

- **Most populous nation on African continent with excess of 180 million people**
- **Largest producer and exporter of gas/oil in Africa with significant American private investors.**
- **Africa's largest economy, bigger than South Africa's with a gross domestic product (GDP) worth 481.07 billion US dollars in 2015.**

Potential Famine threatens population in Northeastern Nigerian

Over two million children, and as many as 4.4 million total people face starvation in Nigeria, report UNICEF and Médecins Sans Frontières, MSF (Doctors without Borders) respectively. Both organizations have published reports urging an increase in the amount of aid and access, to avoid disaster.

The crisis became evident, earlier this year (2016), when Nigerian troops forced out Boko Haran insurgents, from the 17 local government areas of Borno State. Displaced people, mostly children were found lacking food, water and sanitation. Thousands have fled the countryside for cities, like the capital Maiduguri, causing it to double in population. Inflation and escalating food prices, a bag of rice costing \$100.00, have created food insecurity.

The epicenter has been Borno State, once the agriculture capital of the nation, but since 2009, at the heart of Boko Haran's insurgency. The area garnered worldwide attention in 2014, when 276 Chibok school girls were kidnapped. The few young women, who have escaped captivity, report physical abuse, including rape, impregnation, as well as starvation and forced labor, including girls used as suicide bombers.

Borno, occupies most of the Chad Basin in the North-Eastern corner of Nigeria. It has exported refugees and violence to its bordering neighbors: the Republics of Niger to the North, Chad to the North-East and Cameroun to the East, as well as Adamawa State to its South, Gombe State to the West and Yobe State to the North-West.

According to the United Nations Humanitarian Office of Coordination, UNOCHA, more than 279 million dollars are needed; however, humanitarian

organizations have only raised 75 million dollars so far. As more territory is reclaimed and made accessible, relief agencies fear that the crisis could reach gigantic proportions, with no end in sight.

350 words
