau state, triggering displacement in Barkin Ladi local government area (LGA), Jos South LGA, Riyom LGA, Bokokos LGA and Mangu LGA. As of 9 July, most reports state that over 38,000 people are displaced in 31 camps, though some estimates are much higher. The camps are overcrowded and needs include urgent shelter, wash, health and food assistance. The violence since June is the latest spike in tensions between Fulani herdsmen and local farmers in the Nigerian Middle Belt region, which have been growing since January 2018.

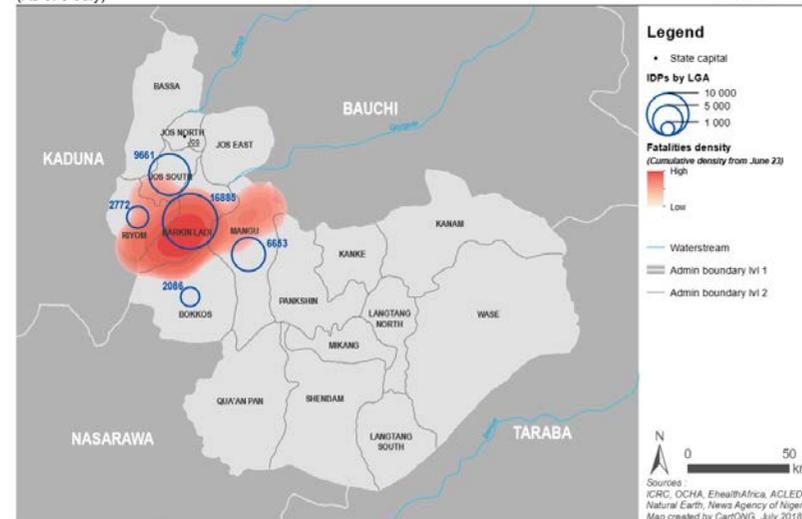
NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE



IMPACT



Nigeria : Violence related fatalities since June 23 and IDPs in Plateau state (As of 9 July)



Anticipated scope and scale

The violence in **Plateau state** displaced **more than 38,000 people** to camps where they are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance. Overcrowded and already inadequate shelter and WASH facilities are likely to worsen without scaled up assistance. The **ongoing rainy season** is likely to exacerbate the **risk of outbreaks**. Violence and displacement have caused **loss of food stocks** and **harvested crops** leaving the displaced at **insecurity**.

Key priorities



+38,000
IDPs



Shelters
are overcrowded



WASH facilities
are inadequate



Outbreak
risk in rainy season

Humanitarian constraints



Violence in the area could cause further security constraints. The ongoing rainy season can cause floods and can limit road access in hard-to-reach remote areas.

Limitations

Official figures are announced by local authorities and reported in local media sources based on information collected by the News Agency of Nigeria. However, official statements of the Plateau State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) are not regularly updated online. This results in conflicting reports and a wide range of displacement figures, from 38,000-144,100. Although the actual figure is likely higher than 38,000, it is not possible to confirm the figure has reached the upper bound of this range.

Crisis impact

On 23 June, a large and coordinated attack led by a Fulani herdsman militia against farmers belonging to the Berom ethnic group resulted in approximately 200 fatalities in Barkin Ladi LGA Plateau state. The following day the government deployed troops in the area (300 soldiers, and seven helicopter gunships), as well as in the neighbouring states of Benue and Taraba which have also experienced herdsman-farmer clashes since the beginning of the 2018 [ACLEDDATA 03/07/2018; ACLED 06/07/2018; Ethnologue 2018]. Clashes continued in Plateau state the following days, affecting Barkin Ladi LGA and neighbouring Mangu, Riyom, Jos North and Jos South LGAs [ACLEDDATA 30/06/2018].

The violence triggered displacement in Barkin Ladi, Riyom, Jos South, Bokkos and Mangu LGAs. Local sources report conflicting numbers of displaced: from some 38,000 people to approximately 144,100 people. The number of IDP camps set by the government is also conflicting, ranging from 10 to 31, although most of the sources are reporting 31 camps [PUNCHNG 07/07/2018; This Day 06/07/2018; Guardian Nigeria 09/07/2018]. 11 camps are reported in Barkin Ladi LGA for 16,885 IDPs are reported to be hosted in 11 camps in Barkin Ladi LGA, 9,661 IDPs in two camps in Jos South LGA, 2,772 IDPs in four camps in Riyom LGA, 2,086 IDPs in six camps in Bokkos LGA, and 6,653 IDPs in eight camps in Mangu LGA.

The precise number of IDPs is still to be determined, because profiling is ongoing as of 9 July and current reporting is mixed. It is likely higher than 38,000, but is unclear whether the upper estimate of 144,100 is reliable [News Agency of Nigeria 09/07/2018; This Day 06/07/2018; Guardian Nigeria 09/07/2018].

Shelter and NFIs: Destruction of homes due to the recent attacks has been reported. Some of the IDPs in Heipang, near Jos town, are being hosted in a church. IDPs in other areas are lack adequate shelter due to the high number of hosted people [Premium Times Nigeria 07/07/2018; This Day 05/07/2018]. Some of the displaced are reported to be exposed to weather conditions [Vanguard Nigeria 07/07/2018]. Although the specific conditions of each camp are not reported on, it is likely that lack of space and other shelter and WASH challenges are widespread given the rapid onset of the displacement and limited preparedness.

WASH: Most of the camps are reported not to have any clean source of water supply [Vanguard Nigeria 07/07/2018]. IDPs hosted in a church in Heipang, near Jos town, reported insufficient number latrines and bathrooms. Cases of open defecation outside the facility are also reported [Premium Times Nigeria 07/07/2018]. People in a camp in Riyom are reporting poor sanitary conditions and lack of safe drinking water [PUNCHNG 07/07/2018; This Day 05/07/2018].

Health: People who were in the areas where the attacks took place are reported to be traumatized, causing concerns for mental health [Daily Post 07/07/2018]. A local source has reported some suspected deaths in the camps, though the causes of death are not yet

confirmed. Poor conditions are increasing the possibility of disease outbreaks in the camps [PUNCHNG 07/07/2018]. Three diarrhoea cases have been reported so far in Riyom Mini Depot camp [This Day 05/07/2018].

Food: The loss of food and harvested crops due to displacement and the destruction of homes, assets and farm crops by the recent attacks has left the IDPs highly dependent on assistance [Daily Post 29/06/2018].

Vulnerable groups affected

Women and children: Local sources report that 70% of those displaced are women and children [Daily Post 29/06/2018]. Displaced women are often exposed to sexual and gender-based violence and to harmful survival mechanisms, such as sexual exploitation [OCHA 02/2018; HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH 31/10/2016]. Displaced children are especially vulnerable, as they are more at risk of exposure to exploitation, child labor and forced marriage [Equal Times 09/07/2018; HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH 31/10/2016].

Humanitarian and operational constraints

The recent spike in violence in Plateau state could cause security constraints to the local and international humanitarian response. The ongoing rainy season is also likely to hamper the response, especially in remote hard-to-reach areas [FEWS NET 05/2018].

Aggravating factors

Rainy Season

The wet season in Plateau state runs in July and August, and can further aggravate the shelter needs of the IDPs as heavy rains damage weak structures [FEWS NET 05/2018; Plateau State Government 2012]. Lack of proper shelter in turn exposes the displaced to weather conditions. Inadequate WASH facilities could be filled and could overflow adding to the risk of outbreaks of waterborne diseases.

Food Insecurity

The food security projections for June-August 2018 for Plateau state estimate 1,517,886 people in IPC Phase 1 (Minimal), 804,412 people in IPC Phase 2 (Stressed) and 191,957 people in IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) [Cadre Harmonisé 03/2018]. The loss of harvested food and the limited access to livelihoods and markets due to insecurity are likely to worsen the food security situation of the displaced.

Contextual information

Drivers of the current conflict

Conflict between farmers and herders in the Nigerian Middle Belt region has escalated dramatically since January 2018. From January to June 2018, the number of attacks by Fulani against civilians in Kaduna, Taraba, Plateau, Benue, Nasarawa states is around 48% higher than the number of attacks against civilians by Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria [ACLED 06/07/2018]. A combination of factors has led to the exacerbation of the herdsman/farmers conflict. One factor is that the insurgency of Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria during the last decade and the growing desertification in the north have pushed nomadic herdsman, who are mainly Muslim, towards predominantly Christian populated farming areas further south. This has triggered an ongoing competition over scarce resources [Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect 27/06/2018]. In the attempt to tackle the situation, some states have passed laws prohibiting free range grazing, but they have been criticised and caused further tensions [SBM Intelligence 04/07/2018]. Finally, the Nigerian president, Muhammadu Buhari, has been also criticised for lack of strong action against the herdsman, being himself ethnically Fulani. [CNN 27/06/2018].

Past displacement

Displacement due to the growing tensions and violence between Fulani herdsman and farmers has been reported mainly in Benue, Nasarawa, Kaduna and Taraba States. Between January and February 2018 approximately 130,000 people were displaced, although reports are not clear about the length of displacement [OCHA 05/02/2018].

Response capacity

Local, national and international response capacity

Plateau State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) has started distributing relief material to displaced camps with the exception of Farin Lamba camp in Riyom, and Mangun and COCIN Ranpiya camps in Mangu [News Agency of Nigeria 09/07/2018; This Day 06/07/2018; Guardian Nigeria 09/07/2018]. Religious based organisations are also reported to be providing some shelter assistance in the Jos area [Premium Times Nigeria 07/07/2018]. Medical assistance has been provided to over 3,000 IDPs in Barkin Ladi LGA, targeting mostly women and children [Daily Post 07/07/2018]. NGOs are also reported to be providing some education assistance in Barking Ladi [Devdiscourse 08/07/2018].

Although there is a strong and active humanitarian response in northeast Nigeria (Borno, Yobe, and Adamawa), is it not clear if any international actor is active in the

area, though it is likely that some international actors are involved in development projects in the area.

Information gaps and needs

- Accurate and reliable information on IDPs number is still needed as the profiling is ongoing.
- Detailed information on needs remains missing.
- Information on the presence of international response is unavailable.

Lessons learned

Nigeria is prone to disease outbreaks like meningitis, cholera and malaria: cases are reported every year. Contingency plans should thus be made for such outbreaks. Coordinated outbreak response operations and timely data sharing at the LGA and ward levels better enhance decision making for public health concerns [WHO 2018; WHO 29/06/2018].

The inclusion of IDPs living in camps or informal settlements as well as host community members in aid programs is crucial. Leaving parts of the population in need without assistance impede on a sustainable reconstruction of the affected areas [UNHCR 07/2007].

Key characteristics

The table below should be adapted according to need. It is a suggestion, to give some form of comparison if the disaster has affected more than one area. Align numbers right, text left.

Key indicators	Plateau State	Barkin Ladi LGA	Bokkos LGA	Jos South LGA	Riyom LGA
Total population	3,206,531	179,805	179,550	311,392	131,778
IDPs (<i>as of 9 July</i>)	38,057	16,885	2,086	9,661	2,772
IDP camps	31	11	6	2	4
Gender and age distribution of total population	Male: 1,598,998 Female: 1,607,533	Male: 90,913 Female: 88,892	Male: 88,560 Female: 90,990	Male: 157,067 Female: 154,325	Male: 66,248 Female: 65,530

Sources: CENSUS 2006; News Agency of Nigeria 09/07/2018; This Day 06/07/2018; Guardian Nigeria 09/07/2018

Map

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