Northeastern part of Nigeria is experiencing a significant humanitarian crisis, resulting from the on-going armed conflict between Boko Haram, the Nigerian military and the Multi National Task Force.

14.8 million
People affected by the conflict in northeast Nigeria

2.2 million
People have been displaced

74%
of IDPs
Witnessed violence and many are traumatized

High influx of displaced is contributing to the erosion and breakdown of family and community support systems, and increasing feelings of mistrust.

High insecurity in the region has made access for humanitarian actors extremely difficult outside of major cities.

Explosive remnants of the conflict continue to pose a threat to the lives and livelihoods of IDPs and aid workers, contributing to a climate of fear, and are amongst the obstacles to the safe and sustainable return of IDPs and refugees in the northeast.

DDG Mine Action Assessment

DDG carried out a mine action assessment in northeastern Nigeria (Adamawa and Borno states) from November 1-15, 2015.

Objectives

Nature, scope and location of contamination by mines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in the northeast
People who may have been victims of mine/ERW-related accidents.

Develop recommendations for future DDG mine action programming

Key Finding

There is a significant problem with explosive ordnance in northeastern Nigeria.

IDPs are being encouraged to return to areas with suspected mine/ERW contamination and are at risk of potential Mine/ERW-related accidents upon their return.

Military and the police are both carrying out ERW clearance. The state police have explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) units whose main role is to follow the army and assist with UXO and IED clearance.

The focus of the army is on clearing roads to facilitate access of their combat forces. Police officials in Adamawa State expressed a willingness to collaborate and receive external support to address ERW contamination.
Proposed mine action response

Factors:
- Mine clearance and risk education for people returning to contaminated areas
- Improving the handling of solid waste to reduce public health risks
- Clearing debris through emergency livelihoods
- Safe clearance and refurbishment of explosives
- Victim assistance programs
- DDR process
- Safe collection of weapons
- Training and equipping of security providers
- Protection of national mine action coordination mechanisms

Specific activities include:
- Urgent removal of explosive remnants
- Provision of Mine/ERW risk education
- Recruitment and training of EOD teams
- Assistance with clearing explosive stores
- Victim assistance programs
- DDR process
- Safe weapon collection
- Training of security providers
- Protection of national coordination mechanisms

*Risk Education sits with the Protection Sector Working Group within the 2016 Nigeria HRP framework*