The continuous attacks from radical group Boko Haram (who in 2014 renamed itself Islamic State in West Africa - ISWA) from Nigeria keep entailing very significant humanitarian consequences, with new displacements of populations in the entire Lake Chad Basin (covering parts of Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and Niger).

The high level of insecurity across the area seriously hampers access to the affected populations and the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In addition to forced displacement, part of the population in the Lake Chad Basin also faces severe food insecurity - with famine threshold reached in some areas in Nigeria. The population is also frequently affected by natural disasters (e.g. floods) and epidemics (e.g. cholera).

In particular in Nigeria, the scale of the crisis is massive. Over 2.3 million people have been displaced by the Boko Haram conflict in the North-East. The volume of the humanitarian response to date is far below what is actually required to cover the basic needs of the affected population.
Humanitarian Situation

**NIGERIA**
- Boko Haram attacks on civilians in the North-East continue. For instance, 100 people were killed and several injured in Adamawa and Borno States in December.

- More than 19 000 Nigerians who had fled to Cameroon were received as of 13 December 2015, according to UNHCR and NEMA (National Emergency Management Agency). They have been relocated to IDP camps in Malkohi and Fufore in Yola and IDP camps in Maiduguri.

- The current food crisis in the North is massive: over 15 million people are food insecure, out of whom over 5.2 million are severely food insecure. Some 54 000 people are facing famine. An immediate scaling up of emergency assistance to the affected population is therefore required.

**CHAD**
- According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, the total number of displaced people affected by Boko Haram violence in the Lac region of the country is estimated at more than 95 000, including refugees from Nigeria. The continuous violence in the area over the past two months has led to the displacement of more than 28 000 new IDPs in Tchoukoutalia, Ngouboua and Fourkouloum. This population is to be added to the 53 639 IDPs already living in the region. The number of refugees remains stable, with 14 000 refugees registered from Nigeria, half of whom are in refugee sites.

- Following further forced evacuation of communities on Lake Chad islands, only three islands remain inhabited by about 15 000 people, living together with the Chadian army. Forced evacuations were conducted without real accompanying measures. While some IDPs were able to take with them livestock and food supplies, others left without supplies and are therefore particularly vulnerable. In this context, strengthening the monitoring of risks related to the protection of the population in the Lac region is important.

- Access to displaced populations is still difficult. Some IDPs are located in remote areas, hardly accessible by trucks. Logistics constraints compounded by insecurity render the delivery of aid very challenging. Despite all the efforts deployed by the international community, urgent needs remain to be addressed in all sectors.

- Across the country, more than 940 000 people are considered severely food insecure, with the consequences of structural deficiencies being compounded by Boko Haram violence. This is a clear increase as compared to 2014, when 660 000 people were severely food insecure.

**NIGER**
- While the number of refugees remains stable (106 000), the number of internally displaced persons increased to over 153 000 at the end of 2015.

- The majority of the displaced have left their homes and given up their livelihoods. Therefore, they are extremely vulnerable.

- The presence of IDPs further exacerbates the vulnerability of host communities, who face challenges such as food insecurity, undernutrition and limited access to basic social services. According to the Cadre Harmonisé (CH), the population of four districts in the Diffa region currently faces a food crisis, and 184 000 people are severely food insecure.

- Country-wide, more than 1.2 million people are expected to be severely food insecure at the peak of the 2016 lean season.
CAMEROON

- Cameroon currently hosts 61,000 Nigerian refugees who sought asylum in the Far North region. Asymmetric attacks by Boko Haram have increased since July 2015 and caused the internal displacement of some 123,000 Cameroonians, fleeing unsafe areas at the border with Nigeria. Almost 35,000 additional people have been displaced because of floods in the Far North.

- Up to 19,000 Nigerians who did not have refugee status have reportedly been transferred back to Adamawa State in Nigeria.

- Nearly 80% of the population in the Far North are either poor or very poor, with limited access to basic services and basic food commodities. Even prior to the Boko Haram crisis, the Far North region was suffering from chronic undernutrition among children under five. Insecurity is exacerbating the effects of structural weaknesses, leading in particular to a deterioration of the nutritional status of children. Preliminary results of a nutritional survey conducted last October indicate 14% of Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) in the Far North region (15% is the World Health Organization-WHO-threshold requiring immediate intervention), and a 2.2% rate of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) (WHO emergency threshold: 2%).

- Host communities are also suffering from the sudden influx of IDPs and refugees. The latest Emergency Food Security Assessment by the World Food Programme highlighted that 35.5% of households are food insecure in the Far North, i.e. one household out of five or 1.9 million individuals.

NIGERIA

- According to recent protection monitoring summary reports, the most prevalent vulnerabilities faced by IDPs are protection-related issues such as child protection (unaccompanied minors, separated children), sexual and gender-based violence, limited freedom of movement. Most of the basic assistance has been provided in the official camps. However, there is a need to further identify IDPs in informal settlements and host communities as they account for about 90% of the displaced population.

- The number of displaced persons in the North-East has continued to increase, totalling currently over 2.3 million. This number is expected to rise further. The IDPs' humanitarian needs are still largely unmet.

- According to IOM's Displacement Tracking Matrix, 63% of IDPs indicate food as their most critical unmet basic need. When it comes to host families, this figure soars to 83%. This is of major concern.

- In 2015, the European Commission allocated a total of EUR 21.5 million to cover basic humanitarian and protection needs of the victims of the Boko Haram crisis in Nigeria.

CHAD

- Despite a reduction in the humanitarian space, the humanitarian community is now trying to extend the scope of multi-sectoral assessments beyond the axes of Bol and Baga Sola in order to reach areas not covered so far (e.g. Tchoukoutalia and Ngouboua). First results indicate that the livelihood of the population there, who live on farming and livestock, is threatened by lack of access to their land. This could create dependence on assistance. Food assistance to IDPs remains a priority, whereby regular delivery of assistance is essential.

- Non-food items and WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) needs for about 27,000 IDPs are unmet. WASH coverage is below SPHERE standards. Support is urgently needed as IDPs draw water directly from the lake, in a region where cholera is endemic.
The needs of 53,200 children of school age, of whom 25,000 are internally displaced and 18,000 are children from the host communities, have been targeted by UNICEF for preschool and primary school in and around Baga Sola and Bol.

Health staffs remain insufficient to cover new IDP spontaneous sites which have received no health assistance to date. This is a concern for over 22,000 people.

In Chad, European Commission humanitarian aid has been supporting health services and epidemic prevention in Baga Sola, a contingency stock of core relief items distributed to IDPs and an initial WASH response for host communities and displaced people. In 2015, this assistance totalled EUR 3.8 million.

**NIGER**

Hospitality and assistance provided by host communities has been instrumental in the humanitarian response, covering urgent needs of newly displaced people. Therefore, the growing needs of host communities should be equally addressed as their resources are rapidly depleting.

The European Commission's humanitarian response in 2015 focused on health, nutrition, shelter, food assistance and non-food items, totalling some EUR 13 million.

**CAMEROON**

The humanitarian response is being hampered by the deteriorating security conditions in the Far North, which is reducing access for humanitarian organizations. This also makes it difficult to gather reliable data on the humanitarian situation outside the Minawao refugee camp and to deliver assistance. The European Commission's humanitarian aid contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights services, connecting Yaounde, Maroua and N'djamena in order to improve and foster a broader coverage by humanitarian organizations and promote a regional strategy. The need to establish and maintain a civil-military liaison and dialogue also remains important.

All populations affected by this crisis – IDPs, refugees and host communities – remain in need of emergency assistance. Indeed, basic needs are still to be covered in the WASH, shelter, food assistance and health sectors. Protection, International Refugee Law and International Humanitarian Law enforcement also require appropriate and scaled-up response. Furthermore, close monitoring of any return process is important.

In 2015, the European Commission has allocated EUR 11.8 million to meet humanitarian needs resulting from the Lake Chad Crisis in Cameroon. In particular, the provision of food assistance, access to water and sanitation, healthcare and emergency education to Nigerian refugees and IDPs, have been reinforced. Furthermore, in response to the deterioration of the nutritional situation in the Far North, the nutrition response has been strengthened and linked with the provision of primary health care to populations affected by the conflict outside Minawao refugee camp.