

LAKE CHAD BASIN

(NIGERIA, NIGER, CHAD, CAMEROON)



The Lake Chad Basin is enduring a protracted and complex humanitarian crisis, with underlying economic and cultural tensions exacerbated by a devastating insurgency and counter-insurgency. Humanitarian actors continue to lose access to vulnerable populations, with protection risks rife as abuses are perpetrated by multiple parties to conflict.

Country Context

A regional armed conflict and counter-insurgency efforts against non-state armed groups, such as Boko Haram, have triggered a 10-year Lake Chad Basin crisis, which is one of the most severe and protracted humanitarian crises in the region. This conflict was caused by a series of factors, including marginalization, poor governance, and insecurity, which have combined with poverty, environmental degradation, and a growing population. Children are separated from their families, and girls face high degrees of sexual and gender-based violence, including forced marriage and sexual and physical assault.

Key Figures



Nearly 10 million

in the Lake Chad Basin need humanitarian assistance



Over 30,000

have been killed by Boko Haram, the state, or in clashes since 2018



2.4 million

have been displaced, half of whom are children



5.2 million

in need of food assistance



\$1.58 billion

estimated in aid for 2018

How is the U.S. Involved?

The U.S. provided \$206 million of humanitarian funding in 2019. Boko Haram is designated as a foreign terrorist organization, which complicates aid and development delivery in areas they control.

On-the-Ground Perspective

- Attacks against aid workers are commonplace. In Nigeria, in July 2019, a health convoy came under attack by an armed group, killing a driver and taking six aid workers captive, one of whom was executed in September.
- NGOs in Nigeria faced operational suspensions by the military, prompting a visit by the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mark Lowcock, in September.
- Livelihoods have been decimated by insecurity, limited or no access to basic services, and military restrictions resulting in humanitarians without access to more than 1.2 million people in Nigeria alone.
- USAID has placed donor-side restrictions, including broad and ambiguous counter-terror language, in grants that jeopardize humanitarian principles and the operational security of implementing partners and beneficiaries.

Responses and Actions

- UNICEF and partners reached more than 200,000 internally displaced persons and host community members with integrated primary health care services in Northeast Nigeria, more than half of whom were children under the age of five.

InterAction has a Lake Chad Basin working group; to request a briefing, contact policy@interaction.org. References available at [interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport](https://www.interaction.org/2020globalsituationreport).

