

The Groningen Model United Nations 2018

United Nations Security Council



Addressing Boko Haram and the Nigerian crisis



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Welcome Letter

Distinguished delegates,

During the GrunnMUN 2018 conference you will be tasked with helping the people most affected by the conflict caused by Boko Haram in Nigeria, in the process restoring peace and prosperity to the war-torn and famine-stricken country. Even though the organization has not received the same level of attention from the international community as has been afforded to the likes of Al Qaeda or ISIL, Boko Haram is responsible for innumerable and continued atrocities. It is now time to bring an end to its reign of terror. Religious cleavages, acute poverty and rampant corruption are to blame for the rise and prominence of the militant group, yet these issues should not be ignored when dealing with Nigeria's other issues either. It will be up to the delegates to find ways of navigating the difficult political quagmires of the 9 year conflict and to bring a lasting solution to the suffering nations around lake Chad. Succeeding here is of paramount importance not only for the people directly affected by these crises within Nigeria, but also for the Security Council itself, as ending the conflict will restore confidence in the organ's ability as a global peacemaker.

Helping you on the path to peace will be your two humble chairs: Rizqi Imaduddin and Radu Tasca. They will help you along the way by making sure GrunnMUN 2018 will be a memorable and educative experience!

Please feel free to direct any questions about the conference or the Security Council to us, and we will make sure to answer them right away!

We humbly await you in the Conference Chambers.

Diplomatic Regards,

Rizqi and Radu,

sc@teimun.org

GrunnMUN 2018

Introduction

So far, an estimated 20,000 people have been killed due to the violence between Boko Haram and Government forces. Furthermore, many more are now displaced within and outside of Nigeria.¹ The Islamic State of West Africa, more commonly known as Boko Haram, has been a continuous threat to the West African states around Lake Chad since the insurgency properly began in 2009. The Nigerian Army has been fighting a slow and gain-less war against the group for years, but economic conditions within the country and corruption have made it so the two sides are trapped in a fragile stalemate.² In addition, the 9 year conflict between the Nigerian forces and the Sunni militant group has created a man-made famine in Nigeria. Which has caused Nigeria's HDI value for 2015 to be 0.527, positioning it at 152 out of 188 countries and territories.³ This is very conflicting, because as of 2015, Nigeria is the world's 20th largest economy, worth more than \$500 billion and \$1 trillion in terms of nominal GDP and purchasing power parity respectively. It even overtook South Africa to become Africa's largest economy in 2014.⁴ However, poverty is still rampant in the country and it is now currently in danger of mass famine.

Fear of the group continues while more and more atrocities are committed freely: It is already responsible for many massacres, ethnic cleansings and most recently for the use of child suicide bombers. This has created a perfect storm for famine. Land mines and insecurity are keeping farmers from their farms and exacerbating the dire food crisis. "A famine unlike any we have ever seen anywhere" said UN assistant Secretary General, Toby Lanzer. The UN estimates that over the next 12 months an estimated 300,000 children in Borno state alone will suffer from severe acute malnutrition.⁵ With the ongoing disruption to basic services the risk of waterborne diseases, such as diarrhea and cholera, is growing. In addition, some parts of the country are just too dangerous for aid agencies to operate.

Boko Haram have also created a splinter group called Ansaru.

This year, the Security Council passed Resolution 2349, which strongly condemns the actions of Boko Haram and those aiding them and encourages cooperation between the nations of the Chad Basin towards tackling the common threat.⁶ In January 2017, the UN issued an appeal for \$1.05 billion to reach 6.9 million people in north-east Nigeria. As of May 2017, only \$24

¹ "About the Crisis". United Nations Office for the Coordination of Human Affairs.
<http://www.unocha.org/nigeria/about-ocha-nigeria/about-crisis>

² Sieff, Kevin. 2016. "A Staggering Hunger Crisis Is Unfolding In Nigeria, And The World Is Barely Aware". *Washington Post*. http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/world/2016/10/13/they-survived-boko-haram-now-millions-in-nigeria-face-a-new-threat-starvation/?utm_term=.efe9b1d2b0d1.

³ "Nigeria Human Development Report 2016". 2016. United Nations Development Programme.
http://hdr.undp.org/sites/all/themes/hdr_theme/country-notes/NGA.pdf

⁴ "Nigeria Becomes Africa's Largest Economy". 2014. *Al-jazeera*.
<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2014/04/nigeria-becomes-africa-largest-economy-20144618190520102.html>.

⁵ "Nigerian Food Crisis." Disaster Emergency Committee.
<https://www.dec.org.uk/article/nigeria-food-crisis>

⁶ S/RES/2349

million had been donated.⁷ With this in mind, it is now the task of Grunmun's Security Council 2018, to come up with a viable and immediate solution for the ongoing crisis in Nigeria.

It is worth keeping in mind that the issues of famine and war are deeply interlinked: It is precisely due to the ongoing conflict that famine has been allowed to spread, and it is only by ending the current conflict that the dire food crisis can be ended.

Historical Background

Mohammed Yusuf founded the sect that became known as Boko Haram in 2002 in the north-eastern city of Maiduguri, the capital of the north-eastern state of Borno in Nigeria. He established a religious complex and school that attracted poor Muslim families from across Nigeria and neighbouring countries. The centre had the political goal of creating an Islamic state with full implementation of Sharia law. By denouncing the police and state corruption, Yusuf attracted followers mostly from unemployed youth.⁸ With that being the case, it is shocking to realize that Nigeria is Africa's biggest economy. This is because of dire economic inequality between the different states of Nigeria: 60% of its population live on less than \$1 a day, with the primary wealth being concentrated amongst the Christian minority in the South of the country and the small political elite.⁹ Boko Haram therefore became very attractive for unsatisfied individuals and transformed itself into a recruiting ground for Jihadis. At the time of its creation, the ranks of the followers of the group were filled with not only extremists. There were also people in the ranks who were frustrated at the highly uneven economic conditions in the region as compared to the rich, Christian South and the rampant corruption of the country's officials. With the conditions of the region, the group was as able to attract a large number of followers.

The group's official name is *Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad*, which in Arabic means "People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet's Teachings and Jihad".¹⁰ It is worth noting that the term "Jihad" itself can have many meanings: Jihad simply means to struggle, usually in a heroic way to achieve betterment. In an Islamic context, the term can refer to a struggle against one's evil inclinations, an exertion to convert unbelievers or efforts towards the betterment of society.¹¹ In the context of terror groups, however the term has gained a different meaning. The struggle is instead framed as an armed conflict against

⁷ Harrison, Amy. 2017. "Nigeria's Food Crisis: By The Time Famine Is Declared, It's Too Late". *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2017/jun/12/nigeria-food-crisis-un-response>.

⁸ "Who Are Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamist Group?". 2016. *BBC News*. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13809501>.

⁹ "Nigerians Living In Poverty Rise To Nearly 61%". 2012. *BBC News*. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-17015873>.

¹⁰ "Who Are Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamist Group?". 2016. *BBC News*.

¹¹ Esposito, *The Oxford Dictionary Of Islam*.

nonbelievers, wherein any means are acceptable to achieve the goals of either destruction or conversion.¹²

Residents in the of Maiduguri have named the group *Boko Haram*. Loosely translated from the region's Hausa language, this means "Western education is forbidden".¹³ This is due to their primary ideology of outright rejection of Western Society and anything that is associated with it. Their ideology is based on the principles of the Khawarij, advocating Sharia law. Khawarij is a sect of Islam. The Khawarij believed that choosing a ruler can be done through warfare and violence, as "judgement belongs to God alone". They considered arbitration a means for people to make decisions while the victor in a battle was determined by God. If the leader sinned, it was the duty of Muslims to oppose and depose him by any means necessary and any morally just Muslim can be the leader or the "Imam".¹⁴

Since 2000, 12 northern states have implemented Sharia Law, however Boko Haram has denounced the leaders of these states as corrupt. This is due to sentiments shared by many Northern Nigerian muslims: That the political elite make use of Sharia Law only to reinforce their positions of power. The rich and influential continue to escape prosecution, and for the ordinary Muslim to challenge the workings of the Sharia courts is seen as directly questioning Islam and the will of Allah.¹⁵



Figure 1: States with Sharia Law in Nigeria¹⁶

¹² Ibid

¹³ "Who Are Nigeria's Boko Haram Islamist Group?". 2016. *BBC News*. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13809501>.

¹⁴ Mamouri, Ali. 2015. "Who Are The Kharijites And What Do They Have To Do With IS?". *Al-Monitor*. <https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/en/originals/2015/01/islamic-state-kharijites-continuation.html>.

¹⁵ Isaacs, Dan. 2003. "Islam In Nigeria: Simmering Tensions". *BBC*. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3155279.stm>.

¹⁶ "Nigeria Constitutionally Is A Secular Not Multi-Religious Country: Factually It Is An Islamic State - Christian Association Of Nigeria (CAN)". 2016. *Canng.Org*. <http://canng.org/news-and->

Until 2009, the group outwardly advocated a nonviolent approach. This is contradicted by the fact that even during its early years, its followers engaged in periodic skirmishes with Nigerian police. At that time the group's activities were limited in scope and contained within several highly impoverished states in Nigeria's north-east¹⁷. When the government sprang into action in 2009 with increased crackdowns with the intent to suppress the group, several of its members were arrested in Bauchi. This sparked deadly clashes with Nigerian security forces which attempted to contain the threat, leading to the deaths of an estimated 700 people.¹⁸ The group's founder and leader Mohammed Yusuf was also killed during this time while still in police custody. He was succeeded by Abubakar Shekau, formerly Yusuf's second-in-command, who has remained the leader of the group until the present day.

From 2010, the group began building ties with transnational extremist groups in the region, the most notable of these groups are Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which reportedly provided training and access to increasingly sophisticated weaponry.¹⁹ Although it wasn't until the 7th March 2015 that Boko Haram's leader Abubakar Shekau actually pledged allegiance to ISIL.

In 2013, the US designated the group as a terrorist organisation, out of concern that they would attempt to wage a global jihad.²⁰ Since 2011, Boko Haram attacks have featured improvised explosive devices (IEDs), car bombs, and suicide attacks. This all culminated in the group's first Western target, when they used a suicide bomb to attack the UN headquarters in Abuja. The attack left 18 people dead.²¹ Shortly after the inauguration of President Goodluck Jonathan in May 2011, Boko Haram carried out a series of bombings in Bauchi, Zaria and Abuja. The election itself increased ethno-religious political tensions, as the electoral defeat of Nigeria's former military dictator, Muhammadu Buhari, broke the terms of a tacit agreement that the presidency would alternate after two terms of office between candidates from the Christian south and Muslim north.²² Sectarian riots engulfed the twelve northern states of the country during the three days following the election, leaving more than 800 dead and 65,000 displaced.²³ Boko Haram's campaign of violence was a reaction due to the political tensions

events/news/78-nigeria-constitutionally-is-a-secular-not-multi-religious-country-factually-it-is-an-islamic-state.

¹⁷ Blanchard, Lauren. 2016. "Nigeria'S Boko Haram: Frequently Asked Questions". Congressional Research Service. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43558.pdf>.

¹⁸ "Nigeria Accused Of Ignoring Sect Warnings Before Wave Of Killings". 2009. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2009/aug/02/nigeria-boko-haram-islamist-sect>.

¹⁹ Blanchard, Lauren. 2016. "Nigeria'S Boko Haram: Frequently Asked Questions". Congressional Research Service. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43558.pdf>.

²⁰ "US Names Nigeria's Boko Haram And Ansaru 'Terrorists'". 2013. BBC News. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-24931684>.

²¹ Murray, Sean, and Adam Nositter. 2011. "Suicide Bomber Attacks U.N. Building In Nigeria". *Nytimes.Com*. <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/27/world/africa/27nigeria.html>.

²² Onuah, Felix, and Tim Cocks. 2011. "Nigeria's Jonathan Declares State Of Emergency". U.S.. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-emergency/nigerias-jonathan-declares-state-of-emergency-idUSL6E7NV07T20111231>.

²³ Nigeria: Post-Election Violence Killed 800". 2011. Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2011/05/16/nigeria-post-election-violence-killed-800>.

and a show of force. This culminated in a string of bombings across the country on Christmas Day, which included a church bombing in Abuja which killed 37 people. President Jonathan then declared a state of emergency on New Year's Eve in local government areas of Jos, Borno, Yobe and Niger and closed the international border on the north-east.²⁴

In 2013, Boko Haram increased operations in Northern Cameroon, and was involved in skirmishes along the borders of Chad and Niger. The state of emergency in Nigeria was extended in May 2013, covering the three north-eastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. In the aftermath of the state of emergency, 650,000 people were displaced as a result of the conflict up to 2014.²⁵ Between May and July 2014, 8,000 Nigerian refugees arrived in Cameroon, up to 25 percent suffering from acute malnutrition. A further 11,000 Nigerian refugees crossed the border into Cameroon and Chad during August.²⁶



Figure 2: Boko Haram with current leader, Abubakar Shekau.²⁷

Boko Haram has not enjoyed the same notoriety as other Islamic militant groups such as ISIL and Al-Qaeda. The international community has been relatively silent during the early years of Boko Haram despite the atrocities committed. That was until 2014, when the group was brought onto the international spotlight when it kidnapped 276 schoolgirls from Chibok.

²⁴ Onuah, Felix, and Tim Cocks. 2011. "Nigeria's Jonathan Declares State Of Emergency". U.S.. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-nigeria-emergency/nigerias-jonathan-declares-state-of-emergency-idUSL6E7NV07T20111231>.

²⁵ "650,000 Nigerians Displaced Following Boko Haram Attacks". 2014. INFORMATION NIGERIA. <http://www.informationng.com/2014/08/650000-nigerians-displaced-following-boko-haram-attacks-un.html>

²⁶ "CAMEROON Humanitarian Situation Report 2014". 2014. UNICEF. https://www.unicef.org/appeals/files/UNICEF_Cameroon_Humanitarian_Situation_Report_for_August_2014_.pdf.

²⁷ "Boko Haram 'Plot To Attack UK And US Embassies Foiled'". 2017. BBC News. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-39580146>.

Shekau, the organization's leader, announced his intention of selling them into slavery.²⁸ Since 2012, Boko Haram has increasingly claimed responsibility for setting fire to schools and attacking universities in northern Nigeria, and its violence has forced more than one million children out of school, due to the group's misguided belief that education is a plot against Islam. Since January 2014, 117 children – more than 80 percent of them girls – have been used in 'suicide' attacks in Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon. As of March this year, 27 children have been used in this way in northeast Nigeria alone.²⁹

Starting in late January 2015, a coalition of military forces from Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger began an extensive military campaign against Boko Haram.³⁰ On the 4th February, the Chad Army killed over 200 Boko Haram militants. In retaliation, Boko Haram launched an attack on the Cameroonian town of Fotokol, killing 81 civilians, 13 Chadian soldiers and 6 Cameroonian soldiers.³¹

U.S. officials have estimated that Boko Haram may have between 4,000 and 6,000 active fighters, while other sources argue its force could be larger.³² By some accounts, the group may have lost some 30 percent of its fighting force during the 2015 regional offensive to reclaim territory from the insurgents.³³ In March 2015, Boko Haram lost control of the Northern Nigerian towns of Bama and Gwoza to the Nigerian army. The Nigerian authorities said that they had taken back 11 of the 14 districts previously controlled by Boko Haram. In 2015, the Nigerian government had claimed the defeat of Boko Haram.

Despite this strong claim, there have still been steady attacks in 2016 and 2017. In 2017 alone, the group killed more than 900 people and reportedly launched over 90 armed assaults and 59 suicide attacks.³⁴ Boko Haram did not only create direct casualties, but it has also created a large internally displaced population. It is estimated that there are 1.7 million people internally displaced within Nigeria.³⁵ The ongoing fighting has also created a man-made famine which is only exacerbated by the lack of action by the Nigerian government. The problem of Boko Haram is thus far from over.

²⁸ "The Chibok Kidnappings In North-East Nigeria: A Military Analysis Of Before And After | Small Wars Journal."

²⁹ "Silent Shame: Bringing out the voices of children caught in the Lake Chad crisis." 2017. UNICEF https://www.unicef.org/wcaro/nigeriaregionalcrisis/UNICEF_Silent_shame.pdf

³⁰ Monitor, "Nigeria Postpones Elections, Focuses On Major Offensive Against Boko Haram."

³¹ "Chad Troops Killed In Boko Haram Counter-Attack."

³² Blanchard, Lauren. 2016. "Nigeria'S Boko Haram: Frequently Asked Questions". Congressional Research Service. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43558.pdf>.

³³ *ibid*

³⁴ Wilson, Mark. 2018. "Nigeria's Boko Haram Attacks In Numbers - As Lethal As Ever". BBC News. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-42735414>.

³⁵ "Nigeria Situation Update 2017". 2017. UNHCR

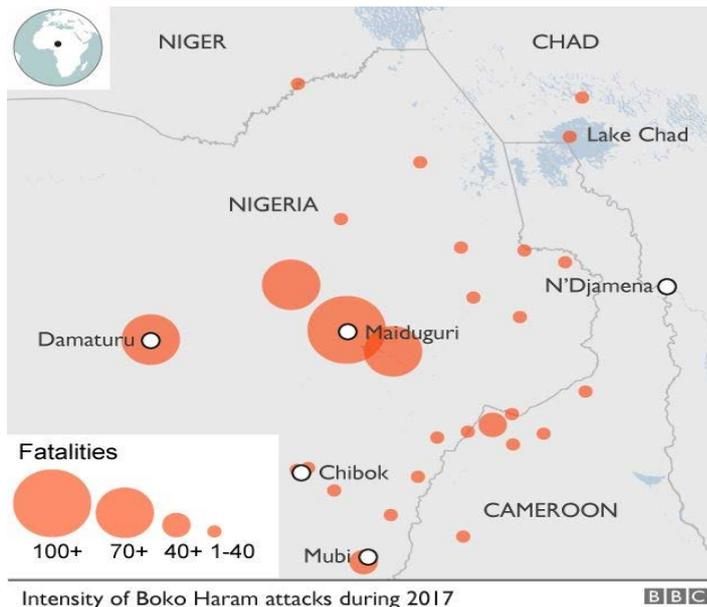


Figure 3: Boko Haram attacks throughout 2017.³⁶

Current Developments and Challenges

The area affected by Boko Haram is home to an estimated 30 million people. The violence has caused a humanitarian emergency around Lake Chad. An estimated 5.6 million people in the region are in need of emergency food aid.³⁷ Most of the displaced have sought shelter with host communities and do not live in camps. Nearly 1.6 million displaced Nigerians have fled to the Borno state capital of Maiduguri, which continues to be subject to bombings despite the expanded presence of the Nigerian army. It is estimated that more than 15,000 people have been killed by the group since 2009 - including more than 6,500 in 2015 alone.³⁸

The crisis has spilled over into the neighbouring countries as well. There is an estimated 206,000 Nigerians displaced in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger as of 2017.³⁹ The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) requested 179,5 million USD of funding to help the Nigeria situation, but only 52 Million USD has been funded.⁴⁰

The group's use of children has also caused great outcry: To sustain an insurgency for nearly eight years, Boko Haram has compensated for its logistical deficiency by deliberately

³⁶ Wilson, Mark. 2018. "Nigeria's Boko Haram Attacks In Numbers - As Lethal As Ever". BBC News. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-42735414>.

³⁷ Blanchard, Lauren. 2016. "Nigeria's Boko Haram: Frequently Asked Questions". Congressional Research Service. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43558.pdf>.

³⁸ *ibid*

³⁹ "Nigeria Situation Update 2017". 2017. UNHCR http://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/UNHCR%20Regional%20Update%20-%20Nigeria%20Situation%20-%20November%202017.pdf#_ga=2.92805661.1898583912.1517071586-1001581016.1501675973

⁴⁰ *ibid*

exploiting children to fill in the gaps and meet the basic needs of their fighting forces. Some boys as young as 13 years old are used as combatants and there are numerous cases of girls at the same age being pregnant by their captors,⁴¹ and some of these children are also being used for suicide bombings. Boko Haram has been leading a systematic campaign of abduction that has forced thousands of girls and boys into their ranks. However, the blatant disregard for children's rights is found on both sides: Local militias which have played a key role in culling the threat of Boko Haram are also using children in their operations.⁴²

It is not easier for the children once they have escaped captivity. Local authorities are faced with a serious dilemma as they take these children into custody: It is necessary to question them and determine their degree of indoctrination and loyalty to their captors' cause. The children's connection and the authorities' inability to discern their level of radicalism due to being with the group has created concern in their surrounding society. This creates barriers to reintegration and reconciliation. Children, due to their being used as suicide bombers are now perceived with paranoia by the society.⁴³ There is a bigger level of discrimination for the captive girls than for the boys once they return to society. Militants kidnap and rape young girls, teenagers and women, handing them out as so-called brides who are sometimes passed from fighter to fighter with at least 7,000 women and girls have endured Boko Haram's sexual violence.⁴⁴ The girls who return with their children who were born as a result of sexual violence often times face marginalisation, discrimination and rejection by their family and community members due to social and cultural norms related to acts of sexual violence⁴⁵. The children of the girls will be ostracised even further than their mothers. This creates a danger of children returning to their captors, for both girls and boys, as they are ostracised from society. There have also been reports that Nigerian security forces raping girls that have been freed from Boko Haram. Cases of rape, sexual violence and exploitation were reported in seven camps in Borno.⁴⁶

⁴¹ "Silent Shame: Bringing out the voices of children caught in the Lake Chad crisis." 2017. UNICEF https://www.unicef.org/wcaro/nigeriaregionalcrisis/UNICEF_Silent_shame.pdf

⁴² *ibid*

⁴³ *ibid*

⁴⁴ Searcey, Dionne. 2017. "They Fled Boko Haram, Only To Be Raped By Nigeria'S Security Forces". *Nytimes.Com*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/08/world/africa/boko-haram-nigeria-security-forces-rape.html>.

⁴⁵ "Bad Blood; Perceptions of children born of conflict-related sexual violence and women and girls associated with Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria". 2016. UNICEF https://www.unicef.org/nigeria/Nigeria_BadBlood_EN_2016.pdf

⁴⁶ Searcey, Dionne. 2017. "They Fled Boko Haram, Only To Be Raped By Nigeria'S Security Forces". *Nytimes.Com*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/08/world/africa/boko-haram-nigeria-security-forces-rape.html>.



Figure 4: Children in Muna Garage camp.⁴⁷

One of the main aspect that this council needs to address is the food crisis that is currently ongoing in Nigeria due to the ongoing violence. In recent years, the violence has intensified, with warfare tactics shifting from conventional combat to a guerrilla conflict involving suicide attacks and scorched-earth policies⁴⁸. The scorched-earth policies were also being used by the local militias employed by the Nigerian military. These scorched-earth policies are one of the factors involved in the creation of the famine. In the north-eastern part of Nigeria, more than 3 million people displaced and isolated by the militants are facing one of the world's biggest humanitarian disasters.⁴⁹ The ongoing hunger crisis is in large parts created by the insurgents. The situation has received minimum attention due to the fact that it has been largely hidden from view, partly because it has been extremely dangerous for aid groups and journalists to visit affected areas. Also, institutional failures have exacerbated the situation. The United Nations and various humanitarian groups have greatly underestimated the size of the disaster, and the Nigerian government has thus far refused to acknowledge the huge number of people going hungry in one of Africa's richest nations.⁵⁰ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has estimated that 3.4 million Nigerians are in need of nutritional assistance, of whom approximately 450,000 suffer from severe acute malnutrition.⁵¹

⁴⁷ Torfinn, Sven. 2018. "Refugee Crisis In Northeastern Nigeria". Panos.Co.Uk. <https://www.panos.co.uk/blog/?p=18907>.

⁴⁸ Blanchard, Lauren. 2016. "Nigeria's Boko Haram: Frequently Asked Questions". Congressional Research Service. <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R43558.pdf>.

⁴⁹ Sieff, Kevin. 2016. "A Staggering Hunger Crisis Is Unfolding In Nigeria, And The World Is Barely Aware". *Washington Post*. http://www.washingtonpost.com/st/world/2016/10/13/they-survived-boko-haram-now-millions-in-nigeria-face-a-new-threat-starvation/?utm_term=.efe9b1d2b0d1.

⁵⁰ *ibid*

⁵¹ "North East Nigeria Humanitarian Situation Update". 2017. OCHA. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/25012018_ocha_humanitarian_situation_update_december_1.pdf

Freedom of movement is restricted, so people are unable to farm or fish, making them heavily reliant on humanitarian assistance. Since 2015, the Nigerian military began reclaiming bigger towns in Borno and moving villagers from the surrounding areas to the relatively safe recaptured cities⁵². This has had a negative effect on food production, with farmers being forcibly separated from their crops and causing even more food insecurity. Others have come to cities on their own in search of safety or basic services like food, water and healthcare. These isolated towns are heavily militarised and limit their movement for safety reasons. The problem lays in the inability for aid to come to the smaller towns: Aid agencies have problems accessing smaller cities without any protection. However, the food security situation has slightly improved in population centres across the Northeast region of Nigeria in 2017 thanks to various factors including improved security, scale-up of food and livelihoods assistance, favourable climatic conditions for agricultural production and slight market recovery. Nonetheless, conflict continues to limit the amount of land under cultivation.⁵³



Figure 5: IDP camp outside of Monguno, Nigeria.⁵⁴

There have been developments aimed at addressing the problem in Nigeria. In June 2017, the Government of Nigeria launched its Special Relief Intervention for the North-East region, which aimed to distribute 30,000 metric tons of food to 1.8 million people in host communities in the states of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) aided over 1.3 million farmers by distributing inputs for agricultural production such as fertilisers, improved

⁵² Wilson, Mark. 2018. "Nigeria's Boko Haram Attacks In Numbers - As Lethal As Ever". BBC News. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-42735414>.

⁵³ "North East Nigeria Humanitarian Situation Update". 2017. OCHA. https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/25012018_ocha_humanitarian_situation_update_december_1.pdf

⁵⁴ Sieff, Kevin. 2018. "A Staggering Hunger Crisis Is Unfolding In Nigeria, And The World Is Barely Aware". Washington Post. http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/world/2016/10/13/they-survived-boko-haram-now-millions-in-nigeria-face-a-new-threat-starvation/?utm_term=.efe9b1d2b0d1.

seeds and tools.⁵⁵ There have also been local initiatives created to halt the recruitment of children into warfare. One of the most noticeable strides taken in the Nigerian crisis is the passing of Security Council resolution 2349: The resolution condemned all terrorist attacks, violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses by Boko Haram and other extremist group in the region, including killings, abductions, and the increasing use of girls as suicide bombers.⁵⁶ The Council also calls for enhanced regional military cooperation to intensify the fight against the extremist groups. However, this is the first Security Council resolution regarding Boko Haram and the crisis in the area. Despite the progress made towards aiding the country thus far, there is still much work to be done. One could ask whether the passing of this resolution is just a pyrrhic victory.

Conclusion

The situation in Nigeria is an ongoing humanitarian crisis that directly affects the lives of millions of people and yet it is barely noticed in the international stage. Boko Haram is still thriving in the region and continuing their campaign of terror. Children are still being abducted and farmers are still unable to plant their crops. The food crisis is continuing and both side of the conflicts are only exacerbating these problems. Funding for international organizations is still lacking and aid is having problems reaching the places where it is needed the most. It is the task of the UNSC to help alleviate the problem in Nigeria, swiftly and decisively.

⁵⁵“North-east Nigeria: 2017 in review”. 2017. OCHA
<https://unochanigeria.exposure.co/northeast-nigeria-2017-in-review>

⁵⁶ S/RES/2349

Question a Resolution Must Answer

In order to draft a proper resolution on the topic of the crisis in Nigeria, there are several issues that should be addressed in the final resolution of the UNSC. These are known as QARMAs, or Questions A Resolution Must Answer. The QARMAs for the UNSC at GrunnMUN 2018 are:

1. What further effort should the UNSC undertake in the fight against Boko Haram? What kind of measures should the Council employ against the group or Nigeria?
2. What punishment should the militias face, which fought against Boko Haram by also employing child soldiers? Furthermore, how can the UNSC correctly identify those responsible and what measures can it take to prosecute them?
3. How can the UNSC guarantee the elimination of the food crisis in Nigeria?
4. What efforts will the UNSC make to ensure the safety of the internally displaced people of Nigeria?
5. Should the externally displaced people of Nigeria be resettled? Would it be better to facilitate their return to the country instead?

Additional Suggested Reading

In this section, several documents or essays are included that provide a good understanding of the topic and the role of the UNSC. Together with this background paper, they can be used to prepare yourself for GrunnMUN 2018.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. “2018 Nigeria Refugee Regional Response Plan.” 2017

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