Committee: Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee

Issue: Addressing the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria

Student Officer: Xanthippi Siafaka

Position: Co-Chair

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

It is my pleasure to be serving as the Co-Chair of the Social Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the 4th annual session of the ACGMUN Conference. My name is Xanthippi Siafaka and I am an 11th grader at Pierce – The American College of Greece and this will be my first time serving as a student officer. Through actively participating in MUN, I managed to understand how beneficial it is to be a part of such conferences, as you can understand yourself better, discover your strengths and weaknesses, but most importantly, what is happening all around the globe.

The following study guide will provide you with all the necessary information to understand the situation in Nigeria and build a strong basis upon the matter. It is of great importance to conduct further research on the topic, as well as your country's policy so that we will have a fruitful debate.

For any further inquiries do not hesitate to contact me at x.siafaka@gmail.com

Best regards,

Xanthippi Siafaka

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

In recent years, an increase in terrorist attacks has been noted all around the globe, putting in danger thousands of people's lives. Based on Global Terrorism Index's report in 2014, religious extremism has become the motive of terrorist attacks these years. Since 2000, the Global Terrorism Database states that terrorism has augmented as that year 250 terrorist attacks were reported, while in 2012, they reached around 1750 incidents.

The United Nations General Assembly Third Committee is one of the main committees of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which mainly deals with human rights, humanitarian affairs, and social matters. For example, it deals with issues related to the advancement of women, the protection of children, crime prevention and criminal justice, terrorist attacks, and humanitarian crises.

Nigeria has been facing many brutal conflicts with Boko Haram for the past 11 years since the Islamic group fueled a campaign to establish an Islamic caliphate in the northeast. All the violence disrupted livelihoods, which later led to created widespread food insecurities and restricted access to basic services that all men, women, and children need to survive.

If the humanitarian crisis in Nigeria is not resolved, more and more problems will occur that will be even more difficult to deal with. For example, the crisis may expand to more countries and the group will be able to achieve its goal of international influence and therefore become an internation threat.

Figure 1 Image of Nigerians

DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Humanitarian crisis

A humanitarian emergency/crisis is an event (or series of events) that represents a critical threat to the health, safety, security of a community or other large group of people, usually over a wide area.[1]

Armed conflict

An international armed conflict occurs when one or more States have recourse to armed force against another State, regardless of the reasons or the intensity of this confrontation. No formal declaration of war or recognition of the situation is required.[2]

Civil War

A violent conflict between a state and one or more organized non-state actors in the state's territory.[3]

Boko Haram

Boko Haram is a militant Islamic based in Nigeria. Its main purpose is to institute the Islamic law, Sharia, and to purify Islam in northern Nigeria. This group was founded in 2002 by Mohammed Yusuf and has been launching military operations since 2009, aiming to establish the Islamic state.

Sharia Law

The fundamental religious concept of Islam is seen as the expression of God's command for Muslims and constitutes a system of duties that all Muslims must follow.[4]

Sanctions

An economic and military coercive measure adopted by several nations in concert for forcing a nation violating international law.[5]

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[1] "What Is a Humanitarian Emergency?" *Humanitarian Coalition*, 6 May 2015, www.humanitariancoalition.ca/what-is-a-humanitarian-emergency.

[2] "International Armed Conflict." *Online Casebook*, casebook.icrc.org/glossary/international-armed-conflict.

[3] Gleditsch, Kristian Skrede. "Civil War." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 11 Sept. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/civil-war.

[4] Shamsy, Ahmed El, and Noel James Coulson. "Sharīʿah." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 3 Nov. 2019, www.britannica.com/topic/Shariah.

[5] "Sanction." *Merriam-Webster*, Merriam-Webster, www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/sanction.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The Sustainable Development Goals are a set of 17 global goals that were adopted by all UN member states in 2015, in order to achieve a more sustainable future for all. More specifically, they are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people will enjoy peace and prosperity by 2030. [6]

Figure 2 Sustainable Development Goals

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM)

An Algerian – based Islamic militant group, active in North Africa and the Sahel region.[7] Their main goal is to overthrow the Algerian government and institute an Islamic state.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Nigeria's country profile

Nigeria is a country located in Western Africa, bordering to Benin, Niger, Chad, Cameroon, and the Gulf of Guinea. It is Africa's most populous country with approximately 200 million people and is composed of more than 250 ethnic groups. The country's economy is based on oil and it is the main source of foreign exchange earnings and government revenues. During the period of financial crises in 2008 and 2009, Nigeria's economic growth was driven from agriculture, telecommunications and services. Due to inadequate supplies, the inefficient judicial system, restrictive

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[6] "Sustainable Development Goals." *UNDP*, www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals.html.

[7] The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica. "Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghrib." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 30 Nov. 2017, www.britannica.com/topic/al-Qaeda-in-the-Islamic-Maghrib.

trade policies, regulatory constraints and security risks have limited investment in oil and natural gas and as a result since 2010 and has been slightly elevating since 2017.[8]

Figure 3 *Map of Nigeria*

Creation of Boko Haram

In 2002, a group presented as Boko Haram started claiming that wanted to replace the Nigerian Government with an Islamic state under the Sharia laws and establish an Islamic caliphate across Africa. The group's name translates to "Western education is forbidden" (Boko=book, Haram=forbidden by the Islamic law), which justifies why they are focused on opposing Western education.


Figure 4 *Boko Haram's logo*

The Rise of Boko Haram

Having Mohammed Yusuf as its leader, the group started establishing small camps and schools in remote areas of Borno and Yobe during the period of 2002 and 2005. Since 2004 Boko Haram has been initiating operations against the police and their first official attack was in 2009. In 2009 the group led by Mohammed Yusuf began attacking police stations and government installations, killing and injuring many people. The security forces immediately responded by sending their forces to face the group, killing many members. Soon enough, Yusuf and his fellow leaders and followers

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[8]"Oil Rents (% of GDP) - Nigeria." *World Bank*,
data.worldbank.org/indicator/NY.GDP.PETR.RT.ZS?end=2017&locations=NG&start=1970&view=chart.

were captured and killed while in police custody. Many believed that this incident would be the last and the group would gradually fade away. However, in 2010 Boko Haram organized a massive jailbreak, with more than 700 members escaping from the prison and the group continued its operations. Their attacks grew in intensity and frequency since then. They still targeted government buildings, military barracks, police stations, Christian churches, universities and schools and made targeted assassinations. More specifically, their main target were political figures, preachers, clerics. In 2011, members of Boko Haram attacked the UN headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria's capital, using one of their methodologies, car bombing. In April 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped more than 275 girls from a school in Chibok in Borno and brought them under the international spotlight. The situation was quickly spread across the world and generated a plethora of offers from international assistance to Nigeria, which Nigeria happily accepted.
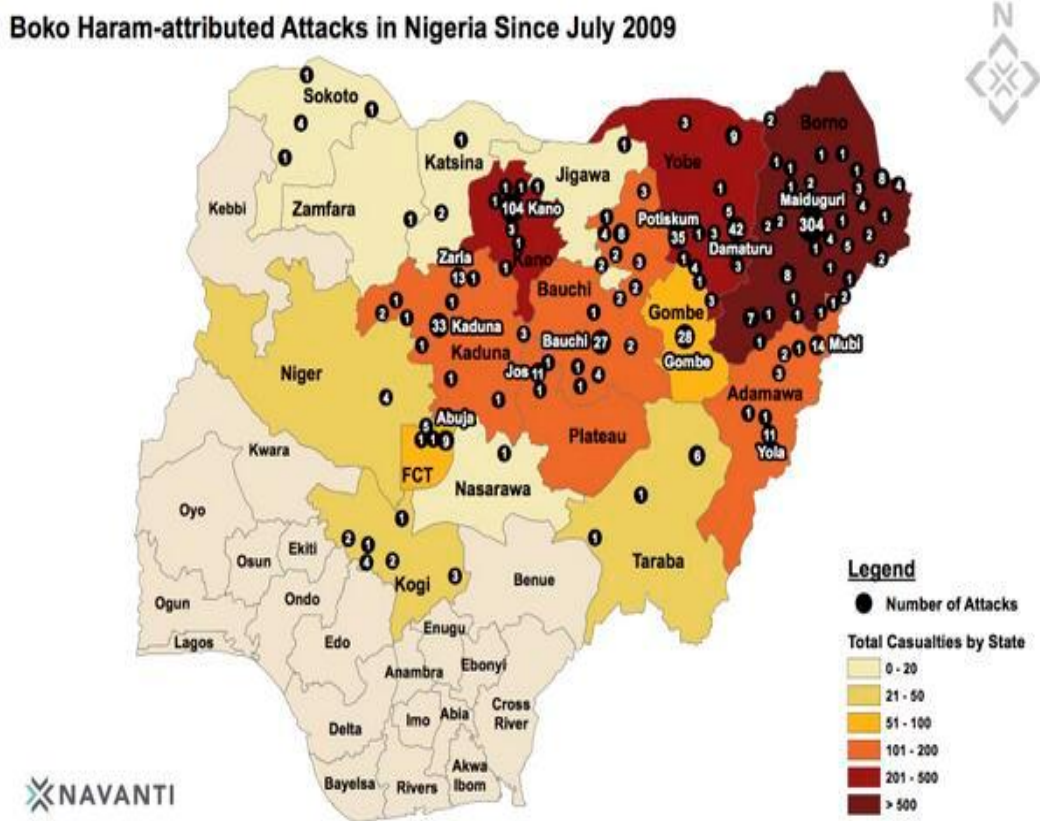
Figure 5 *Map of Boko Haram's attacks*

Presidential action

In June 2013, the Nigerian president Goodluck Jonathan officially recognized and declared Boko Haram a terrorist group and banned it under the Nigerian law. This meant that anyone who was caught helping them could be prosecuted under the country's Terrorism Prevention Act, which was expected to ameliorate the situation

or even eliminate it. Despite the UN Security Council's action, the group did not settle down, and in August, it declared several areas to be an Islamic state.

The incapability of dealing with the Boko Haram threat was one of the main issues for the presidential elections of 2015, along with the economic status of the country. During that period, Nigeria's economy experienced a decline because of the rise of oil prices in the markets, and also many Nigerians lived in poverty, especially those in the north. Jonathan, later on, accepted aid from the neighboring countries (Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger) and troops from both Nigeria and those countries managed to mark progress in the fight against Boko Haram, with forces taking down a significant part of the area previously held by the group.

Objectives of Boko Haram

The military group aims at forcing territories to live under the strict Sharia law, with their main objective to re-establish the Sokoto caliphate. The caliphate in northern Nigeria was one of the largest empires of the 19th century, and it included parts of Nigeria, Niger and Cameroon. It was only a small village (1804) when it was selected to be the military headquarters of the Holy War (Fulani jihad), led by Usman dan Fodio who later became the first sultan of Sokoto. The caliphate lasted until 1903 approximately when the British and the French abolished it. Their goal though is to expand this idea to the whole world and turn as many territories as possible to an Islamic state.

Causes of Boko Haram's Terrorist Acts

Religious division

Boko Haram holds an extremely religious ideology based on which they commit the vast majority of their crimes. They use as their basis Sharia Law to create a Great Caliphate in Northern Nigeria, but the Nigerian Government will not provide this possibility. Thus, the tension will continue until the group is either eliminated or pacified.

Ethnic division

Nigeria consists of more than 250 ethnic groups so it is expected to have ethnic conflicts. Usually, such conflicts arise as a result of a lack of political resources, multi-culturalism, and religion. In our case, one of the factors is poverty. It was caused due to underdevelopment and limited resources, government corruption, lack of economic infrastructure and poor access to education and healthcare.[9]

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[9]Project, Borgen. "An Expanding Country: Four of the Main Causes of Poverty in Nigeria." *The Borgen Project*, Borgen Project Https://Borgenproject.org/Wp-Content/Uploads/The_Borgen_Project_Logo_small.Jpg, 24 Oct. 2019, borgenproject.org/causes-of-poverty-in-nigeria/.

Economic causes

While Nigeria has lots of natural resources, it has one of the continent's poorest populations with an estimated 87 million Nigerians, or half of the population living on less than $1.90 a day.[10] Nigeria's economy also depends on oil revenues which mostly belong to a small group of people and government ministers who take advantage of the profits they make, making oil a factor that leads to economic inequality across the country.

Today's situation

Internally displaced people (IDPs)

Boko Haram has caused many displacements since 2014. Based on results from the International Displacement organization, in 2018 541.000 displacements due to conflicts and violence were reported and in total 2,216,000 people.[11] The reasons for the displacement are rather complex. Over the last 45 years, Lake Chad has been shrunk by 90% due to climate change and as a result many households of the north and east Nigeria cannot have access to water and create conflicts over resources. Combined with the rise of Boko Haram, even more people had to flee in order to survive the continuous attacks and went to neighboring countries such as Niger, Cameroon and Chad. The reasons for which people had to leave their houses was to escape the military operations and being victims of violent acts.
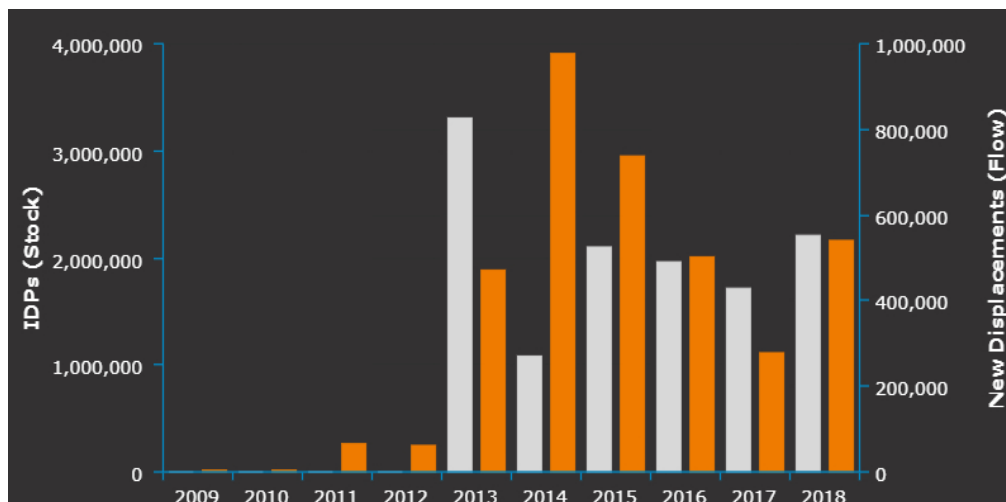
Figure 6 Annual conflict and disaster displacement figures

Arbitrary arrests and detentions

Nigeria has always been struggling to find ways to protect and promote human rights, but despite prevous efforts, no direct result has been accomplished do far. According to Amnesty International, torure is something

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[10]Adebayo, Bukola. "Nigeria Overtakes India in Extreme Poverty Ranking." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 26 June 2018, edition.cnn.com/2018/06/26/africa/nigeria-overtakes-india-extreme-poverty-intl/index.html.

[11] "Nigeria." *IDMC*, www.internal-displacement.org/countries/nigeria.

that happens frequently in Nigeria, with the purpose of retrieving information from prisoners, or even as a punishment for a crime."[12] In October 2017, the military arbitrary released 760 detainees and they were detained because they were allegedly related to Boko Haram members. These detainees lived in overcrowded cells under inhumane conditions such as dehydration, starvation, many women were forced to give birth in dirty cells and diseases were easily spread.

External aid
United States of America

The United States of America have contributed to the assistance of Nigeria by funding (2019's requested fund: $351,612,00) and trying to improve the quality of life of the majority of the Nigerians through improved governance. For example, they helped to the reduction of corruption, the strengthening of the private sectors and as a result augmenting the job positions and also contributed to the improved quality of social services. They aim to increase agricultural productivity and food security and creating health and education services.

European Union

EU is also one of the leading contributors of Nigeria's aid. More specifically, their aid aims to meet the people's basic needs, such as food, clean water, hygiene and sanitation. They aim to support psychologically all victims, such as children, women and wounded people, and reduce the chances of an epidemic. EU cooperates with organizations like the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) and other programs that try to ameliorate Nigeria's situation.

United Kingdom

United Kingdom has given a great amount of money to Nigeria to stop the crisis caused by Boko Haram. The Governemnt announced in 2017 that it would provide an aid of £200million for four years (2018-2022). Their goals are to provide the country with the essential goods like food and clean water, improve the health services and access to modern family planning.

MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

Cameroon

Cameroon was also influenced by the Boko Haram attacks as not only the members attacked the country, but many Nigerian refugees went there in order to find a better place to live. Since Cameron is a boarding country with Nigerian, it is understandable for Nigerians to flee there for rescue. According to the UNHCR, from

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[12] "Nigeria: 'Welcome to Hell Fire': Torture and Other Ill-Treatment in Nigeria." *Amnesty International*, www.amnesty.org/en/documents/AFR44/011/2014/en/.

the 370,000 Cameroon refugees, the 100,00of them are Nigerians. In 2019, a group of more than 9,000 Nigerians fled to Cameroon after an attack of Boko Haram, but the country forced them back to Nigeria. From them, Cameroon forbids refugees as it has to deal with its own crisis at the moment. Cameroon claims to have imprisoned thousands of possible members of Boko Haram.

Chad

The violence in Nigeria has made many citizens to seek safety in Lake Chad's region, in Chad. The local camps in December 2019, were hosting 243,404 refugees and in total there have been 178,928 people displaced there due to the conflict. Chad claims to have killed hundreds of Boko Haram militants that approached the area of the lake.

Nigeria

Being the country that is mainly involved with the topic, Nigeria has obviously tried to deal with this situation. Since 2009, Nigerian authorities have not managed to actually to face the terrorist attacks and due to that the country has been getting lots of criticism on their approach on the issue. Due to the conflict, a big part of the Nigerian population was forced to leave the country or even many have to undergo a plethora of hardships due to malnutrition and lack of resources.

Niger

Same as the other countries, more than 280,000 refugees have been displaced. They do not live in camps but in settlements next to a national highway.

United Kingdom (UK)

Nigeria used to be a colony of the British from the mid-19th century up until 1960, when the country gained its independence. Since then, Nigeria has maintained strong relations with UK. As previously mentioned, UK is one of the countries that provide aid to Nigeria, as they are also worried about the Boko Haram, their actions and how they are going to develop. The British Army provides the Nigerian Army and Air Force the necessary training and equipement that protects the soliders from the improvised explosive devices.

United States of America (USA)

The relations between USA and Nigeria were established in 1960, after the country gained its independence from the United Kingdom. Usually they are characterizd as bilateral, as they are based on political, economic and cultural relations between them. By 1999, when Nigeria's civil war ended, the relations among the two countries improved, as they cooperated on foreign policy goals like regional

peacekeeping. As mentioned before, USA helps Nigeria with the ongoing crisis by funding and ameliorationg the living conditions.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International is an organization that want to fight violations of the human rights internationally. They first conduct thorough research upon several subjects and then try to come up with solutions. As long as Nigeria is concerned and combined to the rise of the Boko Haram, Amnesty International takes action on matters such as IDPs, detentions and arbitrary arrests.

AQIM

Al – Qaeda has collaborated with Boko Haram. In 2009, it was found that AQIM members trained with Boko Haram members and one year later provided them with weapons and financial support. Boko Haram and AQIM have shared knowledge on improvised explosive devices. For example, it is supported that Al-Qaeda members helped Boko Haram to attack the UN headquarters of Nigeria. The main reason for which this was supported was that the method they used was similar to those from AQIM.

UNICEF

As far as UNICEF is concerned, they focus on children and covering up their basic needs in nutrition, protection, education, and health. Based on their data, there are thousands of children in need and their action is really important as UNICEF's goal for this year is to try to help all 7.7 people in need. In particular, they aim on improving the nutrition of nearly 500 thousand children and help them have access to safe water and personal hygiene. Also, they want to ensure that children will have access to education and they will all receive the medical treatment they need. They estimate that 632,00 children that are affected from the ongoing crisis and they are in need of medical and psychological support.
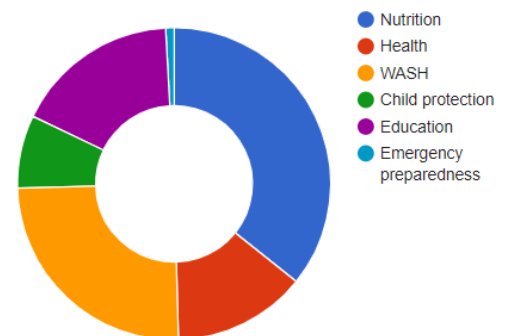
Figure 7 *UNICEF'S required funds for its plans for 2020 (distributed accordingly)*

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR mainly focuses of Nigerian refugees as the Boko Haram insurgency has displaced 2.4 million people from their homeland. The organization is working with authorities in Nigeria and NGOs in order to help all of the IDPs. Their main objective is

to ensure that refugees will have access to asylums, governments will try to find a balance between security and border management and legal and policy frameworks.[13]

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Date	Description of event
1804-1903	Sokoto caliphate
2002	The group gets organized by Mohammed Yusuf, a Muslim cleric
December 2003	First known attack by Boko Haram
2004	Small operations against the government and the police
July 2009	Beginning of the Boko Haram uprising
July 2010	Shekau, Yusuf's deputy, claims to be the new leader
September 2010	Massive jailbreak
August 2011	Terrorist attack at UN headquarters
June 2013	Official recognition of Boko Haram as a terrorist group
November 2013	The US State Department recognizes Boko Haram as a terrorist organization
April 2014	Massive kidnap of approximately 275 teenage girls
January 2019	The UN Refugee agency states that over 30.000 people are forced to leave Nigeria

RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES AND EVENTS

Report of GA3 (A/73/583)[14]

This report discussed the importance of finding a way to deal with the refugees and the displaced people, in the terms of where to place them and how to ensure their safety and provide assistance to them.

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[13]https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/download/56947#_ga=2.12961072.642252989.1579985113 -242558549.1577968754

[14]United Nations. "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Questions Relating to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons and Humanitarian Questions." *UNHCR*,

Resolution adopted by the GA (A/RES/68/178)[15]

This resolution aimed the protection of human rights and freedoms during terrorist attacks and how all civilians' rights must be protected all the time.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene)

WASH is a program established by UNICEF to help the countries that lack from resources. In Nigeria there is poor access to water and sanitation which are necessary for the survival and development od children. The use of contaminated water and poor sanitary conditions has led to many deaths due to water-bone diseases, with more than 70,000 deaths. Their main goal is to provide people access to water and hygiene services and persuade governments to follow WASH policies, strategies and guidelines.

World Health Organization (WHO)

WHO has heavily contributed to the improvement of Nigeria's public health. Due to the conflict, access to roads is becoming more and more difficult for people and many doctors have left the country, leaving the ones that stayed without any health care. WHO deals with epidemic – prone diseases (cholera, measles, yellow fever), the mental health of those affected by the conflict and help the health centers to fully function again. Their objective is to provide life – saving and sustaining humanitarian health assistance to affected people. One remarkable action of WHO is the eradication of guinea-worm disease (dracunculiasis), a disease found in poor, rural communities with low-income. The parasite transmitted through contaminated water and later it created blisters, often on the legs. They managed to eradicate it by ameliorating the water supplies, treating the contaminated water and by educating the civilians about the disease.

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

FAO has established 5 priority areas to respond to the problem. Some of them is to support the national food and nutrition security, agricultural policies and regulatory frameworks, as well as sustainable management of natural resources.

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www.unhcr.org/excom/bgares/5c3c88044/report-united-nations-high-commissioner-refugees-questions-relating-refugees.html.
[15]   "United   Nations   Official   Document." *United   Nations*,   United   Nations, www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/178.

The contribution of the Red Cross

Red Cross's goal is to help people affected by armed conflicts. The previous year, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) managed to provide food assistance and essential household items to 640,000 people as well as medical treatment to 258,000 people who needed it. ICRC also contributed into tracing missing people upon requests made by families, while it is currently looking for 21,000 people. All IDPs need a house in their host country and ICRC has managed to fulfill this need by building 1,600 shelters for them.

Sanctions on Boko Haram

In May 2014, the Security Council (UNSC) took action towards resolving the matter by imposing sanctions on Boko Haram. Essentially, this means that if individuals or organizations provide financial or material support to Boko Haram, they will be added to the Al-Qaida Sanctions List and be subjected to sanctions measures. With this ruling, the UNSC supported that sanctioning Boko Haram would constitute an effective way to combat its terrorist activity.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Refugges placement

It is important to protect the civilians and try to ensure that all refugees will be safely placed somewhere. Concerning the refugees, the countries that will host them must ensure that they will have camps and safe places to temporarily place them, until a solid solution is found. Also it is very important to ensure that their human rights will be respected.

Access to sanitation, clean water and food

Access to clean water and sanitation is essential for the development and survival of humans and unfortunately some countries cannot ensure it to their civilians. As it is 6th SDG, it is important to make sure that Nigeria finally has access to such resources. In order to successfully achieve this, efficient management of the natural resources and the establishment of sanitation facilitites is important. In addition to this, they should try to invest in research and try to raise awareness upon the matter.

Food security

Hunger has undoubtfully been one of the major issues worldwide. Sustainable development is not going to be achieved if the issues of extreme hunger and malnutrition are not solved. In order to solve the issue not only organizations

shouldcontribute, but we should take action as individuals. We should support programs that collect food that it is going to be sent to countries that lack of food resources. Also, governments must take action and try to establish frameworks and programs that will help to reduce the percentages of hunger in countries like Nigeria.

External aid

In order for the aforementioned to happen, it is crucial that there is coordination among the helping countries and organizations. Nigeria is a country that lacks from expertise and just because there are limited options on dealing with a humanitarian crisis, coordination and cooperation is vital. Organizations and countries should try to help the Nigerian government get organized and create a framework from which national stability can be achieved.

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