

RELEASE IN PART B7(F),B6SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED**CT Programs Overview: Nigeria**

(SBU) **Background:** As Africa's most populous country and a regional economic and political powerhouse, Nigeria is one of the most strategically important countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The United States has a strong interest in ensuring Nigeria's stability, and initiatives such as the Trans Saharan Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP) have fostered this U.S.-Nigerian partnership. Nigerian President Buhari has committed to a renewed, regional campaign to counter Boko Haram and reform Nigeria's security sector institutions. He has welcomed U.S. and international support for this effort and made visits to neighboring countries to highlight the need for partnership to counter Boko Haram. The Bureau of Counterterrorism (CT) supports programming to counter the drivers and threat of violent extremism by improving governance, building law enforcement capacity, and enhancing the role of civil society.

(SBU) **Countering the Threat of Improvised Explosive Devices:** The Bureau of Diplomatic Security's Office of Antiterrorism Assistance implements a program that builds Nigerian law enforcement agencies' crisis response capability specifically targeting their counter-IED capabilities. Training includes post-blast investigations, explosive ordnance disposal (EOD), law enforcement investigations to prevent terrorist operations, and border security. The program also aims to establish a certification process to foster locally sustained EOD capacity. With a bilateral budget of \$1.5million per year planned for FY16, FY17, and FY18, this is one of the largest bilateral ATA partnerships in the TSCTP region.

(SBU) **Securing Nigeria's Borders:** CT manages the civilian law enforcement lines of effort under the Counter-Boko Haram Global Security Contingency Fund (CBH GSCF) program (\$40 million total, of which CT manages \$14M). This program includes assistance with border security strategy development, rural border patrol operations, and information-led policing in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. This program is roughly halfway through its three-year implementation plan.

(SBU) **Promoting Rule of Law to Counter Boko Haram:** A Resident Legal Advisor (RLA) based in Chad will be deployed this spring to work on aligning the region's counterterrorism legislation within a rule of law framework. The RLA will conduct workshops for all Lake Chad Basin countries with the aim of coordinating counterterrorism legislation in the region and identifying gaps in legal, prosecutorial, and judicial capacity to address this cross-border threat. Through the Global Counterterrorism Forum, CT continues to work closely with

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Nigeria on developing best practices for rule of law responses to terrorism. CT supported an assessment of Nigerian capacity to combat money laundering and terror finance. CT also supports a project to provide technical assistance to the Nigerian government on rehabilitation and reintegration of low-risk disengaged Boko Haram fighters and violent extremists.

(SBU) Countering Violent Extremism (CVE): CT supports targeted efforts to counter the drivers of violent extremism. CT supports Arewa24, a Hausa-language television station and multimedia platform that serves as an important vehicle to counter violent extremist influences in a vulnerable population in northern Nigeria. Through the FY15 Counterterrorism Partnership Fund, CT aims to support a number of CVE lines of efforts, including USAID/OTI's stabilization program which engages communities in northern Nigeria to build resiliency through Kanuri language radio programs and vocational training. In addition, CT is funding USIP's Women Preventing Extremist Violence project, which engages women in countering violent extremism by building their connections and capacity to work with policy-makers and law enforcement officials.

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