OVERVIEW

The North Central and North West zones of Nigeria have been witnessing large scale population displacement caused by a spurt in criminal activities, such as kidnappings and attacks by herdsmen, as well as communal clashes.

According to an assessment conducted by the Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) unit of the International Organization for Migration (IOM), as of 22 July 2019, an estimated 238,102 individuals were displaced in the two zones. The affected North Central region includes the states of Benue, Plateau, Kaduna and Nasarawa, Katsina, Kano and Zamfara states in the North West zone.

Movements of displaced populations took place within state boundaries, between states and across the international border to the neighboring country of the Niger. Affected populations, and vulnerable women and children, are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

The DTM unit of IOM Nigeria has been working in the regions to support humanitarian partners by collecting, analysing and disseminating up-to-date data on IDPs in order to facilitate the provision of effective assistance to the affected population.
North Central
As of 22 July 2019, an estimated 127,713 persons have been displaced in the Benue, Plateau, Kaduna and Nasarawa states of North Central zone. The zone has been witnessing large scale population displacement since 2013, reportedly triggered by communal clashes and hostilities.

Benue state, which hosts 81,132 IDPs, is the most-affected state in the North Central zone, followed by Nasarawa state, which hosts 17,114 IDPs. In both these states, displacement was induced by communal clashes. The State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) estimated the number of displaced persons within Benue state to be over 400,000 individuals in 2018. According to responses by key informants, peace has been restored in some of the locations previously affected by the clashes while some of the affected persons have returned to their places of origin to repair their affected buildings and resume farming.

Displacement in Plateau has forced about 15,981 IDPs out of their homes since 2013 and they have taken refuge in camps and host communities within the state.

Kaduna state recorded 13,486 IDPs. While most of the displacement has occurred within the North Central, the state is also accommodating IDPs from other zones, namely Borno state (North East), from which IDPs were displaced by an insurgency; Zamfara state (North West), where IDPs fled as a result of clashes between herders and farmers, and Adamawa state (North East) following communal clashes.

Assistance to IDPs:
IDPs in Benue and Plateau last received assistance in 2013, from NEMA, SEMA, some humanitarian organizations and individuals.

It is been reported that most of the displaced population are not receiving any assistance since displacement. The affected people including the most vulnerable women and children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

North West
As of 22 July 2019, an estimated 110,389 persons have been displaced in the Zamfara, Katsina and Kano states of North West zone. These displacements were triggered by a recent rise in criminal acts by armed bandits in Katsina and Zamfara and communal clashes in Kano.

The total number of IDPs in Zamfara state has increased by 31% from 38,113 to 54,860 persons displaced as a result of violent crimes in the state where the villagers were attacked, kidnapped and killed. It has also been reported that their properties were stolen and their houses were burnt down.

Based on the assessment carried out in Katsina state, the total number of IDPs displaced so far has increased by 62% from 16,257 to 42,596 IDPs. The displacements are a result of the recent hostilities by armed bandits in some LGAs in Katsina, namely: Batsari, Bakori, Dandume, Fastari, Funtua, Jibia, Kankara, Malumfashi and Safana. The bandits reportedly raided these communities, stole their livestock and possessions, kidnapped, killed the victims and set their homes ablaze.

The state of Kano recorded 11,006 IDPs. While most of the displacement has occurred within the North West, Kano state is also accommodating IDPs from other zones, namely Borno, Taraba and Adamawa states (North East), from which IDPs were displaced by an insurgency and communal clashes.

Assistance to IDPs:
Generally, the IDPs in the North West zone are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. IDPs in Kano last received food and NFI assistance in 2013 from some humanitarian organizations. Recently, few IDPs received NFI assistance in Zamfara state but as per reports, no assistance has been received by a greater percentage of IDPs in the North West zone since displacement.

Situation of IDPs
The situation of IDPs in all locations across the seven states is critical and they are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. There are few formal camps available for the IDPs so many are residing in host communities. Most of the IDPs (60%) are living within solid walls while less than 25 per cent is living in makeshifts shelters. A greater percentage of the displaced population have no means of livelihood, most of the IDPs are in need of cash to pay their house rents, clothes and psychosocial support especially for those in Zamfara and Katsina state. There is a need for family reunifications as families have been reportedly separated on account of movement following attacks. Many of the displaced persons do not wish to return to their place of origin because of fear of attack.