

# International Rescue Committee Nigeria: Strategy Action Plan



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## IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help the world's most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of our global strategy, IRC2020 (see right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC has made investments to design more effective programs, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and better respond to beneficiaries' needs.



## NIGERIA OVERVIEW

Nigeria is a diverse country with areas of great development and areas affected by serious humanitarian crises and profound poverty. In particular, the north and north-east of the country have long been marginalized and underserved, suffering from conflict, natural disaster, poverty, exclusion, and weak state capacity.

Over 2.1 million internally displaced people live in north-east Nigeria, with only 8% in official camps receiving government

support. The majority are women and children who have been displaced multiple times due to attacks by Boko Haram.

Boko Haram has targeted both government infrastructure and civilians with devastating effects. Healthcare, access to schooling, and economic opportunities, particularly in farming and other rural livelihoods, have all been severely compromised.

Women and girls are particularly affected, as instability compounds

their already precarious access to basic services and limited power to make decisions about their lives. In particular, women's access to health and education is inadequate, especially in rural areas. Furthermore, discriminatory gender norms restrict women and girls from seeking services on their own.

The IRC's new strategy for Nigeria illustrates its commitment to improving the health, education, and economic wellbeing of crisis-affected people in Nigeria.

## IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

The IRC's new strategy in Nigeria will prioritize improving health, education, and economic wellbeing (see Figure 1). The IRC will reach over one million people in Nigeria by the end of 2020, specifically targeting internally displaced people and host communities in both urban and rural settings, with a focus on women and girls.

To support the prevention of waterborne diseases such as malaria, acute watery diarrhea, and cholera, the IRC in Nigeria will improve access to clean, safe, and effective water and sanitation facilities and provide hygienic materials and information.

Boys' and girls' access to quality, responsive education will be improved through facility rehabilitation and reconstruction, supplying new equipment and staffing support. In addition, the IRC in Nigeria will utilize its expertise and experience in the provision of social and emotional learning to enhance core curricula for formal and non-formal learning centers.

Poor economic wellbeing will be addressed by responding to immediate food and nutritional security needs and promoting livelihood recovery to improve food production, consumption and sales.

The IRC in Nigeria will target women and households with children under five through a multi-sector approach, collaborating across health, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), food security and livelihoods programs. Building on current food voucher programming expertise, the IRC will shift to cash programming to empower families to determine the best way to use resources.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will ensure that all programming is designed to address the unique needs and mitigate against access barriers that are faced by women and men, boys and girls.

In addition to these priority outcomes, the IRC in Nigeria will build on its past successes in improving safety and decision-making power. Gender-based violence and child protection programs will prevent and respond to protection issues faced by displaced and returning populations. Safe spaces, community-based outreach and awareness raising will reduce violence and support survivors. Displaced people will benefit from protection monitoring to support them as they make choices about where and how they live.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Nigeria	Future Programs
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; People are protected from water, sanitation and hygiene-related diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Improve access to safe, quality water and sanitation facilities</li> <li>&gt; Provide essential hygiene supplies</li> </ul>
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Girls and boys enroll in and attend safe, functioning and responsive education services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Rebuild, reequip and staff damaged school infrastructure</li> <li>&gt; Enhance the quality of education through curriculum improvements in formal and non-formal institutions</li> </ul>
ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; People meet basic needs and avoid negative coping strategies</li> <li>&gt; People are food secure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Expand cash programs to respond to emergency livelihood needs</li> <li>&gt; Rebuild agricultural livelihoods and reduce food insecurity through the promotion of food production, sale, and consumption</li> </ul>

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## COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve the priority outcomes, the IRC in Nigeria is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, use resources more efficiently, reach more people, be more responsive to beneficiaries and partners, and react more quickly when crisis strikes. The IRC made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people it serves in Nigeria.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact



### Effectiveness

- > Invest in monitoring, evaluation, and information technology to strengthen measurement for action
- > Innovate to achieve agile and adaptive program design and management



### Best Use of Resources

- > Build the capacity of local partners to take over activities now provided directly by the IRC, improving long-term value-for-money



### Scale & Reach

- > Map and establish local partners in hard to reach areas to increase scale
- > Engage with neighboring IRC offices to explore opportunities to offer regional programming for refugees, returnees, and displaced people in the Lake Chad Basin and surrounding area



### Responsiveness

- > Roll-out user-friendly feedback mechanisms to beneficiaries and develop systems to ensure feedback is incorporated in program response
- > Conduct periodic strategic reviews with clients and stakeholders to collaborate on program design and implementation



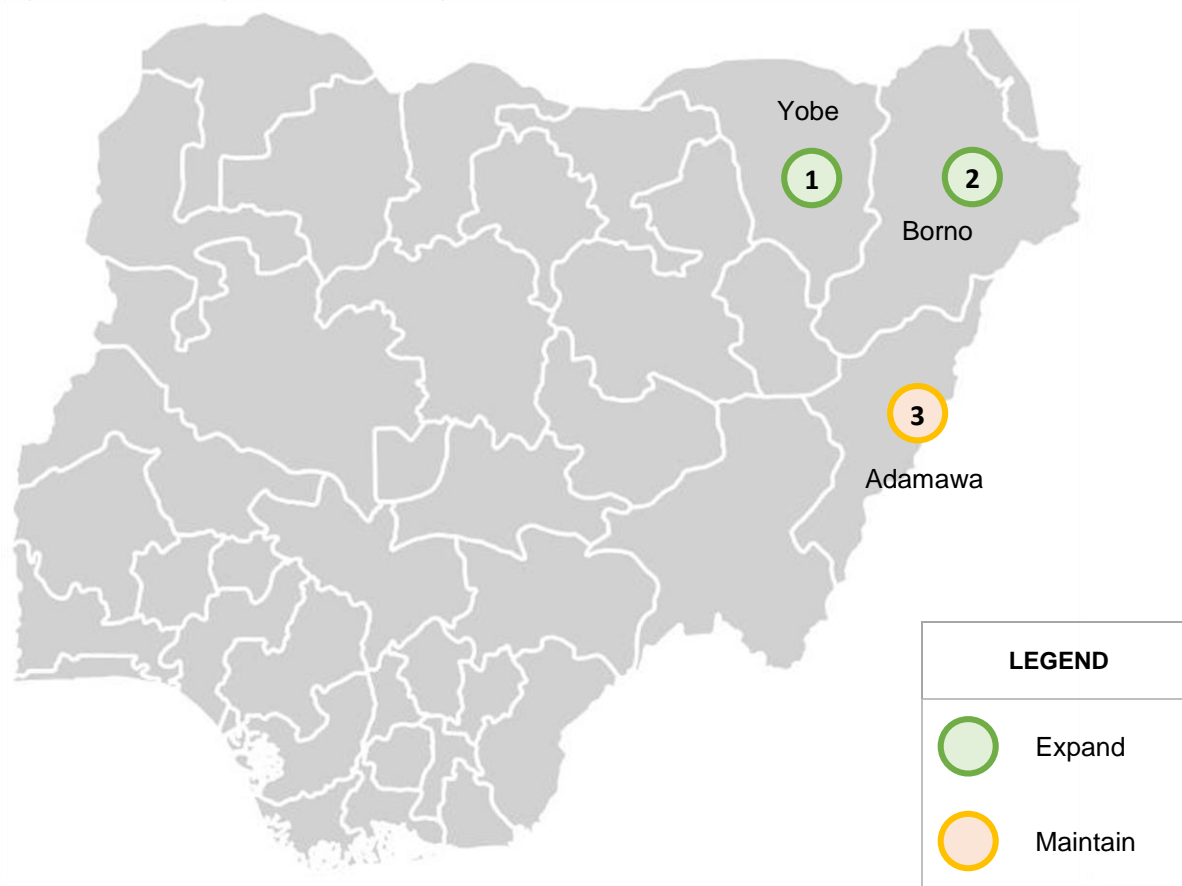
### Speed and Timeliness

- > Build a core team with the capacity, skills and competence to respond quickly to emergencies when crisis strikes

## IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

Through the end of 2020, the IRC will maintain and expand its presence in sites across Nigeria based on an analysis of where the greatest need is and where the IRC can create the most impact.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographic Transitions in Nigeria



Location	Geographic Transition
1 Yobe State	Expand to support returnees and displaced populations, collaborating with the IRC in neighboring Niger to strengthen impact.
2 Borno State	Respond to the needs of displaced populations, returnees, and host communities in Maiduguri and previously insecure areas which may become accessible; Collaborate with the IRC in neighboring Chad and Niger to strengthen impact.
3 Adamawa State	Continue multi-sector support to displaced populations in central part of the state, while increasing support to returnees in northern Adamawa, including Cameroonians; Collaborate with the IRC in neighboring Cameroon to strengthen impact.



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## The IRC in Nigeria



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