



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency



**DTM**

# WITHIN AND BEYOND BORDERS: TRACKING DISPLACEMENT IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

Regional Displacement and Human Mobility Analysis  
*Displacement Tracking Matrix*

December 2016



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## INTRODUCTION

Understanding and analysis of data, trends and patterns of human mobility is key to the provision of relevant and targeted humanitarian assistance. Humanitarian actors require information on the location and composition of the affected population in order to deliver services and respond to needs in a timely manner. To address response challenges based on a better understanding of human mobility, IOM has gradually improved the **Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM)**, an information management system which regularly **captures, processes and disseminates multi-layered information** on the **mobility, locations, vulnerabilities** and **needs** of displaced populations throughout the course of a crisis. Conceptualized in **2004** the DTM has been continuously refined and enhanced through years of operational experience in both conflict and natural disaster settings, as well as in the context of migration flows. Its central role is in providing primary data and information on displacement and human mobility, both in country and at the regional and global level.

In response to the need for accurate and up-to-date information on displacement and human mobility **resulting from the Boko Haram crisis in the Lake Chad basin**, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) activated its Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) in Nigeria in July 2014, Chad in January 2015, and Cameroon in November 2015. In all three countries, the DTMs play a key role in informing humanitarian and government actors about the location, number and profile of displacement affected populations, and thereby enabling a targeted humanitarian response.

The abovementioned countries are affected by the same crisis in similar contexts. As such, IOM deemed important to link the different data collection exercises conducted in the sub-region in order to compare the displacement trends in the concerned countries, improve the analysis of regional movements, facilitate the definition of regional strategies and actions, and highlight the different displacement and migration flows (especially internal and cross-border movements). The overall objective is to improve the understanding of displacement and human mobility flows in the sub-region in order to better inform the humanitarian response of Governments and humanitarian actors.

Information included in this report is primarily extracted from IOM DTM sources but also includes data collected by UNHCR and the Government of Niger.

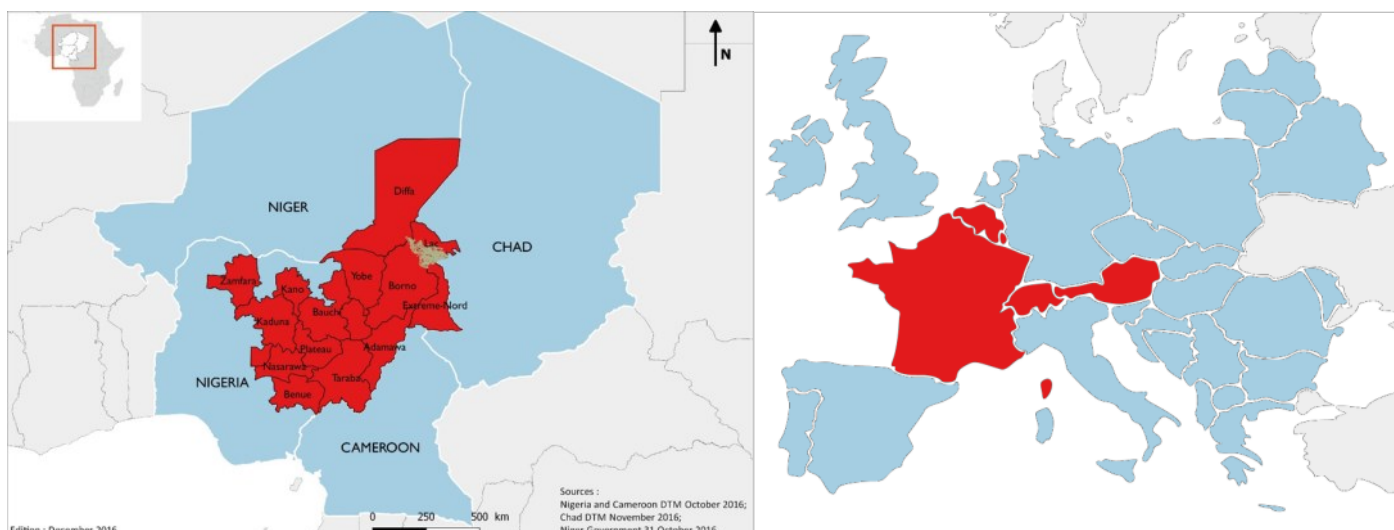
The population tracked by the DTM **in the regions affected by Boko Haram in the three countries** (Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria) represents **3,369,979 individuals** (IDPs, unregistered refugees, returnees and third-country nationals). Additional data collected by UNHCR for refugees and the Government of Niger for the displaced and mobile population in Niger raises the total number of displaced and returned individuals to 3,658,722.

The **IDP caseload** alone represents a total population of **2.4 million persons** in the four countries, more than the population of Slovenia (2.1 million). This population is displaced in an area of 702,356 km<sup>2</sup>, which corresponds to the cumulative geographical area of France, Belgium, Switzerland, and Austria (in red on the maps below).

Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria have a cumulative geographical area of 3,909,380 km<sup>2</sup> (World Bank, Land area), which approximately corresponds to the cumulative area of the European countries highlighted on the map below. Countries highlighted in red represent the area currently hosting displaced populations in the four Lake Chad Basin countries while blue areas represent the remaining non-affected area of the four Lake Chad Basin countries.

Map 1: Countries and regions affected by the conflict

Map 2: Comparative area if transposed to Europe





## GLOSSARY

### *Categories of displacement and human mobility:*

- **Internally Displaced Person (IDP):** Persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters, and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border (Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, UN Doc E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2.). See also de facto refugees, displaced person, externally displaced persons, uprooted people.
- **Refugee:** A person who, "owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinions, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country. (Art. 1(A)(2), Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, Art. 1A(2), 1951 as modified by the 1967 Protocol). In addition to the refugee definition in the 1951 Refugee Convention, Art. 1(2), 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention defines a refugee as any person compelled to leave his or her country "owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country or origin or nationality." Similarly, the 1984 Cartagena Declaration states that refugees also include persons who flee their country "because their lives, security or freedom have been threatened by generalised violence, foreign aggression, internal conflicts, massive violations of human rights or other circumstances which have seriously disturbed public order."
- **Returnee:** In the framework of this report, returnees include former IDPs who returned to their locality of origin as well as migrants and refugees who returned to their country of origin from a foreign country in crisis.
- **Third Country National (TCN):** Third country nationals are defined as stranded international migrants from other countries than the country in crisis.
- **Unregistered Refugee:** DTM Cameroon defines an unregistered refugee as a national of a country other than Cameroon (mainly Nigeria) who has found shelter in Cameroon but resides outside of Minawao camp and has not been registered.

### *Categories of displacement sites and locations:*

- **Camp / Collective Settlement:** For the purpose of this report, "camps and collective settlements" are planned or spontaneous settlements, which can take the form of collective centers such as schools, existing buildings or temporary settlements and transit centers that arise outside of areas where there are established settlements.
- **Host community:** For the purpose of this report, "host community" refers to displaced populations living in existing village or town structures or community, sharing homes with others such as friends or relatives, living in makeshift shelters constructed on available land in unfinished buildings or renting homes.

DTMs implemented in Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria use difference location and shelter definitions that were designed based on the specifics of each country. As such, for analytical purposes, these location and shelter types were grouped in two categories: Host communities, and Camps / Collective Settlements. "Host community" includes host families, rented housing units and concessions/rooms, while "camp / collective settlement" includes camps, spontaneous settlements, collective centers, open air spaces, straw shelters and tents.

## ACRONYMS

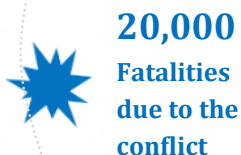
- ACLED: Armed Conflict and Location Event Data;
- DTM: Displacement Tracking Matrix;
- IDP: Internally Displaced Person;
- IOM: International Organization for Migration;
- LCBC: Lake Chad Basin Crisis;
- LGA: Local Government Areas;
- ROWCA: Regional Office for West and Central Africa;
- TCN: Third Country National;
- UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

## CONTEXT

Northeastern Nigeria has been experiencing the Boko Haram insurgency since 2009, with the violence causing a humanitarian crisis since the beginning of 2014. Boko Haram is an Islamist extremist group that was founded by the Muslim cleric Mohammed Yusuf in 2002 in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno State (Northeastern Nigeria). The group considers Western principles, institutions and ways to be against Islam and aims to create an Islamic State with a strict application of the Sharia law. 2009 marked a shift in Boko Haram's strategy when it carried out attacks on police stations and government buildings in Maiduguri. This resulted in the deaths of an important number of Boko Haram militants, including its leader. Yusuf was succeeded by Abubakar Shekau who reinforced the insurgency's operational capabilities and carried out increased attacks, including frontal attacks against military, police and civilians, suicide bombings, abductions, thefts, etc. The violence committed by Boko Haram continued, with a peak in 2014, and expanded to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. This allowed Boko Haram to gain control over large swathes of territory and to declare a caliphate in areas under its control in August 2014. As of January 2015, it was estimated that Boko Haram controlled a territory of 20,000 square miles<sup>1</sup> (or 51,800 square kilometers). In March 2015, Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the Islamic State and became the *Islamic State West Africa Province*. The Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), a coalition of forces from Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, was activated in 2015 to fight the insurgency in the four affected countries. National and MNJTF military operations resulted in a significant loss of territory for Boko Haram, whose militants continue to carry out attacks in the four affected countries.



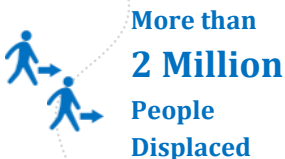
A conflict affected four countries



20,000 Fatalities due to the conflict



Limited Humanitarian Access and Interventions



More than 2 Million People Displaced



Urgent humanitarian needs

As of September 2016, an estimated 20,000 people have lost their lives in Nigeria alone<sup>2</sup>, 17.2 million people are living in affected areas, and 2.6 million persons (IDPs and refugees) are displaced across Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon and Chad<sup>3</sup>, resulting in one of the fastest growing displacement crisis in the region.

Although military operations have increased, **Boko Haram continues to carry out attacks against civilian and military targets**, with around 100 deadly attacks reported between May and August 2016 in Nigeria (Borno, Yobe, Adamawa), Niger (Diffa), Chad (Lac), and Cameroon (Far North), occurring primarily along the border areas of the four countries<sup>4</sup>. Alongside the deadly attacks, **local populations live in volatile and insecure conditions**, fleeing their homes to look for safer places to live in the affected regions of the four countries. Multiple displacement where families have to move several times to find security is common. The continued insecurity, as well as difficult weather conditions and limited humanitarian funding have resulted in equally **limited humanitarian access and intervention**. More than two years after the spike in violence committed by Boko Haram, and despite the fact that some IDPs, refugees and migrants have started to return home (an estimated 1,022,950 persons), **the situation on the ground remains dire** and most of the affected populations desperately needs to receive humanitarian assistance.

Out of the four affected countries, **Nigeria is experiencing the largest displacement**, with more than two million persons internally displaced in North East Nigeria across 13 states, with the highest number of displaced households located in Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, and the majority living in host communities<sup>5</sup>. IDPs **oftentimes have limited or no basic services** and live in conditions that fail to meet the most basic standards.

Aid agencies are gaining access to more areas previously under the control of the insurgency and the evaluations on the number of people in urgent need of assistance are growing rapidly. However, they are experiencing **massive and urgent humanitarian needs**<sup>6</sup>. In addition, an estimated 2.2 million individuals are still inaccessible to humanitarian actors in Borno state, and humanitarian partners expect that these people will only become accessible to humanitarian aid as the Nigeria military secure more areas in Borno. Furthermore, Nigerian refugees continue to return from neighboring countries of asylum while an estimated 86,000 Nigerian refugees now reside in Cameroon<sup>7</sup>.

1. The War Report: Armed Conflict in 2014, Annyssa Bellal, Oxford.

2. "North-East Nigeria: Recovery and Peace Building Assessment," the Federal Republic of Nigeria, World Bank, United Nations, and European Union, 2015, available [here](#).

3. DTM of Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria, October 2016; Government of Niger, 31 October 2016; DREC/MISP/UNHCR Niger, 31 October 2016; UNHCR Cameroon, 4 November 2016; CNARR & UNHCR Chad, 29 September 2016.

4. "Boko Haram Crisis Map," UNOCC, 18 August 2016.

5. "DTM Nigeria Round XI," IOM, August 2016, and "DTM Nigeria Round XII," IOM, October 2016, accessible [here](#).

6. ACAPS Briefing Note: Nigeria Humanitarian Situation in the North East, September 2016.

7. UNHCR Sahel Operation Information Sharing Portal, 4 November 2016 (accessible [here](#)).



Complex displacement dynamics



Protection risks



Damage to infrastructure



Economic disruption

Cameroon, Niger, and Chad are equally experiencing **high levels of displacement**, including hosting 190,636 Nigerian refugees, as well as 477,680 displaced persons, including IDPs, returnees, and Third Country Nationals (TCNs)<sup>8</sup>. **Displacement dynamics are complex**, characterized by multiple displacements, pendular movements (such as those returning to areas of origin to check on their assets/livelihoods, to carry out agricultural activities, etc.), forced returns, as well as potential planned returns of refugees in case a Tripartite agreement is signed, such as the one between Nigeria and Cameroon, which is expected to be signed by the end of the year. In addition, **lack of identity documents** and **strong ethnic and family links** that span across borders and who do not necessarily identify with a specific country, make the **categorization of displacement challenging**.

The current situation, combined with the ongoing rainy season and ensuing flooding, exposes those displaced to **protection risks**, especially those most vulnerable and those who suffered traumas linked to the violence and subsequent displacement. The ongoing violence has further aggravated the **weak economic development of the region**<sup>9</sup>. Affected regions of all four countries were already experiencing high levels of poverty prior to the conflict as well as underdevelopment, population growth, environmental degradation, and marginalization. The conflict has now exacerbated these conditions, including **extensive damage to socio economic infrastructure**. Northeastern Nigeria alone has an estimated infrastructure damage of US\$ 9.2 billion and accumulated output losses of US\$ 8.3 billion<sup>10</sup>. As a comparison, the 2015 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Nigeria was worth 481.07 billion US dollars, 29.20 billion for Cameroon, 10.89 billion for Chad, and 7.14 billion for Niger<sup>11</sup>.

High levels of insecurity, displacement, as well as security measures put in place in affected regions (such as closing of borders), have **severely and negatively impacted people's livelihoods**, primarily agriculture, fishing, animal husbandry, and transnational trade. This **economic disruption** has equally left millions in situations of acute food insecurity, prompting the Nigerian authorities to declare a food and nutrition emergency in Borno state, where most of the internally displaced are located. Across the four countries, 7.9 million people are food insecure and 4.9 million are severely food insecure<sup>12</sup>. In the entire Sahel region, which includes the four countries of the Lake Chad Basin, an estimated total of 37.1 million persons are food insecure<sup>13</sup>.



A displaced family in Tchoukoutelia, Chad

8. DTM of Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria, October 2016; Government of Niger, 31 October 2016.

9. Lake Chad Basin: Crisis Update No. 4, 3 June 2016, OCHA, available [here](#).

10. "North-East Nigeria: Recovery and Peace Building Assessment," the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the World Bank, 2015.

11. GDP Value Indicators, World Bank, available [here](#).

12. "Lake Chad Basin Crisis: Inter Agency Map," IOM, July 2016.

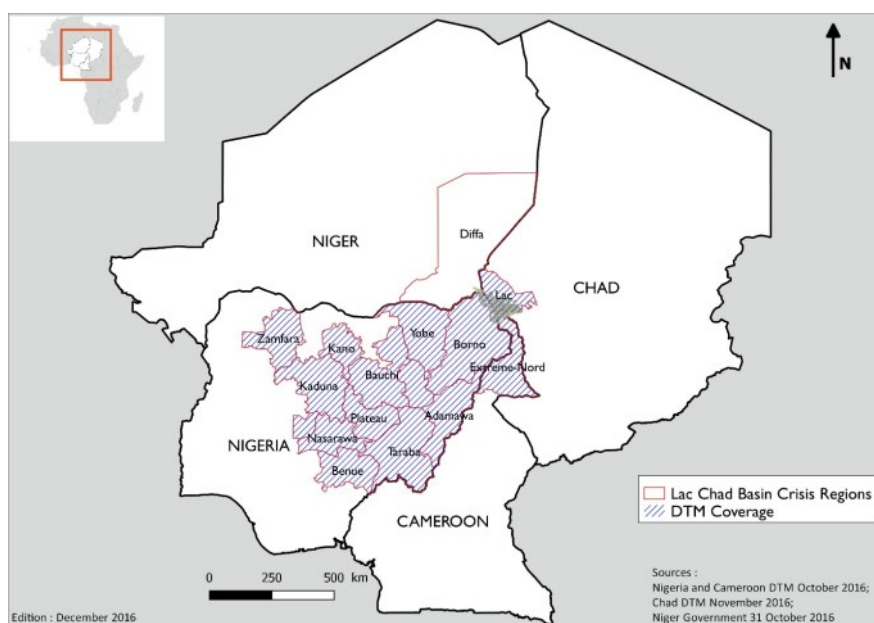
13. Sahel Region Humanitarian Dashboard, OCHA, September 2016, available [here](#).

## BASELINE DATA

The following report is based on DTM data collected in Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria in October 2016. Specifically, data presented in this report were collected up until 10 October 2016 for Cameroon, 25 October 2016 for Chad, and 31 October 2016 for Nigeria.

The data for the following analysis is collated from the three active DTM exercises and does not include in-camp refugees. The individuals tracked are populations affected by displacement in the insurgency affected areas of Cameroon, Chad and Nigeria. While Niger is part of the Lake Chad Basin and faces a similar crisis, its inclusion in this report is limited as the DTM is not currently implemented in the Diffa region; instead, information included in this report in regards with the Diffa region is based on data collected by the Government of Niger (as of 31 October 2016).

Map 3: Administrative divisions where the DTM is implemented



Mentions to the four countries throughout this report **refer to the regions affected by the conflict**, i.e. the Far North region for Cameroon, the Lac region for Chad, the Northeast region (States of Adamawa, Bauchi, Benue, Borno, FCT-Abuja, Gombe, Kaduna, Kano, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba, Yobe et Zamfara) for Nigeria, and the Diffa region for Niger.

In Cameroon and Nigeria, data is collected through baseline and site assessments, which include interviews with key informants as well as site visits in locations hosting displaced populations. In Chad, data is collected through the implementation of a standard registration, which entails the collection of personal information of each identified displaced and returned household.

Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria host an estimated 3,658,722 affected individuals made up of internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees (both in and out of camps), returnees and third country nationals (TCNs). Returnees include former IDPs who returned to their place of origin as well as former refugees and migrants who returned to their country of origin from a foreign country in crisis. Third country nationals are defined as stranded international migrants from other countries than the country in crisis. 81.73% of the affected population (representing 2,990,406) is currently located in Nigeria, while 8.77% is located in Cameroon (320,736 individuals), 6.06% in Niger (221,790 individuals) and 3.44% in Chad (125,790 individuals).

3,369,979 of these individuals were identified by the DTM (IDPs, unregistered refugees, returnees and TCNs), while 124,850 were identified by the Government of Niger (IDPs and returnees) and 163,893 were identified by UNCHR (refugees).

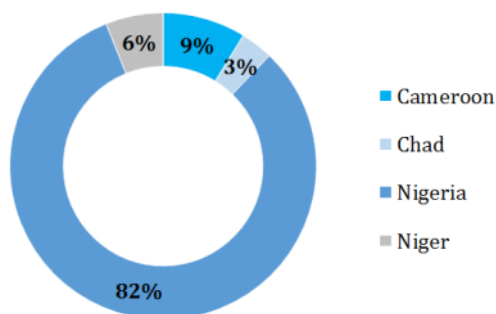
Table 6: Populations identified by the IOM DTM, UNHCR and the Government of Niger by country and status

Population Type	Cameroon	Chad	Niger	Nigeria	Total	% of total
IDPs	198,889	105,070	108,998	2,031,857	2,444,814	66.82%
Returnees	36,068	12,481	15,852	958,549	1,022,950	27.96%
Third-country nationals	-	322	-	-	322	0.01%
Refugees (in and out of camps)	85,779	7,917	96,940	-	190,636	5.21%
Grand Total	320,736	125,790	221,790	2,990,406	3,658,722	100%
% of total	8.77%	3.44%	6.06%	81.73%	100%	

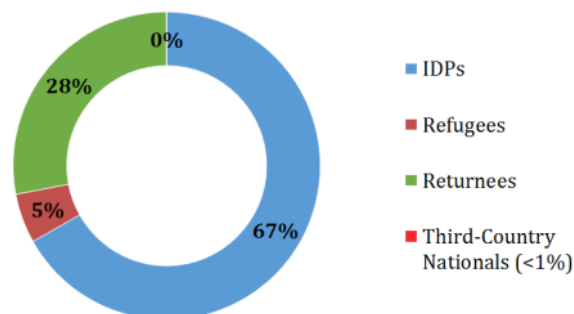


Nigeria hosts the great majority of the identified affected population (82%). This may be explained by the fact that Boko Haram was founded in Maiduguri (Borno State, Nigeria) and has been active in the Northeast of the country for much longer than in neighboring countries. Nigeria is also the most affected country in terms of attacks and violence. In addition, Boko Haram controlled large swathes of territory in Nigeria, which was not the case in the neighboring countries, and certain areas have been deserted and their entire population displaced in other areas considered safer. Finally, the affected area in Nigeria is much larger than in other countries and hosts a larger population.

Graph 1: Populations identified by the DTM by country

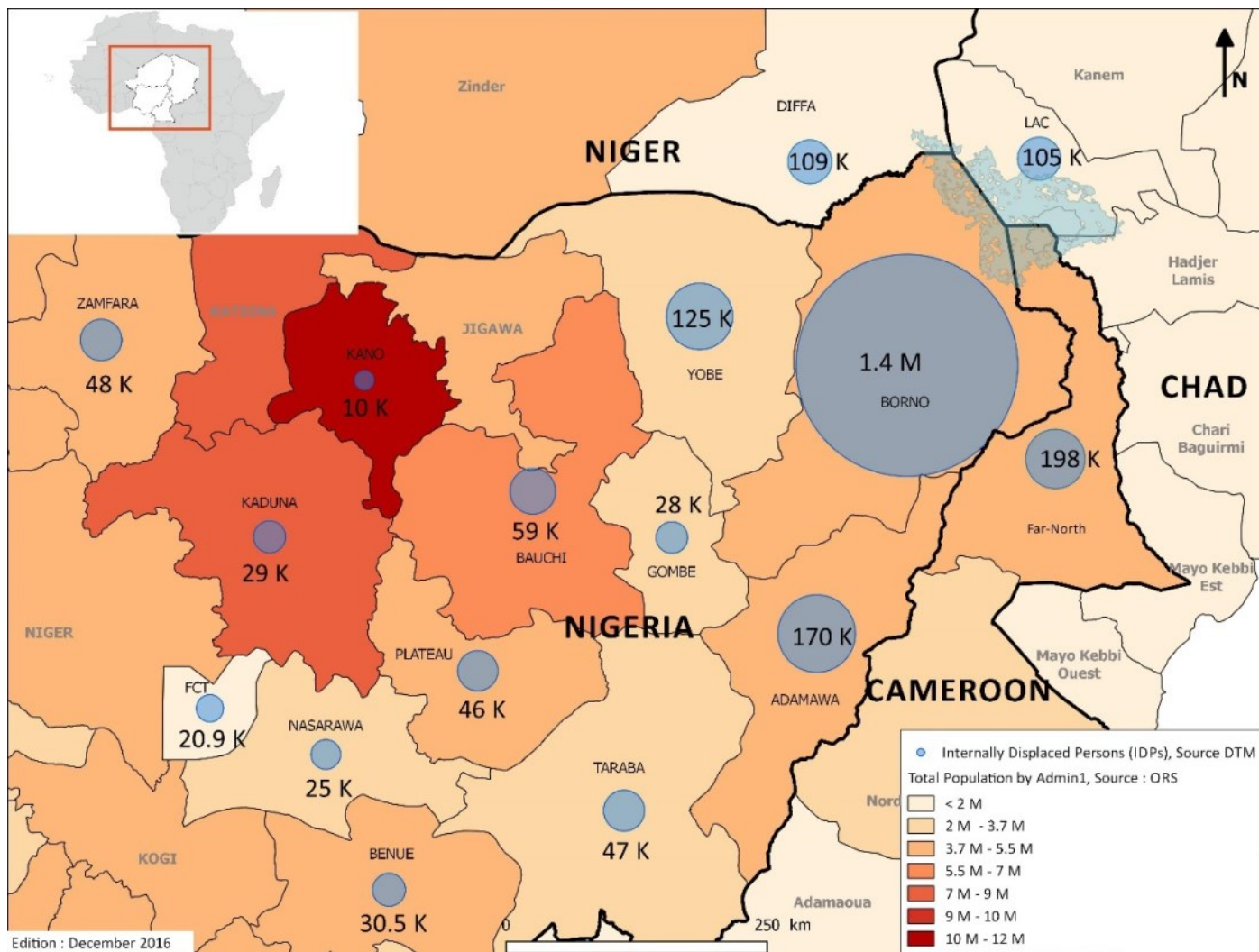


Graph 2: Breakdown by category of movement



The map below visualizes usual population density<sup>14</sup> against density of displacement affected population. Areas with the highest usual population density are not the ones hosting the greatest number of displaced. Instead, highest concentrations of displaced populations are found in areas bordering the Lake Chad where the four countries of the sub-region have common borders. Borno State in Nigeria is the best example of this as it is the administrative division hosting the highest concentration of displaced population in the region while its usual population density is fairly average for the region, and it has a border with the three other countries and the lake. The fact that the usual population density is fairly low, or average, in displacement areas could also have a negative impact on the living conditions of displaced persons as the limited presence of population is likely to result in the limited available of basic services, which would be under important pressure following the arrival of displaced populations.

Map 4: Usual population density and concentrations of Internally Displaced Persons



14. <http://ors.ocharowca.info/KeyFigures/KeyFiguresListingPublic.aspx>



## DEMOGRAPHY : A crisis displacing children

The DTM demographic data is gathered through individual registration of displaced persons in Chad and through random household sampling in Cameroon and Nigeria. The sample for the Cameroonian demographics is made up of 8,821 individuals while the Nigerian sample is made up of 139,408 individuals.

The average household size for the displacement affected population is 6.0 members with on average 3.8 children per household. 87% of the affected households have children.

Table 1: Household composition by country

	Cameroon	Nigeria	Chad	Regional Average
Average Household Size	8.5	5.7	3.9	6.0
Average Number of Children per Household	5.8	3.0	2.5	3.8
Percentage of Households with Children	98%	80%	84%	87%

On average for the three countries, **62% of the sampled displaced population is under 18 years of age (32% are girls, 30% are boys)**, while the adult population represents 38% (21% are women and 17% are men).

Table 2: Age and sex breakdown by country

Age	Nigeria		Cameroon		Chad		Average	
	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M
0 to 6	15%	12%	13%	12%	14%	14%	14%	13%
7 to 17	15%	14%	20%	22%	19%	18%	18%	18%
18 to 59	21%	18%	15%	13%	21%	12%	19%	14%
60+	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%

The census data from Nigeria places the population of children to be at 52% for the whole country, which is in line with the demographic data for displaced populations that estimates that 55% of the displaced population sampled in Nigeria are children. By comparison, children represent 67% of the total sampled population in Cameroon and 65% in Chad.

In terms of sex breakdown, Nigeria hosts a displaced population composed at 53% of female and 47% of male, while Chad hosts a displaced population composed at 55% of female and 45% of male. In Cameroon, the displaced population is estimated to be composed of an equal percentage of women and men.

Table 3: Nigeria Census Data (2006)

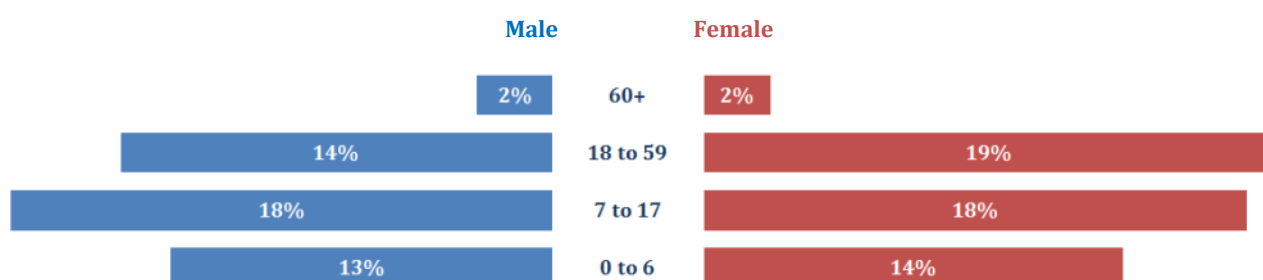
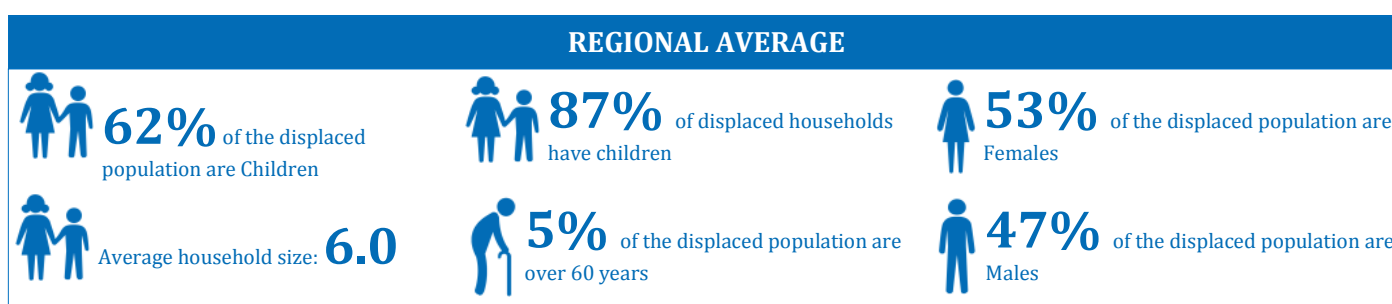
Age	% of total population
0 to 4	16%
5 to 9	14%
10 to 14	11%
15 to 19	11%
20+	48%

Table 4: Cameroon Census Data (2005)

Age	% of total population
0 to 15	44%
15 to 59	51%
60+	5%

Table 5: Chad Census Data (2009)

Age	% of total population
0-14	50.6%
15-64	46.5%
65+	2.9%



## MOVEMENT TRENDS: A crisis within and without borders<sup>15</sup>

The crisis currently affecting the four countries of the Lake Chad Basin triggered significant displacement of different categories of populations, within and across country boundaries. While the majority of the displaced moved for reasons linked to the Boko Haram insurgency, their stories and trajectories are unique and oftentimes reflect their situation prior to the crisis.

The sub-region is marked by a long history of migration. Borders were not perceived as a barrier but rather a point of exchange. Cross-border movements were traditionally undertaken for economic and education purposes, to find grazing land, to find a spouse and to visit or settle with family, or communities of the same ethnic group. Migration patterns started to change with the increase in violence committed by Boko Haram, which has disproportionately affected borderlands. This caused the temporary closure of borders, resulting in movements limited to those fleeing violence and restricting cross-border trade.

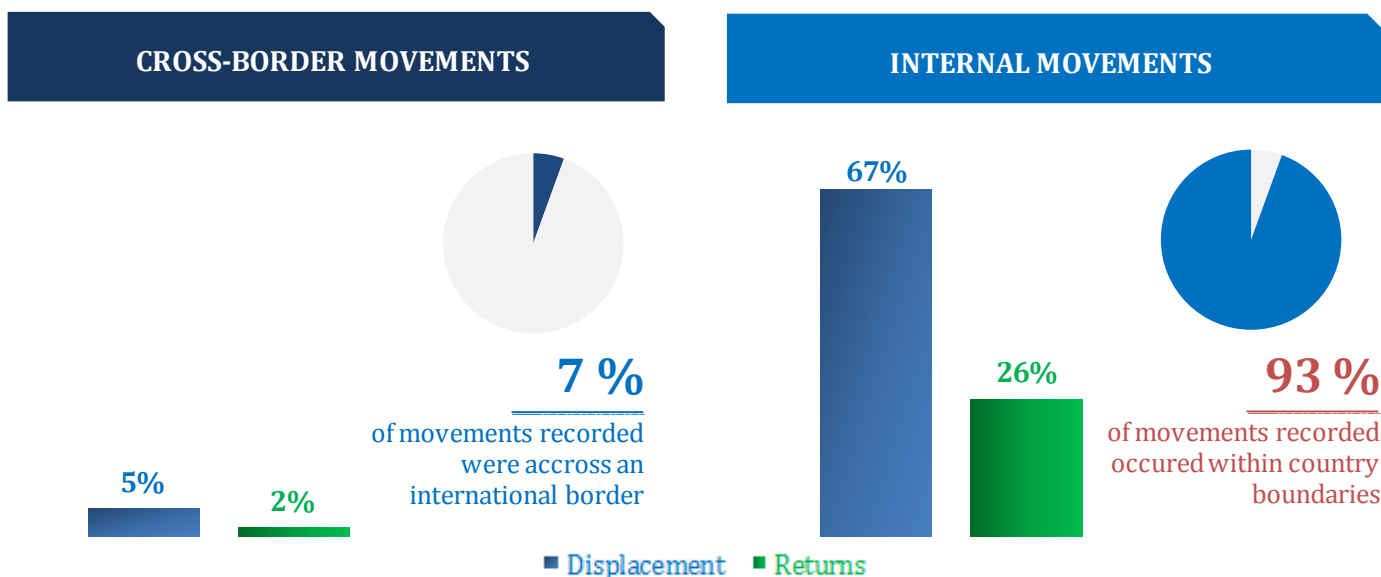
### DISPLACEMENT TRENDS:

Two main displacement trends are identified in the framework of the Lake Chad Basin Crisis: internal displacement and refugee flows. An estimated 2,635,450 persons are currently displaced in the four countries affected by the Boko Haram insurgency: Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Of these, an estimated 2,444,814 are displaced within their own country (IDPs) while another 190,636 persons crossed an international border (refugees). The **population displaced in its own country makes up 93% of the total displacement** while 7% of the displaced population crossed an international border. This highlights that, despite close links between countries and cross-border issues, most movements remain internal to the concerned countries. Displacement across borders, while limited in comparison with internal displacement, can be explained by the proximity of unsafe and safe areas on both side of borders, particularly in borderlands with Nigeria, as well as family, religious and ethnic links in the sub-region.

### RETURN TRENDS:

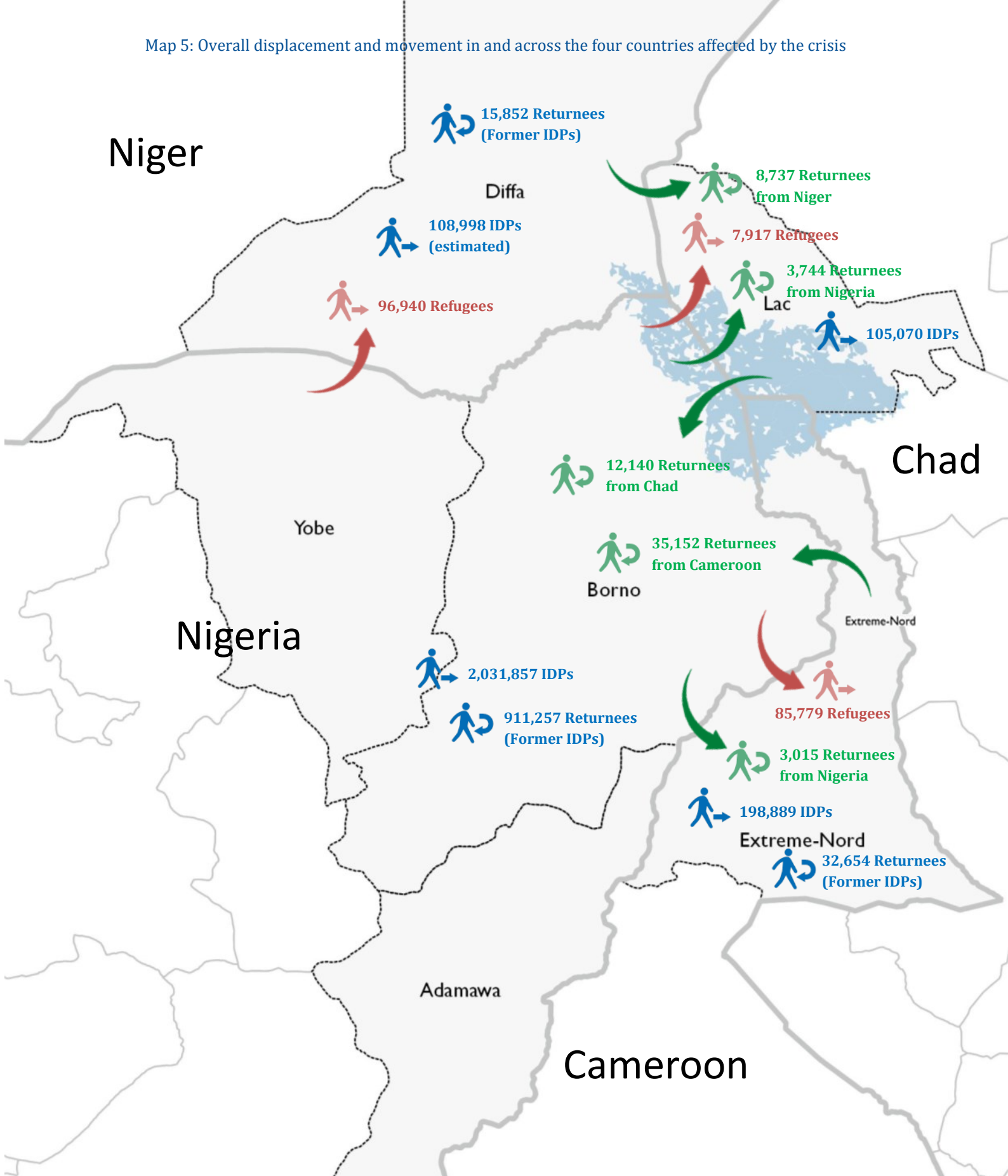
While more than 2.6 million persons remain displaced, another million persons already returned home. Since the onset of the crisis, a total of 1,022,950 persons returned to their area of origin. This category of persons include both former IDPs (959,763 persons) as well as returned migrants and refugees (63,187 persons). Similarly to displacement trends, most movements identified occurred within country boundaries; **returns of former IDPs represent 94% of all returns** against 6% for returns of migrants and refugees.

Returns trends, especially in the case of former IDPs, are explained by the advances made by security forces in the past year, as well as potential returns linked for economic and food security purposes (agriculture). While most returns are motivated by improved security, returns may further have been fueled by the limited availability of basic services, of livelihood opportunities, and of assistance during displacement as well as limited economic capacities of host communities in certain areas. Former IDPs oftentimes return home with limited resources to an area where their houses and belongings have been damaged or stolen. Significant assistance is likely needed to ensure the durable reintegration of these populations, to ensure that they have the means to meet their basic needs and to prevent further displacement.



15. Detailed displacement trends, both internal and cross-border, are available in Annex 1.

Map 5: Overall displacement and movement in and across the four countries affected by the crisis



Cross-Border Movements:

- Returnees from a foreign country
- Refugees

Internal Movements:

- Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
- Returnees (Former IDPs)



## REASON OF DISPLACEMENT: *Displaced by Boko Haram, but not only*

The reason for population displacement is a key part of DTM assessments as it allows IOM to gather and share data on displacement drivers and subsequently support the provision of humanitarian assistance and facilitate durable solutions. **When displaced populations are tracked by DTM, the reason for their displacement is established.** This is complemented by the implementation of Return Intention Surveys in Cameroon and Nigeria, which can be found here for [Cameroon](#) and [Nigeria](#)).

The **main reason of displacement for the affected population is insurgency**, with an overall figure of **92.9%** individuals displaced by insurgency in the three countries combined. This is followed by **5.5%** displaced due to community clashes particularly, between herdsman and native farmers, mainly in Nigeria. These clashes are mainly linked to competition over resources and land; herdsman requiring grazing land for their livestock and farmers requiring vast land for agriculture. Although this is not a new issue, soil degradation, desertification and general environmental degradation are likely to have increased these tensions and resulted in movements causing increased conflicts. Other community clashes, while less significant, include ethnic clashes due to land ownership as well as religious clashes and associated political clashes (in cases where opposed candidates are from different religious backgrounds) in mixed religious tense areas. Lastly, **1.5%** displaced due to natural disasters, mainly in Cameroon where flooding occurs in the Far North region periodically. Displacement due to heavy rains and subsequent flooding is reported as a regular event associated with the rainy season. While most persons displaced by flooding are likely to return to their place of origin after the rainy season, some populations have been displaced by flooding for several years and do not plan to return to their place of origin, which are flood-prone areas and do not provide the necessary conditions for a durable return.

Graph 3: Reasons of displacement

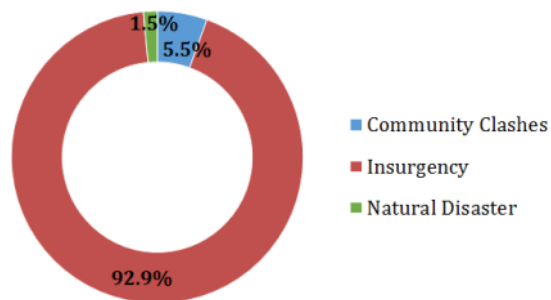


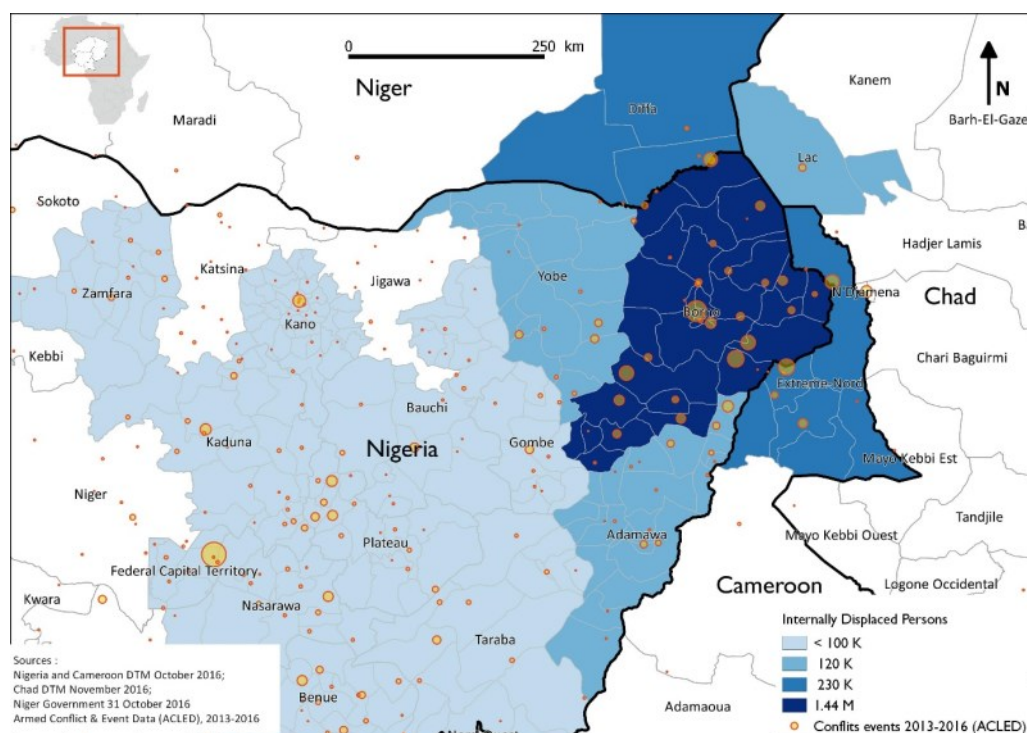
Table 7: Reason for displacement per country

Reason for displacement	Cameroon	Chad	Nigeria	Grand Total
Community clashes	0.01%	0.0%	6.12%	5.53%
Insurgency	91.76%	100.0%	92.81%	92.94%
Natural disasters	8.23%	0.0%	1.07%	1.53%

In Cameroon and Nigeria, 92% and 93% respectively of the displaced population are displaced due to insurgency while in Chad 100% of the tracked population is displaced because of the insurgency.

The map below demonstrates the current IDP population in the three countries, under laid with conflict events recorded by ACLED (Armed Conflict and Location Event Data)<sup>16</sup>. The location of greatest displacement is visibly linked to event occurrences in those areas.

Map 6: Location and number of IDPs by administrative region, under laid with conflict events



16. Armed Conflict and Location Event Data, available at: <http://www.acleddata.com/>

## PERIOD OF DISPLACEMENT: *Between Protracted and New Displacement*

DTMs active in the region collect data related to periods of displacement, specifically the time period when the displacement of currently displaced populations started. Information on the length of displacement is vital as it influences the level of local integration, level of vulnerability of the displaced as well as the vulnerability of host communities and their capacity to continue hosting displaced populations, especially in cases where they do not receive the level of humanitarian assistance required to do so.

This section pertains to periods of displacement of **individuals who continue to be displaced** as of today and excludes those who were displaced during these years but have since returned home (returnees). As such, this section does not provide for the global evolution and cumulative levels of displacement for a given year but rather presents the periods when the displacement of currently displaced persons started. This highlights the protracted and continued nature of displacement in the Lake Chad Basin crisis as the majority of IDPs have been displaced for over two years while additional persons continue to be displaced by the continued crisis.

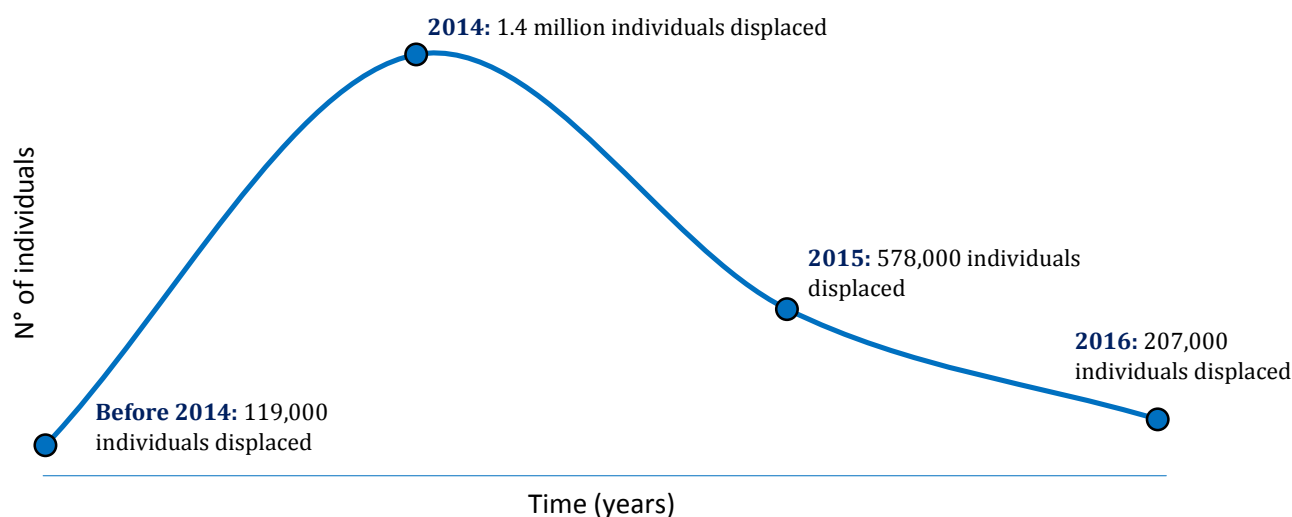
2014 was the year with the greatest amount of total displacement for the three countries with more than 1.4 million displaced. This trend is slightly different when analyzing data at the country level. In Nigeria, 2014 was also the year with the greatest displacement as more than 1.38 million Nigerians became IDPs. In Chad, the subsequent year, 2015, became the year with the greatest displacement with nearly 74,000 IDPs displaced in Chad. In Cameroon, 2016 is the year with the greatest displacement with nearly 99,000 IDPs and unregistered refugees displaced in Cameroon.

Displacement periods are very much linked with the fluctuations of attacks, especially those targeting civilians. In 2014, Boko Haram claimed controlled territory included areas of Borno, Yobe and Adamawa States of **Nigeria**, with important towns such as Mubi and Bama. As of January 2015, it was estimated that Boko Haram controlled a territory of 20,000 square miles<sup>17</sup> (or 51,800 square kilometers). The number of attacks on both civilians and military as well as the ideology and rules imposed on residents in controlled territories forced many to leave their home, with a peak of displacement in 2014. **Cameroon** and **Chad** increasingly became under attack of Boko Haram militants by the end of 2014, with a clear increase of attacks in 2015. Before that, most attacks in Cameroon and Chad took place in border villages, with an apparent targeting of military, national authorities and clerics. The increased violence against civilians in locations further away from the border with Nigeria as well as the use of indiscriminate tactics such as kamikaze attacks is likely to have triggered an increased displacement in 2015 and 2016.

Table 8: Evolution of displaced individuals in all three countries over time (Returns trends are not shown)

Year	Nigeria	Cameroon	Chad	Total displaced
Before 2014	108,307	11,081	-	119,388
2014	1,381,161	48,594	5,395	1,435,150
2015	437,677	67,019	73,726	578,422
2016	104,712	98,938	3,461	207,111
Total displaced	2,031,857	225,632	82,582	2,340,071

Graph 4: Periods of displacement of individuals currently displaced in all three countries



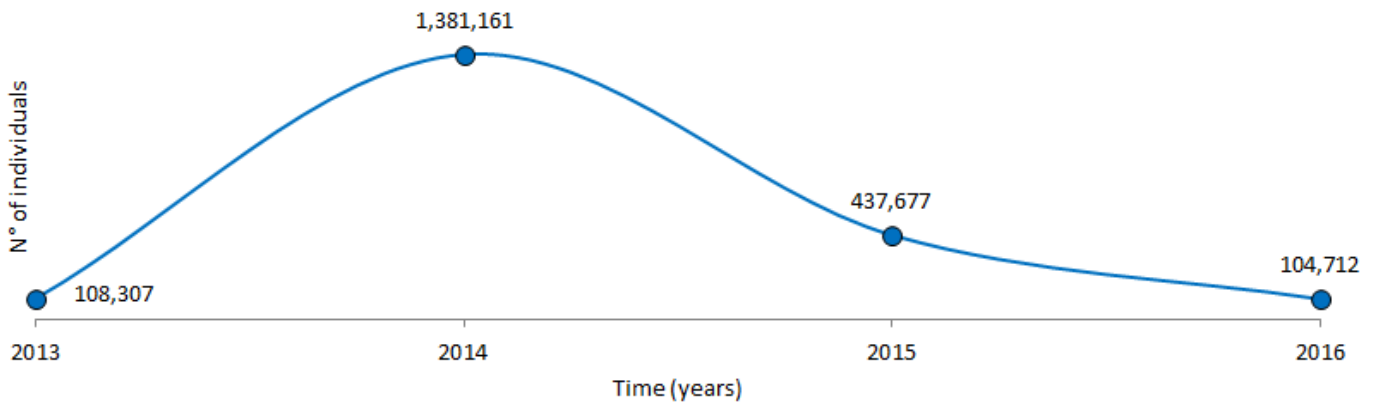
17. The War Report: Armed Conflict in 2014, Annyssa Bellal, Oxford

## NIGERIA: 2 million internally displaced persons

The DTM exercise in Nigeria provides data allowing for a yearly analysis of displacement. The table below shows that the largest amount of displacement within Nigeria was in 2014 with 1.38 million IDPs displaced while 438,000 IDPs were displaced in 2015. This is linked with Boko Haram's advances in 2014, the increased attacks it conducted against both civilian and military targets, as well as the size of the territory it then controlled. These factors forced populations of Northeast Nigeria to flee their areas of origin to find increased security, oftentimes in urban centers with increased presence of security forces as this is the case for Maiduguri.

There has been less displacement in 2016 than before 2014, when internal displacement in north east Nigeria began to rise. This decrease is likely due to the improved security situation resulting from the recent gains by the Nigerian military against Boko Haram as well as the decrease in the number of attacks and security incidents in North East Nigeria. Furthermore, since 2014, certain areas have been deserted and their entire population displaced in other areas considered safer, which limits the potential for new displacement. As such, displacement recorded in 2016 is mostly comprised of secondary displacement, and new displacement is rarely encountered, confirming the trend that displacement peaked in 2014 and that most IDPs have been displaced for several years. Finally, the decrease of displacement may also be linked to the lack of access to certain affected areas and the subsequent inability to identify new displacement. The advance of the Nigerian military has allowed humanitarian organizations to access new territories, such as the cities of Bama and Banki in Borno State; however, as of the latest DTM round, a number of Local Government Areas (LGA) in Borno State remained inaccessible (Abadam, Marte, Mobbar, Guzamala, Kukawa, and Kala/Balگو).

Graph 5: Periods of displacement of individuals currently displaced in Nigeria (IDPs)



## CHAD: 105,000 internally displaced persons

In Chad, there are registered 82,260 IDPs, 22,810 identified IDPs (not yet registered), 7,917 Nigerian refugees (UNHCR, 16 September 2016), 12,481 returnees, and 322 Third-Country Nationals (TCN).

In Chad, periods of displacement are collected through a standard IDP registration, which explains the exclusion of the 22,810 IDPs identified through rapid assessments but not yet registered for whom data on periods of displacement is not yet available. As such, this section focuses on registered IDPs.

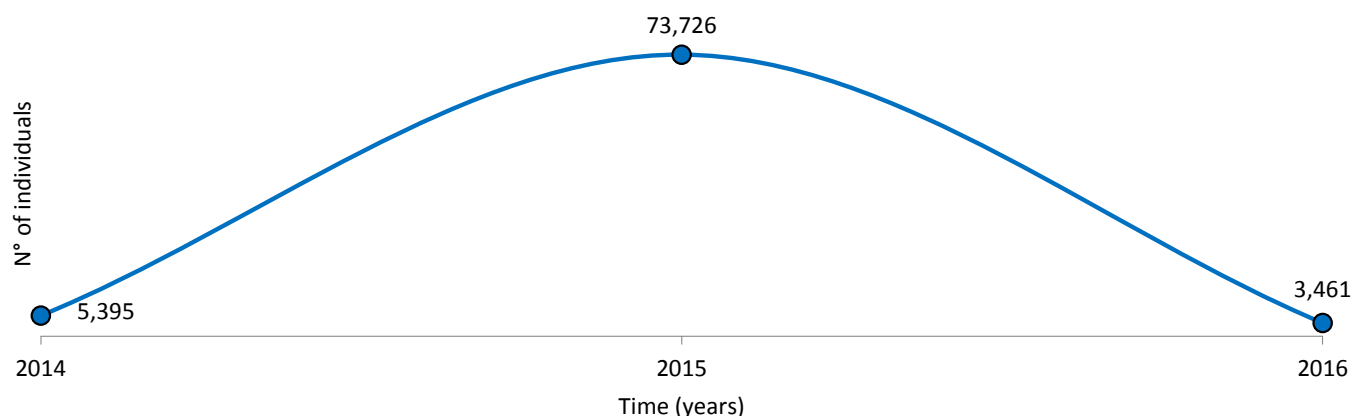
The main year of displacement for Chad is 2015 with a total of 73,726 individuals displaced this year, representing 89% of all registered IDPs. The remaining displacement occurred in 2014 (5,395 individuals or 7%) and in 2016 (3,461 individuals or 4%). Displacement in Chad is likely to have peaked in 2015 as Boko Haram expanded its focus from Nigeria to neighboring countries, including Niger, Cameroon and Chad. The vast majority of IDPs identified in Chad resided on islands located in the Lake Chad, at the border with Nigeria and Niger. Following the increase of Boko Haram attacks on the region, and particularly on the islands, the residents were forced to leave the islands to come ashore in search of increased security. The displacement process oftentimes proved difficult as an important number of persons with limited resources concurrently had to find the means of transportation to leave isolated islands and cross the lake, and to secure other means of transportation once ashore to reach the nearest safe and secure site or village.

As abovementioned, most attacks and displacement occurred in the Lac region of Chad, which geographical features include a multitude of islands that can prove difficult to protect. Responding to the regional threat posed by Boko Haram, Chad entered the fight against the insurgency in January 2015 and the Chadian army started military operations near the border areas to protect its population residing in the region.



While Chad remains a prime target for Boko Haram, 2016 has seen far less attacks and incidents, which is likely to explain the decrease in displacement in this year. Another potential reason explaining the decrease in displacement in 2016 may be found in the fact that populations residing in areas prone to Boko Haram attacks already moved to safer areas in 2015 and remain displaced to this day.

Graph 6: Periods of displacement of individuals currently displaced in Chad (IDPs and TCNs)



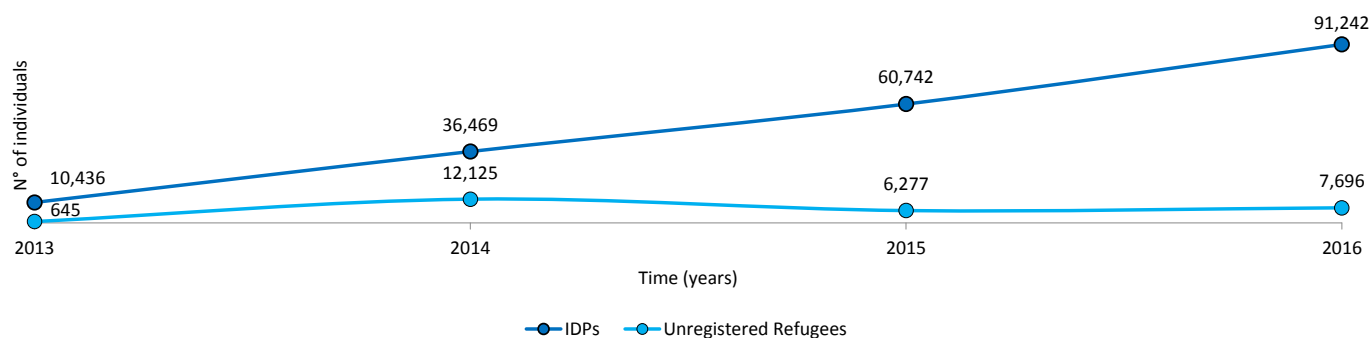
### CAMEROON: 321,000 displacement affected individuals

The Far North region of Cameroon is subject to attacks by the insurgent forces resulting in displacement within Cameroon as individuals flee to find safety. In addition to internal displacement of Cameroonians within the area which amounts to nearly **199,000 individuals** at time of writing, the region also hosts returnees, currently **36,000 individuals**, and refugees crossing the Nigerian border towards Cameroon. To date, **59,000 refugees** (UNHCR, November 2016) live in Minawao refugee camp in the Far North region of Cameroon with a further **27,000 unregistered refugees** (IOM, October 2016) located outside of the refugee camp.

The table below represents displacement figures from Cameroon (IDPs and unregistered refugees) where the total number of individuals has continued to increase. IDPs represent 76% of the displacement affected population identified by the DTM against 14% for returnees and 10% for unregistered refugees.

Both internal and cross-border displacement, as well as returns, continues to increase. The increased and continued displacement in Cameroon is likely due to continued attacks by Boko Haram, especially in rural areas and borderlands, forcing populations to move inland to seek increased security. Of those displaced by the insurgency, more than a third (36%) left their area of origin due to a direct attack on their village, while 33% undertook a preventive displacement due to an attack on a neighboring village or by fear of an attack. The Nigerian Army advances resulted in significant territory losses for Boko Haram, which forced the insurgency to leave relatively stable positions and to increase “hit-an-run” attacks aimed at resupplying the group, especially in borderlands. As such, despite overall improved security, continued attacks by Boko Haram continue to displace populations and to prevent the displaced to return home. The Far North region’s current number of returnees for 2016 is much larger than the number of returnees for the previous years. This is due to the improvement of security in areas of origin as well as limited access to basic services and livelihood during displacement. 49% of the former IDPs returned to their area of origin because the security was restored, while 18% returned due to the lack of livelihoods during displacement and 15% due to the lack of assistance during displacement. In addition, the great majority of the Far North population relies on agriculture for income generating and food security purposes; farming in areas of displacement can prove difficult due to the limited availability of and access to farming land. As such, it is probable that returns occurred in anticipation of the rainy season, which is the main sowing season. Conversely the number of **unregistered refugees** arriving went from 12,125 in 2014 to 6,277 in 2015 but has since increased to 7,696 for the first 10 months of 2016.

Graph 7: Periods of displacement of individuals currently displaced in Cameroon (IDPs and unregistered refugees)



## DISPLACEMENT LOCATIONS: *Fleeing home to find a safer shelter*

In the three countries analyzed in this report there are over 2,100 locations where displacement affected populations are found. Types of locations and shelters are different for each country and based on the local context. As such, these locations were divided into the category of host community and camp/collective settlement for analytical purposes.

“Host community” refers to displaced populations living in existing village or town structures or community, sharing homes with others such as friends or relatives, living in makeshift shelters constructed on available land in unfinished buildings or renting homes. “Camps” are planned or spontaneous settlements, which can take the form of collective centers such as schools, existing buildings or temporary settlements and transit centers that arise outside of areas where there are established settlements. Displaced individuals living in host communities are generally living in a more durable type of structure that they are perhaps renting, or not, from the local population. Camp or collective settlements are more likely to be temporary structures like tents, straw housing or temporary mud housing.

In Nigeria, there are over 1,400 locations hosting the over 2 million displaced individuals, in Cameroon 541 locations are hosting over 261,000 individuals and in Chad the 118,000 displaced persons are located in 135 locations. The table below shows the proportion of displacement sites in each country.

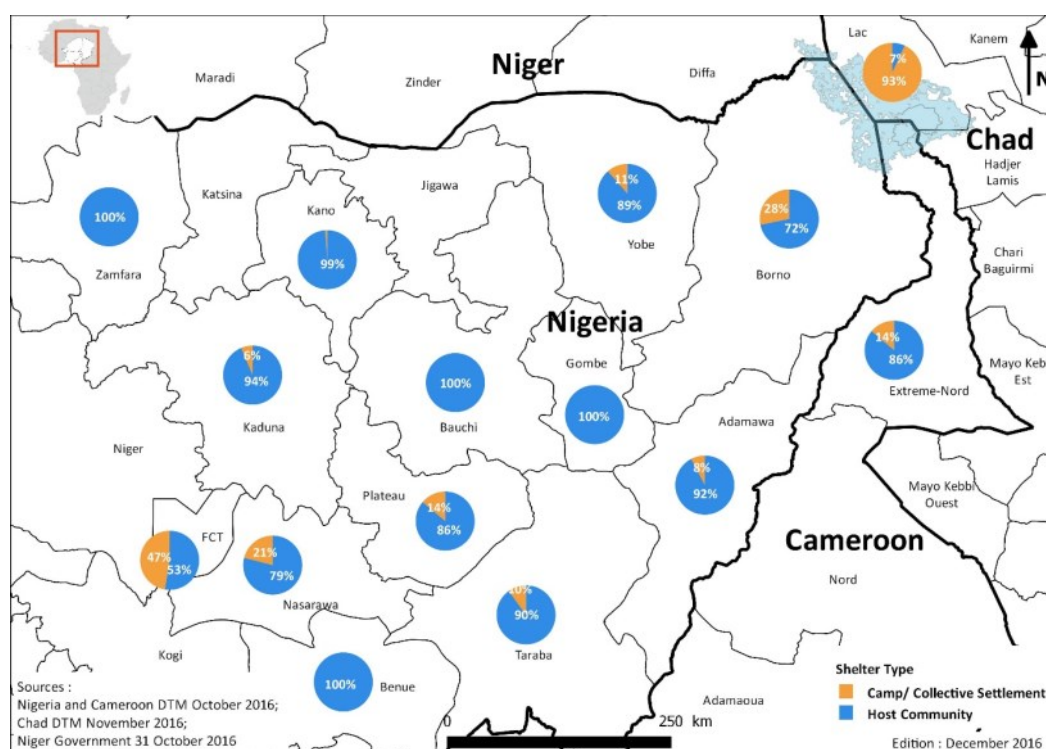
Table 9: Proportion of locations by type of displacement site (percentage of households)

Displacement Sites	Cameroon	Chad	Nigeria	Grand Total
Host community	86%	7%	78%	75%
Camp/collective settlement	14%	93%	22%	25%
Grand Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Actual number of locations hosting displaced communities	541	135	1,435	2,111

The analysis demonstrates that **the majority of displaced people in Cameroon and Nigeria reside with host communities**. In Cameroon, 86% of displaced households reside with host community meaning people live directly with host families or in rented accommodation, while 14% reside in camps and collective settlements. In Nigeria, 78% of the displaced households live in host community and the remaining 22% live in camps for internally displaced persons. The majority of displaced households in Chad, an estimated 93%, reside in camp/collective settlements (mostly comprised of straw housing structures or tents) while 7% live with host communities.

The map below shows the proportion of types of displacement locations (camp/collective settlement or host community) in each administrative area where DTM data collection is taking place. The only administrative division where camps and collective settlements are the majority is the Lac region of Chad. In other divisions, most displacement locations are host communities.

Map 7: Distribution of shelter type (%) by administrative area





Makeshift shelters at Farm Centre Camp,  
Maiduguri, Northeast Nigeria



Makeshift shelters in a spontaneous settlement  
in Kolofata, Far North region of Cameroon



## RETURNING HOME: *Returning home to rebuild a life*

Over one million returnees currently reside in the three countries analyzed in this report. As per governmental statistics, Niger further hosts an additional 15,852 returnees.

In the framework of this report, returnees include both former IDPs who returned home as well as migrants and refugees who lived in a foreign country and returned to their country of origin due to the ongoing crisis. The great majority of returnees, an estimated 94%, are former IDPs who were displaced in their country but since returned home; the remaining 6% are migrants and refugees who returned spontaneously to their country of origin (Nigeria, Cameroon or Chad) from Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria and the Central African Republic (CAR). Nigeria hosts the great majority of returnees with a total caseload of 958,549 individuals (95%), while Cameroon hosts 36,068 returnees (4%) and Chad hosts 12,481 returned individuals (1%).

Table 10: Type of return by country

Type of Return	Cameroon	Chad	Nigeria	Grand Total (#)	Grand Total (%)
Former IDPs	32,654	-	911,257	943,911	93.73%
Returned migrants and refugees	3,414	12,481	47,292	63,187	6.27%
<b>Total (individuals)</b>	<b>36,068</b>	<b>12,481</b>	<b>958,549</b>	<b>1,007,098</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>Total (%)</b>	<b>3.58%</b>	<b>1.24%</b>	<b>95.18%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	

Reasons of displacement of these individuals are included in the DTM assessments conducted by IOM Nigeria and Chad. In Cameroon, rather than collecting the reasons of displacement, IOM collects the reasons of return.

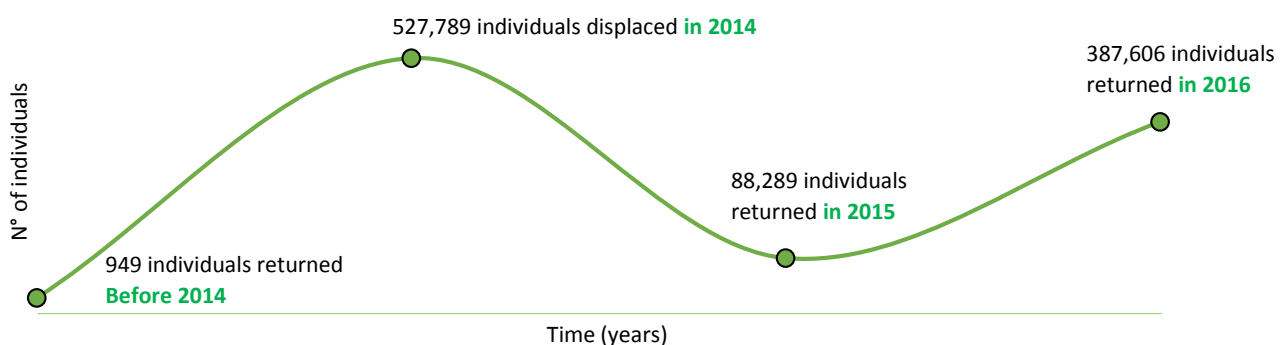
In Nigeria and Chad, all returnees identified stated that they had been displaced due the Boko Haram insurgency. This represents a total population of 971,030 returned individuals, or 96% of returnees identified by the DTM. In Cameroon, reasons of return were collected based on the type of return, i.e. former IDP or returning migrant and are detailed in the section dedicated to Cameroon.

Table 11: Periods of return by country

Year of Return	Cameroon	Chad	Nigeria	Grand Total (#)	Grand Total (%)
N/A	-	-	2,465	2,465	0.24%
Before 2014	949	-	-	949	0.09%
2014	8,893	839	518,057	527,789	52.41%
2015	7,058	10,330	70,901	88,289	8.77%
2016	19,168	1,312	367,126	387,606	38.49%
Total	36,068	12,481	958,549	1,007,098	100.00%

The analysis demonstrates that **the majority of returnees returned home in 2014 and in 2016**. An estimated 527,789 individuals, representing 52% of all returnees returned home in 2014, while 387,606 individuals, representing 38% of all returnees returned home in 2016. Although important returns were also recorded for 2015, these represent a far less significant population (88,289 individuals or 9%). Returns before 2014 solely occurred in Cameroon and are likely to concern individuals who had been displaced due to flooding and natural disasters.

Graph 8: Evolution of returns in all three countries over time



Although general cumulative trends highlight 2014 and 2016 as the main years of returns, return trends and periods vary for each country. The main year of return for Nigeria was 2014, while it was 2015 for Chad and 2016 for Cameroon.

## **NIGERIA: 958,000 returned individuals**

A return assessment was conducted in 23 Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the States of Adamawa, Borno and Yobe. During this round of assessment, 958,549 returnees were identified. This represents a 5.2% increase since the August 2016 DTM round when 910,955 returnees were identified. Most returnees identified are from the States of Adamawa (32%), Borno (25%) and Kano (7%). The returnee caseload identified in Nigeria is mostly comprised of former IDPs (911,257 individuals or 95%); the remaining returnees are migrants and refugees who returned to Nigeria from Cameroon (35,152 individuals or 4%) and Chad (12,140 individuals or 1%). The returns of migrants and refugees are likely due to the degradation of security in these two countries as well as increased controls and return of identified irregular migrants.

The main year of return is 2014 with a total of 527,789 returns, followed by 2016 with a total of 387,606 returns. While important returns occurred during these two years, it is worth noting that a shift happened in the areas of return from one year to the other. In 2014, all returns recorded were towards or within Adamawa State while 2016 witnessed a majority of returns towards or within Borno State. In a context where all returnees had originally been displaced by the insurgency, these return trends are strongly linked to the evolution of the security situation. In 2014, while Borno State was embroiled in the conflict against Boko Haram, which controlled large swathes of the State's territory, Adamawa State was enjoying a relatively more stable and secure situation, which explains significant returns to this area. In turns, the high number of returns having occurred in 2016 can be attributed to the improved security in North East Nigeria, especially in Borno State, following significant military operations conducted by the Nigeria military against Boko Haram as well as the subsequent loss of territory by the insurgency.

In addition, an assessment of shelter conditions was also conducted in areas of return. This assessment was conducted following reports that returnees in some LGAs had undertaken a secondary displacement as they could not cope with the dire situation upon return, especially in regards to shelter conditions. A key finding of the assessment is that makeshift shelters in areas of returns have significantly increased since June 2016, which highlights increased returns as well as the limited resources of returnees to successfully reintegrate their communities of origin. Given that most returns occurred in Adamawa, this state witnessed the highest increase in makeshift shelters, followed by Borno State.

## **CHAD: 12,000 returned individuals**

An estimated 12,481 returnees currently reside in Chad; all of them returned Chadian migrants. 70% of this caseload returned from Niger while 30% returned from Nigeria. Most of these migrants originate from the Lac region and had settled in Niger and Nigeria for economic purposes, including fishing, trade and cattle farming (to access increased grazing land). Chad is an important country of origin of migrants in the sub-region, as highlighted by both the Central African Republic and Lake Chad Basin crises. Some of these migrants were established in neighboring countries for years and decades, and had created a family and life in the countries hosting them. However, the insecurity resulting from the increase in Boko Haram violence Nigeria since mid-2014 and Niger in 2015 triggered returns of Chadians from these two countries to their land or parents' land. As such, the degradation of security and increase of violence in Nigeria and Niger starting mid-2014 and continuing throughout 2015 explains that the main year of returns for Chad is 2015.

## **CAMEROON: 36,000 returned individuals**

While the majority of returnees identified are former IDPs (32,654 individuals or 91%), Cameroon also hosts migrants who returned home from Nigeria (3,015 individuals or 8%) and the Central African Republic (399 individuals or 1%).

The main year of return for Cameroon is 2016 with a total of 19,168 individuals, representing more than half of all returns that occurred in Cameroon (53%). The remaining returns occurred in 2014 (8,893 returnees or 25%), 2015 (7,058 individuals or 20%) and before 2014 (949 individuals or 3%). Important returns in 2016 may be explained by the military operations conducted by the Cameroonian Armed Forces and the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram, which limited the operational capacity of the insurgency as well as the linked reduction in security incidents and attacks, especially during the rainy season which hampered the group's movements. Nearly half of former IDPs stated that they had returned home because the security was restored. Returns having occurred before 2014, and to a certain extent in 2014, are likely to have been a natural conclusion of displacement due to flooding and natural disaster.

To better understand the situation of returnees, IOM collected data related to the reasons of return. This information was collected for the two types of returnees present in Cameroon, former IDPs and returned migrants:

- *Reasons of return of former IDPs:* 49% of the former IDPs returned to their area of origin because the security was restored. The remainder returned because of the lack of livelihoods during displacement (18%), the lack of assistance during displacement (15%), the lack of security in the area of displacement (8%), following recommendations of military or civilian authorities (6%), tensions with host communities (3%) or the impossibility for host communities to keep on assisting them (2%).
- *Reasons of return of returned migrants:* 67% of the returnees from a foreign country have returned because they could get support from their family. The remainder returned because of insecurity in the foreign country (13%), loss of economic means abroad (11%), loss of property abroad (5%), to help their family (3%), discrimination in the foreign country (1%).



Displaced family living in a spontaneous settlement in Tchoukoutelia, Chad



Displaced family living in a spontaneous settlement in Camp Pont Tilde (Makary), Far North region of Cameroon



A displaced girl in Tchoukoutelia site, Chad



A displaced woman in Tchoukoutelia, Chad



## ANNEX I: Movement flows by country of origin, country of presence and type of migration

Country	Type of Movement	# Individuals	Source
<b>Cameroon</b>		<b>320,736</b>	
Within Cameroon	IDPs	198,889	DTM
From Nigeria	Unregistered refugees	26,743	DTM
From Nigeria	Refugees (Minawao Camp - 4 Nov. 2016)	59,036	UNHCR
Within Cameroon	Returnees (former IDPs)	32,654	DTM
From CAR	Returnees (migrants)	399	DTM
From Nigeria	Returnees (migrants)	3,015	DTM
<b>Nigeria</b>		<b>2,990,406</b>	
Within Nigeria	IDPs	2,031,857	DTM
Within Nigeria	Returnees (former IDPs)	911,257	DTM
From Cameroon	Returnees (migrants and refugees)	35,152	DTM
From Chad	Returnees (migrants and refugees)	12,140	DTM
<b>Chad</b>		<b>125,790</b>	
Within Chad	Registered IDPs	82,260	DTM
Within Chad	Identified IDPs	22,810	DTM Rapid Assessments
From Nigeria	Refugees - 29 Sept. 2016	7,917	CNARR & UNHCR
Third Country Nationals	Stranded Migrants	322	DTM
Niger	Returnees (migrants)	8,737	DTM
Nigeria	Returnees (migrants)	3,744	DTM
<b>Niger</b>		<b>221,790</b>	
Within Niger	IDPs - 31 Oct. 2016	108,998	Government of Niger
Within Niger	Returnees - 31 Oct. 2016	15,852	Government of Niger
From Nigeria	Refugees - 31 Oct. 2016	96,940	DREC/MISP/UNHCR

## ANNEX II: Summary by type of migration

Type of displacement	# Individuals	% Individuals
Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	2,444,814	67%
Refugees (registered and unregistered)	190,636	5%
Returnees (former IDPs)	959,763	26%
Returnees (migrants)	63,187	2%
Third Country Nationals	322	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,658,722</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Note: The statistics presented in the tables above show the current caseload for each movement category based on the **current status** of each individual tracked. Each category is mutually exclusive, meaning that individuals are only included in one category of movement. For instance, returnees who were formerly IDPs but since returned home are solely included in the "returnees (former IDPs)" category and are not represented as "Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)". Similarly, refugees who permanently returned to their country of nationality, and therefore lost their status of refugee, are categorized as either returnees or IDPs, and are no longer shown as refugees.*



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency



For more information, please visit:

<http://www.globaldtm.info/>

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