# Collaboration with NHRIs for the Protection of forcibly-displaced people in the context of COVID-19

West and Central Africa

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# COVID-19 KEY FIGURES

- Key Figures:
- **48,708 confirmed cases**
- **- 5,467 confirmed cases** over the past four days as well as **3,787 recoveries**;
- **- Nigeria (10,578)** remains with the highest number of confirmed cases, followed by **Ghana (8,070 cases)**, **Cameroon (6,397)** and **Guinea (3,844)**;
- **-** In terms of active cases, **Nigeria (7,157)** has the highest number, followed by **Ghana (5,087)**, **Cameroon (2,569)** and **Gabon (1,916)**;

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# Position of NHRIs on COVID-19- WCA

- ✓ Issuance of Press Release by National human rights institutions in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Togo
- ✓ Encourage the population to observe the preventive measures against COVID-19.
- ✓ Encourage the medias to pursue informative talk shows and sensitization.
- ✓ Call upon the Governements to subsequently adopt particular measures to facilitate the enjoyment of the right to work and livelihoods, the right to education, and social safety nets, with a special attention to vulnerable persons, persons with a low income, persons living with chronic diseases, persons living with disability, IDPs and refugees.

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# Niger

**NHRI-UNHCR's response to COVID-19 in West and Central Africa**

- Use/support the inter-agency platform compiling **communication** tools developed by communities themselves on COVID-19 (region) CWC/RCCE
- Detention monitoring and support to detention centres on WASH facilities and sanitary kits
- NHRI as member of Protection Cluster: Dividend on protection crisis visibility

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# Nigeria

**NHRI-UNHCR's response to COVID-19 in West and Central Africa**

- Reinforcement of **protection monitoring** in border areas, including through NHRI (Niger, Nigeria)
- Support to **border screening** to ensure access to territory and asylum for refugees and asylum-seekers (Nigeria)
- Despite official closure of borders, cross-border movements mainly from Cameroon, Niger and Chad were reported. In March and April, a total of 2,142 Nigerians refugees from Cameroon (1,643), Niger (488) and
- Establishment of the community-based structures such as Protection Action Groups (PAG) recruited among IDPs and host communities, locally recruited protection monitors
- **Partners: UNHCR, Nigeria Bar Association (NBA), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), BOWDI, FHI 360 in collaboration with BAY States Government**

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# Experiences and challenges in the context of COVID-19

- Lack of comprehensive data on the impact of COVID-19
- Lack of capacity to implement remote interview and case management
- Physical accessibility
- Domestication  process of the Kampala Convention is frozen

# Lessons learnt and recommendations

- Inclusion of persons of concern to UNHCR in NHRI advocacy leads to inclusion of persons of concern to UNHCR in wider government and stakeholders response (Cameroon and UNDP study on impact of COVID)

- Support in keeping visibility on the deterioration of security situation and consequently protection of civilians

- Joint advocacy at country level on increased cases of abductions and forced recruitment

- Push agenda: Protection risks at border points to ensure access to asylum, right to return and inclusion

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