

Alert

Cameroon

Influx of Refugees from Nigeria & Displaced from Border Areas

Geneva, 27 February 2015

1. Brief description of the emergency and impact

Following the plethora of attacks orchestrated by Boko Haram in the north east of Nigeria and the Cameroon villages along the border with Nigeria, local populations have been forced to flee the massacres. These attacks have claimed many lives and caused the destruction of many important facilities (mosques and churches burned down, villages looted, farms devastated, cattle stolen, etc). Refugees from Nigeria and displaced people from the border areas started arriving in August 2014 and were registered in the councils of Mozogo, Koza, Moskota, Kolfota, Mogodé and Mora in the far-north region of Cameroon and Guider in northern Cameroon. To date 12,000 displaced are registered in the locality of Mozogo and more than 31,000 refugees have settled in Minawao. As of 24 February 2015 there has been a further significant new influx of refugees/displaced arriving in Mozogo, Koza and Moskota councils.

2. Why is an ACT response needed?

The displaced people in Mozogo are being accommodated in churches, schools and in the open air. They currently have no organized assistance and are left to their own means.

The refugees in the Minawao camp are being assisted by the UNHCR. However, they are also suffering as there is a continual influx of new refugees following attacks and consequently the resources available in the camp are overstretched.

ACT member, the Eglise fraternelle luthérienne du Cameroun (EFLC) is present and well known in the areas concerned and can assist if resources are made available.

3. National and international response

The displaced people in **Mozogo** are receiving some basic assistance from the Anglican Church of Nigeria and the Union of Evangelical Churches. There are also churches established along the borders which are strongly involved in assistance. The "Mission Porte Ouverte de Yaoundé" (Open Door Mission of Yaounde) has been distributing hygiene kits to women.

The UNHCR has set up a refugee camp in **Minawao** and can ensure distribution of basic assistance (food, hygiene kits, and kitchen utensils, sleeping materials) as well as put in place certain infrastructures such as schools, dispensaries, etc. However, the resources available do not cover the needs of the increasing number of refugees arriving at the camp.

4. ACT Alliance response

EFLC/ACT has been in the area providing small amounts of assistance since the arrival of the Nigerian refugees and the displaced from the border areas. Currently, the EFLC is the only organization providing assistance to the refugees/displaced while they are awaiting registration and relocation to the UNHCR run camps.

Planned activities

Mozogo: the displaced people urgently need food (rice, corn, white beans, groundnuts etc.), clothing and blankets for protection against the bad weather (cold) and kitchen utensils as well as latrines to supplement those already built by members of the Union of Evangelical Churches with the assistance of the Anglican Church of Nigeria.

Minawao refugee camp: hygiene kits for women, soap, cooking kits, clothing and blankets to supplement what has already been provided by UNHCR, is urgently needed for the children, the sick, the disabled and elderly.

The EFLC is currently monitoring the situation and planning an initial RRF response.

5. Constraints

The main constraints are the frequent targeted attacks along the borders not controlled by Government armed forces.

Any funding indication or pledge should be communicated to the Head of Finance and Administration, Line Hempel (Line.Hempel@actalliance.org).

For further information please contact:

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