



RETURN INTENTION SURVEY: MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA

98.5% of internally displaced persons surveyed want to return to their place of origin/residence but better security is principal pre-condition for 76% of them.

IOM, Nigeria
October 2016

SUMMARY

As part of its Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) activities, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) conducted a Return Intention Survey targeting internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Maiduguri, the capital of Nigeria's northeastern state of Borno that has been affected the most by the so-called Boko Haram insurgency.

The survey was conducted from 1 to 7 of October 2016 in 45 locations (18 IDP camps and 27 host communities) in Maiduguri, Borno State. A total of 391 IDP households were interviewed.

DISPLACEMENT

- 100% of the surveyed IDPs were displaced by the insurgency with 61% displaced from towns and 39% displaced from villages and rural areas.
- 77% of the surveyed IDPs were displaced in 2014.
- 74% of surveyed IDPs have been displaced once and 14% twice.
- 5% of interviewed IDPs have been displaced four or more times.
- 34% of respondents were displaced from the Local Government Area (LGA) of Bama, 12% from Gwoza and 11% from Mafa.

RETURN INTENTIONS

- 98.5% of displaced persons indicated their intention to return to their place of origin if conditions allow it.
- 1.5% indicated that they would not like to leave their current location.
- 76% of displaced persons said that better security is the principal condition for return.
- When asked about the second most important condition for return, 7% of displaced persons cited better economic situation and an additional 7% the existence of livelihood opportunities.
- Financial aid was cited as the most important assistance IDPs (31%) needed for return.
- A high percentage of displaced persons (82%) said they do not commute from/to their place of origin and current location.
- 87% of people surveyed believe they could restart their livelihood activities when they return.

1. INTRODUCTION

The displacement situation in the northeast Nigeria remains fluid. The region currently hosts IDPs, refugees and returnees. Part of the displaced population has already started to return or relocate.

77% of displacement in Borno happened in 2014, 12% happened in 2015 and 10% before 2014. The top three LGAs of origin (Bama, Gwoza and Mafa) were among the worst-hit by the insurgency. It is of utmost importance to assess the returns intentions of individuals that remain displaced in order to provide the necessary reintegration assistance.

This report provides information related to the return intentions of IDPs. The majority of IDP households interviewed stated that they had intentions to return to their area of original displacement (98.5%).

The decision to return, however, they said would mainly be influenced by improved security situation. The two main concerns for the displaced people who were surveyed raised the need for a better economic situation and livelihood opportunity when they return to their place of origin. Food security and provision of housing come in third and fourth in terms of reasons that will influence returns.

Authorities and local leaders were mentioned as the main source of information that displaced people will rely on for taking the decision to return. Friends and family were next, followed by radio and news. Some mentioned they would visit to the place of origin before taking the decision to return.

Financial aid and food were the top two kinds of assistance that displaced people expected to receive for return. A high percentage of 87 respondents said they believe they can restart their livelihood activities when they return.

Lastly the survey found that 62% of IDPs stated that they had received humanitarian assistance at their current location. Most IDPs said they got non-food items (NFIs) followed by food when asked what kind of humanitarian aid they received in their current location.

2. METHODOLOGY

Since mid-2014, Nigeria has seen an intensification of conflict due to so-called Boko Haram attacks in its northeastern States of Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba and Yobe. Insurgency and counter-insurgency have inevitably resulted in the displacement of people across the troubled states. In response to the need for accurate information on IDPs, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has been working with the Government of Nigeria to establish a comprehensive system to collect and disseminate data on IDPs by strengthening the capacity of the Government and other humanitarian actors to conduct assessments on IDPs in a unified and systematized manner.

Also as the Sector co-lead for CCCM/Shelter/NFI, IOM included a questionnaire targeted at households and including a return intentions survey.

Simple random sampling technique was applied for the return intention survey that was conducted using the household questionnaire (Annex 1) from **1 to 7 October 2016** in 45 locations (18 IDP camps and 27 host communities) in Maiduguri, Borno.

A total of 391 IDP head of households responded to the questionnaire in the selected locations identified as hosting displaced populations. Each respondent represented a household, thereby, reflecting a total of 2,382 displaced individuals.

Prior to their participation, interviewees were informed about the confidentiality, objectives of the survey and the voluntary nature of their participation.

Using an interval of confidence of 95%, the margin of error of the data was estimated to be 5%.

TABLE 1: OVERVIEW OF ASSESSED LOCATIONS AND NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS

Location Name	Displacement Location Type	No of HHs
BAKASI CAMP	Camp	3
BAKIN KOGI CAMP	Camp	15
BALE GALTIMARI CAMP	Camp	13
BALE GALTIMARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	16
BULUMKUTU HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	5
BULUMLAITA HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1

DALA HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	15
250 HOUSING ESTATE, DALORI CAMP	Camp	17
DALORI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1
DCC SHUWARI CAMP	Camp	4
DURSARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1
EBEN CAMP	Camp	1
EYN CAMP	Camp	4
FARM CENTRE CAMP	Camp	12
FARM CENTRE HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	3
FEZZAN HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	2
FORI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	12
GARANNAM HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1
GARBA BUZU CAMP	Camp	34
GIDAN ALBISHIR CAMP	Camp	12
GOMARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	22
GONI DAMGARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	2
GONI KACHALLARI CAMP	Camp	15
GONIRI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	17
400 HOUSING ESTATE GUBIO ROAD CAMP	Camp	17
GWANGE 2 HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	12
JAFRA CAMP	Camp	3
KWANAN YOBE HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	5
LAMISULA HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1
MAGUMERI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1
MAIRI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	28
MODUGANARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	2
MODUMARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1
MOGCOLIS CAMP	Camp	17
MOROMTI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	3
MUNA PRIMARY	Camp	2
MUNA HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1
NAFARA HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	1
NYSC CAMP	Camp	16
POLO HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	12
SHUWARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	5
SIMARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	2
CAN CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT CAMP	Camp	4
TANDARI HOST COMMUNITY	Host Community	13
TEACHERS VILLAGE CAMP	Camp	17

3. RESULTS

This section presents the main findings of the survey:

3A. SURVEY DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

A total of 391 heads of households responded to the questionnaire; each respondent representing an IDP household, thereby reflecting a total of 2,382 IDPs represented in the survey. 71% of survey participants were men and 29% were women. This disparity is explained by the traditional and patriarch culture of the northeastern region.

3B. DISPLACEMENT AND CONDITIONS OF DISPLACEMENTS

This section briefly looks at the profile of the displacement and the condition of dwelling before the displacement.

All the respondents were displaced internally within Borno and 100% of the households interviewed were displaced due to the insurgency with 61% displaced from towns and 39% displaced from villages.

Bama led with 34% of IDPs coming from there, followed by Gwoza and Mafa with 12% and 11%, respectively. Konduga and Ngala were k place of origin for 8% of IDPs each. Within Bama, a large portion of displaced persons came from Kasugula (16%) and 13.5% came from Shehuri/Hausari/Mairi.

77% of the participants were displaced in 2014, 12% were displaced in 2015 and 10% before 2014. 44% of the displaced people said they lived in brick houses before the displacement while 34.5% said they lived in mud houses.

Most IDPs (74%) said they were displaced once while 14% said they were displaced twice and 5% said they have been displaced four or more times.

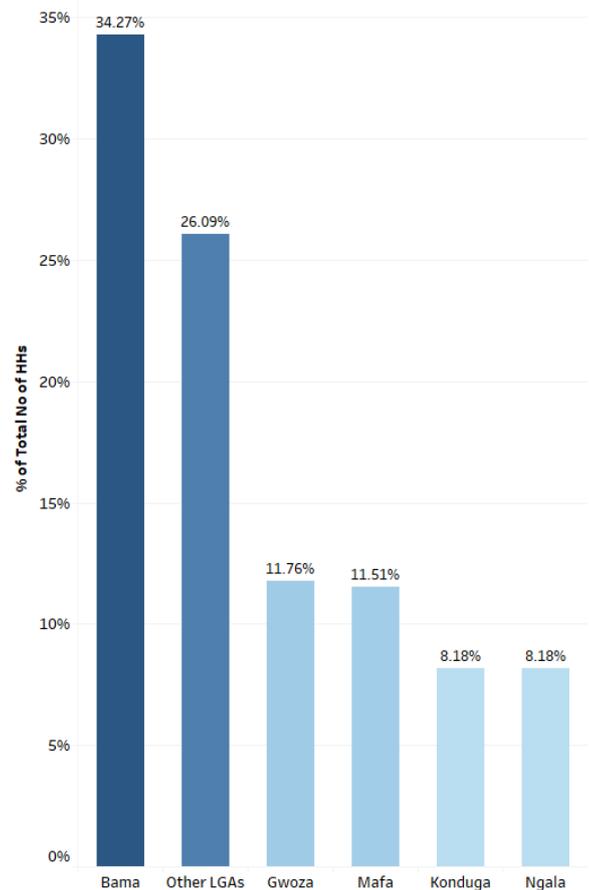


Figure 1: LGAs of origin

Lastly, almost an equal number of IDPs are living with host communities and in camps.

3C. RETURN INTENTIONS

This section explores the intentions of the displaced population to return to their communities of origin as well as the indicators allowing the return. Most of the IDP interviewed indicated their intention to return to their place of origin, should the conditions allow it. Of all the respondents, only 1.5% said they do not want to return.

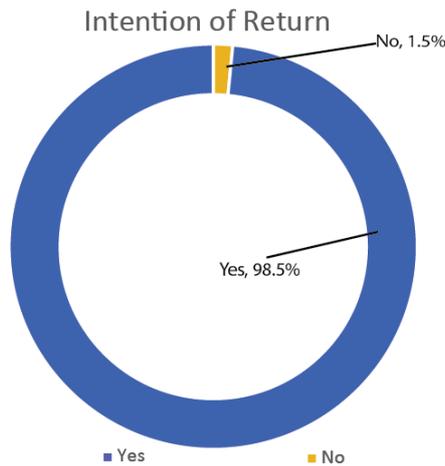
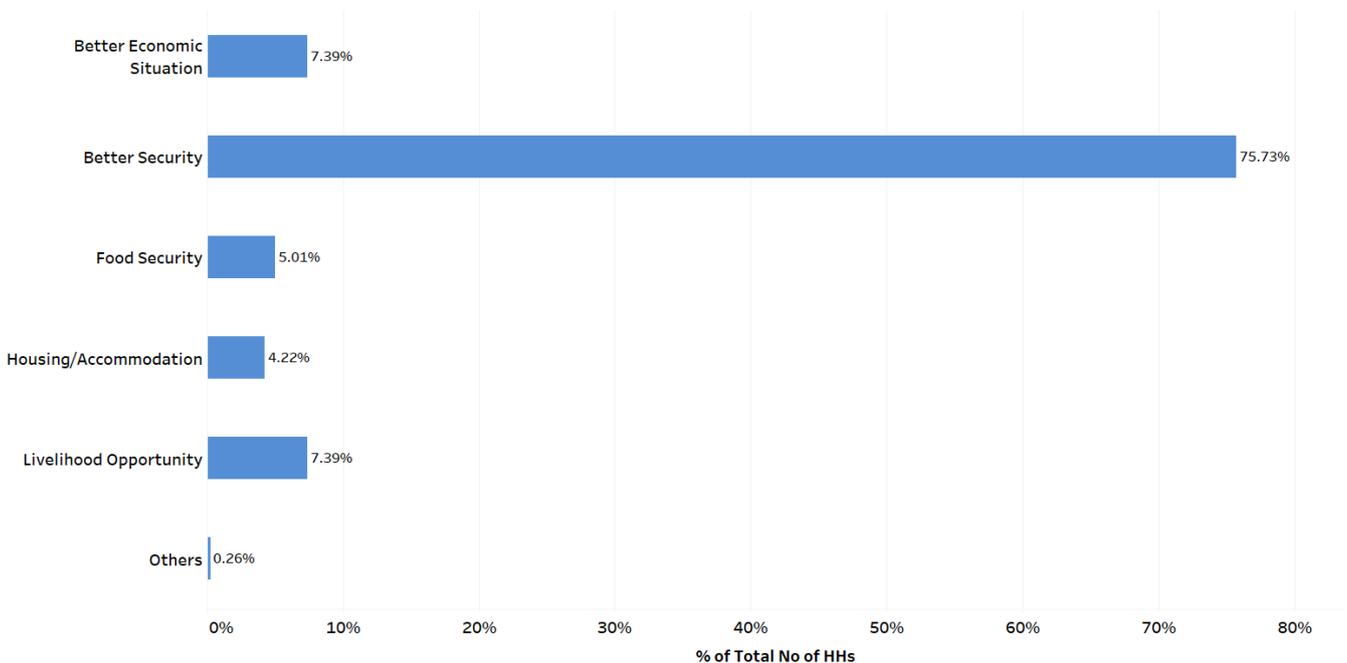


Figure 3: Intention to return

OUT OF THE DISPLACED PERSONS INTENDING TO LEAVE THEIR



CURRENT LOCATION:

Figure 4: Condition for return

Among those who expressed their intention to return, the key condition was better security. As many as 76% cited need for improved security as principal

pre-condition to motivate return. The figure below shows the other pre-conditions:

Though the displaced people want to return to their place of origin, very few currently go back and forth to their former homes, indicating the gravity of how important an improved security is for them. As many as 82% said they do not frequent their place of origin.

When asked what source of information will help the displaced persons to take the decision to return, authorities and local leaders occupied the highest position. 47% IDPs said they would rely on authorities and local leaders, 33% said they rely on friends and family, 13% said they rely on radio and news and 8% said they will visit the place of origin before taking the decision to return.

For a majority of IDPs, the most important assistance they needed to enable return was financial aid. Food was cited as the next most important aid, followed by tools and materials to resume economic activity.

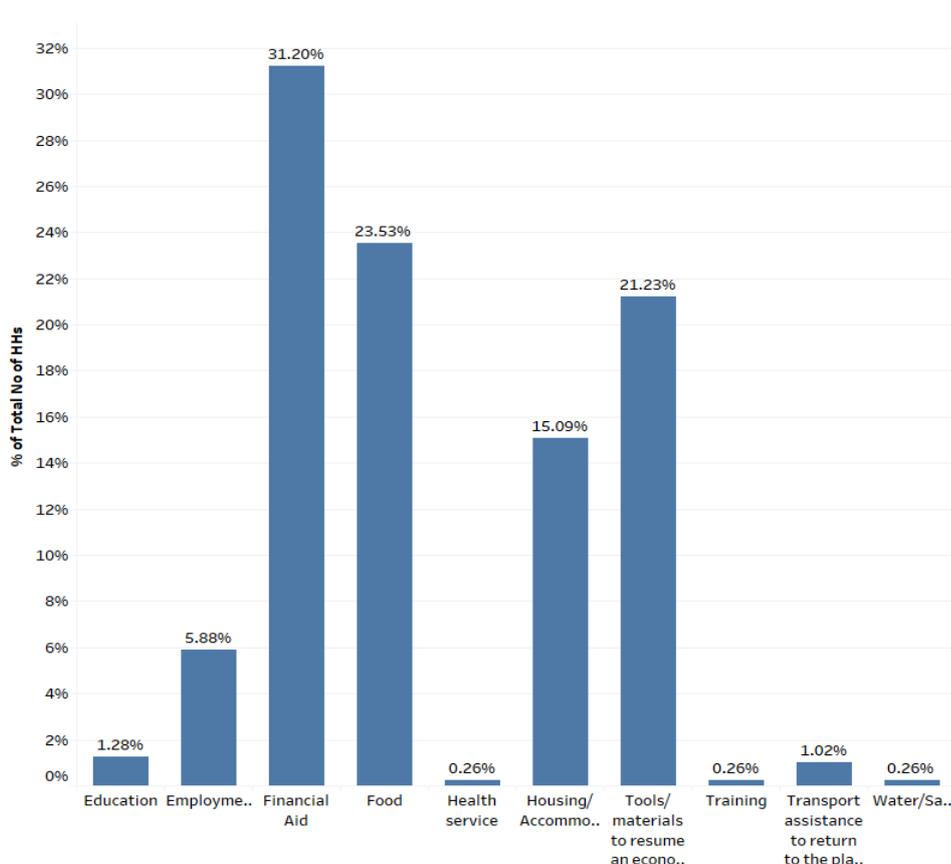


Figure 5: Assistance expected for returns

A high number of the interviewed displaced people were confident that they would be able to restart the livelihood activity that they used to pursue before

displacement. 87% said they would be able to, while nine percent said they would not be able to and four percent did not know.

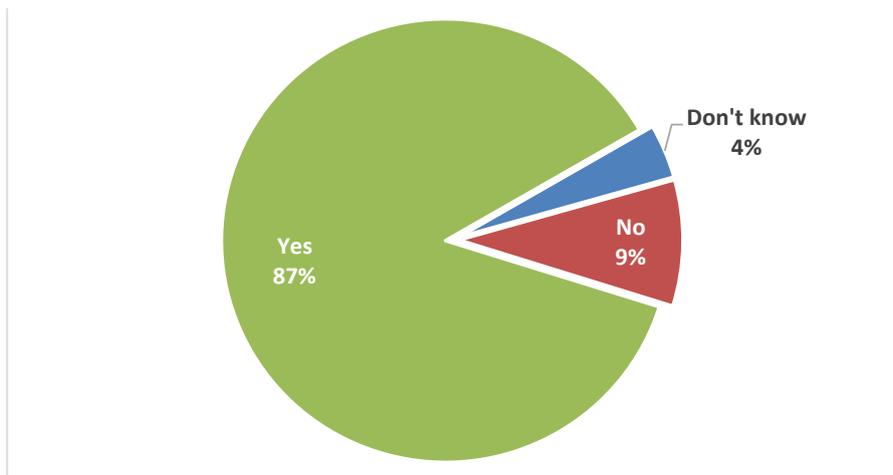
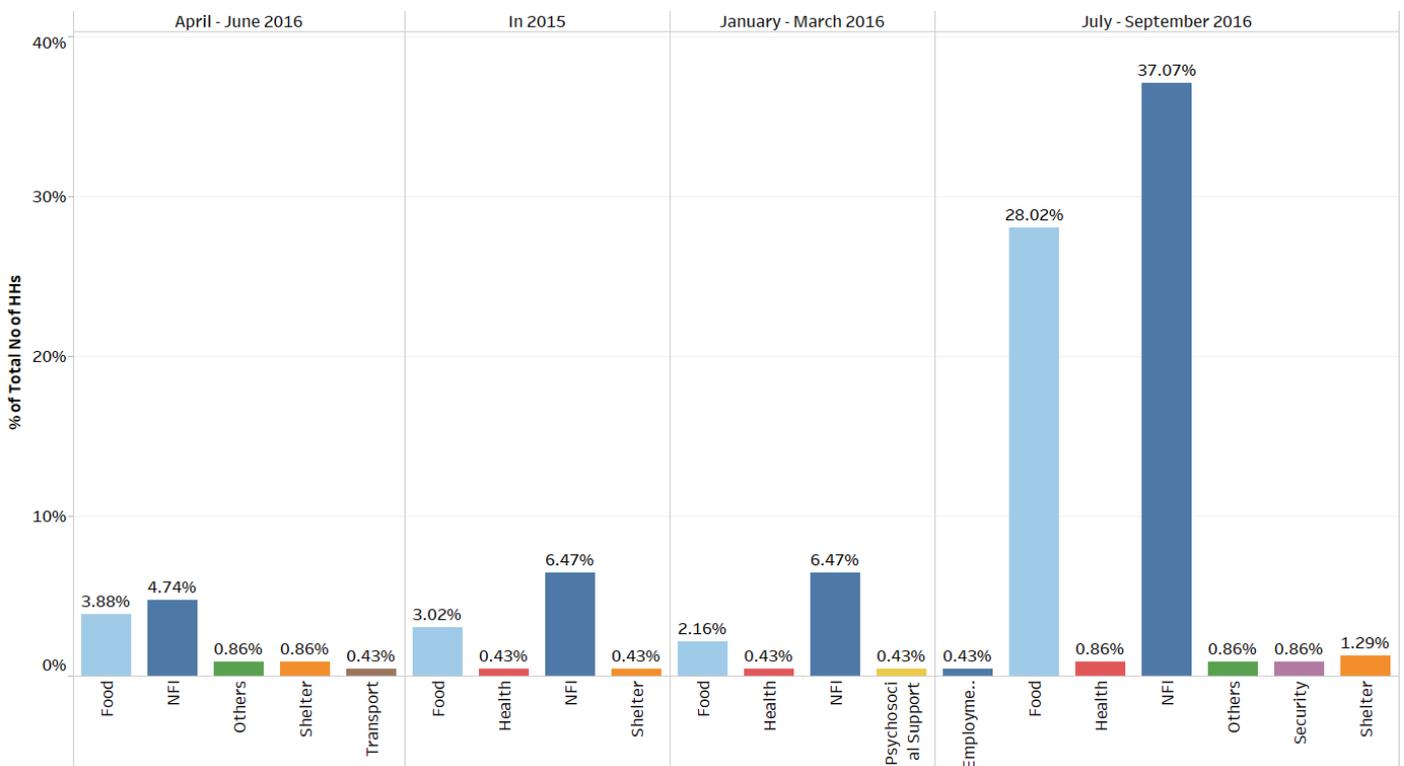


Figure 6: Confidence in restarting livelihood activities

As of now, 62% respondents said they have received humanitarian assistance in their current location while 38% said they have received no humanitarian assistance so far.

Non-Food Items (NFIs) were the most received type of humanitarian assistance received by the respondents in their current location. This was



followed by food.

Figure 7: Assistance received most recently

As can be deciphered from Figure 6, a spurt in receipt of humanitarian assistance was reported between July and September 2016.

4. CONCLUSION

This is the first IDP return intention survey conducted in Nigeria's northeastern State of Borno. The survey indicates that most IDPs intend to return to place of origin although a better security situation is a principal pre-condition and financial aid the top type of assistance expected.

As highlighted by IOM's September 2016 report, the displacement situation constantly evolves and returns take place continuously. The northeast region now hosts an estimated 2.1 million IDPs¹.

Three topics are a central concern for IDPs intending to return home: security concerns, access to food, and tools and materials necessary to resume economic activities. Housing is also an important point as it was the next most-cited assistance required for IDPs to return.

The purpose of this survey is to help better understand the return intentions of IDPs in Maiduguri, which hosts the maximum number of displaced persons as a result of the insurgency in Nigeria. The information gathered will further help the humanitarian community to make informed plans for comprehensive assistance for enabling return to original place of displacement.

To do this, the survey provides details of motivating or enabling factors for return of interviewed IDPs. It, therefore, provides return intentions as well as reasons withholding returns so far. The findings will help not only humanitarian aid agencies but also the political establishment to understand motivating factors for return and better design reintegration schemes.

The report is replete with details that allow humanitarian actors to define potential interventions aiming to accompany the voluntary return of persons currently displaced, ensure sustained returns and mitigate further hardships and humanitarian crises.

The survey also provides indicators of economic conditions of interviewed IDPs and their priority issues. The populations are stretched and coping with limited resources. Without external assistance, they will not be able to sustain let alone return to their places of original displacement.

¹ Source: DTM Round 11 Report – <http://nigeria.iom.int/dtm>

This is the case of house repair in areas of origin, financial aid, access to sufficient and adequate food, support for restarting livelihoods and also access to psychosocial support assisting IDPs to cope with their traumatic experience.

Finally, the security situation remains a major concern for the majority of IDPs and its evolution will be a decisive factor in the decision to return home or remain displaced. This is true for both the actual security situation and the perception of the risks and security level in the area of origin.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Household Questionnaire

Annex 2: Survey Dataset Charts

This Return Intention Survey was supported through funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO).



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