



Displaced women attending an awareness-raising session aimed at reducing sexual and gender-based violence risks in Northeastern Nigeria. ©UNHCR/Nigeria

UNHCR PROPOSAL FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM

Provision of Protection services and Assistance to Refugees, IDPs and Refugee Returnees

UNHCR Nigeria

July 2018

Project overview

Project Title:	Provision of enhanced protection services for IDPs and refugee returnees
Total Budget:	EUR 1,000,000 (USD 1,157,407.41)*
Implementation Period:	12 months
Number of Beneficiaries:	20,000 IDPs and refugee returnees and 550 refugee households

* The exchange rate used is 0.864 (UN rate as at 1 July 2018)

Country background and operational context

The humanitarian situation in Nigeria is complex. In addition to the ongoing Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast, the conflict between farmers and herders in the middle belt of Nigeria and the Cameroonian crisis continue to have broader implications on local populations in affected areas. Currently, UNHCR Nigeria is assisting IDPs and refugee returnees in the North-East and the Cameroonian refugee situation in Cross River, Benue, Ikwu-Ibon and Taraba States.

The North-East Situation

Now in its ninth year, the conflict in Northeastern Nigeria continues to have a devastating impact on civilians. Since the start of the conflict, more than 20,000 people have lost their lives, over 4,000 people were abducted, and in 2018, 1.7 million people remain displaced. Around 3 million IDPs and returnees remain in need of protection and legal services, shelter, basic services and livelihood opportunities across the three most-affected states in the Northeast: Borno, Adamawa and Yobe. Over 200,000 Nigerian refugees remain in neighboring countries of Cameroon, Niger and Chad, while 31,649 returned in 2018.

As a consequence of ongoing military operations, IDPs, IDP returnees and refugee returnees are unable to reach their areas of origin. As a result, they are being forced into secondary displacement situations where they face challenges of inadequate shelter and basic services; absence of livelihood opportunities and often destroyed civil infrastructure. UNHCR and Protection Sector partners conduct protection monitoring, leading to identification, documentation and referral of protection incidents for advocacy and responses as appropriate. Protection monitoring also serves as basis for the identification of vulnerable groups such as sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) survivors, female-headed households and unaccompanied and separated children who, due to these challenges, are exposed to protection concerns such as lack of documentation, forced removal and forced return to Local Government Areas (LGA) of origin as well as associated risks of resort to negative coping mechanisms. Indeed, many incidences of food for sex have been documented both during monitoring and focus group discussions.

The Cameroon Refugee Situation

Since September 2017, Nigeria has been receiving thousands of Anglophone Cameroonians affected by the crisis in the Northwest and Southwest regions of the country due to clashes between the government and activists calling for separation. Refugees are scattered in over 50 localities in the southern region of Nigeria (namely in Cross River, Benue, Taraba and Akwa-Ibom states) and rely on already scarce resources of hosting community for food and shelter. Basic services are a rare commodity in most areas including shelter, inadequate access to water and sanitation. In addition, most of the children are out of school.

Project objective

In the North-East regions, the project will strengthen protection response for refugee returnees, IDPs and IDP returnees through enhanced protection monitoring, legal assistance and community-based protection systems.

For the Cameroonian refugees, the project aims to meet basic needs of refugees (such as shelter and education) in order to provide dignified living conditions.

Time frame

This project will start upon approval by the donor for the duration of up to 12 months.

Activities

IDPs in the North East

UNHCR with its partners will:

Enhanced community-based response:

- Engage quality Protection Monitors and Protection Action Groups (PAGs) members to cover areas with large numbers of IDPs, IDP returnees and refugee returnees.
- Conduct capacity building sessions for Protection Monitors and PAG members to enhance their knowledge on identification, documentation and response of protection concerns. Protection Monitors and PAG members will monitor the situation and receive protection concerns at the Protection Desks in IDP camps, IDP returnees and refugee returnee communities, and when identified, they will either address or refer them for appropriate action.
- Conduct awareness-raising sessions in IDP camps, IDP returnee and refugee returnee communities to inform them about their protection rights as civilians and the services available to them through the Protection Desk and PAG community-based mechanisms. In addition, efforts will be made to encourage the target beneficiaries to use these mechanisms to report protection concerns, seek information, and receive information pamphlets listing services and activities carried out at the Protection Desk.
- Update service mapping in various locations and share with other humanitarian actors to enhance existing referral systems.
- Reinforce Protection Desk structures dilapidated due to weather elements.
- Produce regular reports and share them with the Protection Sector accordingly.

Emergency Response:

- Expedite responses in locations where no referral partners are on the ground to facilitate referrals of critical cases. Such cases would include facilitating life-saving medical procedures, facilitating relocation of individuals whose lives are threatened and responding to SGBV cases amongst others.

Protection Monitoring:

- Ensure Protection Monitors will regularly visit detention facilities such as military barracks, screening centres, police stations and prisons to monitor the human rights situation of IDPs and refugee returnees held at such locations.
- Advocate with authorities for the release and/or better living conditions for IDPs and Refugee returnees held at such locations.
- Refer cases to stakeholders providing services such as legal, food, health, shelter, and livelihood assistance amongst others.

Advocacy:

- Conduct stakeholder workshops with local government authorities, humanitarian partners and community leaders on international standards and principles for IDP protection and relocation.
- Conduct joint assessment missions to newly accessible areas with other humanitarian actors and governmental bodies in order to guide planning and response.
- Produce advocacy notes, assessment reports and updates on new information or situations as and when they arise.
- Advocate with the government to operationalize existing frameworks such as the Kampala Convention on Protection of IDPs as well as the Tripartite Agreement on the Returns of Nigerian Refugees from Cameroon with community leaders, humanitarian actors and local government authorities by organising and participating in coordination and partnerships through existing platforms within government and humanitarian community.

Legal Services:

- Engage qualified and experienced lawyers to provide legal services.
- Provide legal representation for refugee returnees and IDPs in court for civil cases. Individuals such as widows and orphans disinherited by the patriarchal system, and SGBV survivors will be the targeted to receive this service and will be represented in court.
- Provide legal counselling and advice for matters that do not require litigation.
- Facilitate mobile court sessions in locations where justice/court structures have been destroyed or are absent due to the insurgency. The aim is to bring justice closer to the population in need of such services.

Cameroon Refugee situation

UNHCR with its partners will:

Shelter:

- Provide shelter kits (construction material) to refugees to allow them to build their own shelter. Technical expertise (site planning, construction training) and cash grants to pay for labourers will be provided as well. Distribution will take place in three phases, following construction steps: 1) Foundation and walls 3) Roof, windows and door 3) Certificate of completion and finishing touches like floors. Material and cash for the subsequent phase is given only upon successful completion of the previous phase.

Education:

- Provide refugee children in primary school age with school fees and equipment (school material and uniforms), and rehabilitate schools structures and provide with water access and sanitation facilities. Sensitization to enrol children in local schools will also be conducted. Catch-up courses will be provided for children that have lost months of classes during their flight from Cameroon.

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries will be 20,000 IDPs, IDP returnees and refugee returnees in the three North-eastern regions of Borno State, Adamawa State and Yobe State. Identification of beneficiaries will be done mainly through protection monitoring activities conducted directly at community level. In addition, referrals received from other humanitarian actors will be considered.

For the Cameroon refugee situation, 550 refugee households will benefit from a permanent shelter.

Logframe and budget allocation

Objectives	Outcomes	Activities
Rights Group: Security from Violence and Exploitation		
Protection from effects of armed conflict strengthened	Situation of persons of concern monitored	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced use of Protection Desks as a mechanism to identify and respond to core protection concerns. - Strengthen and monitor Protection Action Groups to support a community-based protection strategy. - Emergency response to critical protection referrals covering health, legal, SGBV cases, etc in key return locations. - Access and monitoring of human rights at detention facilities (police stations and prisons) on a weekly basis by the National Human Rights Commission and UNHCR's legal partner.
	Capacity development supported	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct technical trainings and workshops for stakeholders and partners including security personnel and government policy makers on protection monitoring.
	Advocacy conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct sensitization campaigns in each local government area where UNHCR is present targeting persons of concern on their rights and services available to them.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct Stakeholder and Partnership workshops to get humanitarian actors and local authorities to collaborate with community-based protection mechanisms. - Facilitate Joint assessment missions in return areas made newly accessible through military operations to guide planning and implementation of strategic programming.
Rights Group: Favourable Protection Environment		
Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved	Legal assistance provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide legal representation in court targeting individuals in civil cases. - Provide legal counselling and advice in legal clinics to IDPs and returnees, for matters that do not require litigation. - Facilitate and strengthen the capacity of mobile court platforms held 3 times a week in Maiduguri.
Law and policy developed or strengthened	Advocacy conducted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Operationalize existing frameworks, such as the Kampala Convention on Protection of IDPs and Tripartite Agreement on the Returns of Nigerian Refugees from Cameroon with community leaders, humanitarian actors and local government authorities in key return areas in Borno State. - Strengthen coordination and partnership through existing platforms e.g. High Level Task Force on Returns (referring to Nigerian refugees in Niger, Chad and Cameroon) and Tripartite Commission and Technical Working Group on the Return of Nigerian Refugees from Cameroon.
Rights Group: Basic Needs and Essential Services		
Population has access to permanent shelter	Shelter kits, cash grant and technical support provided	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugees are provided with material to build their own shelter - Refugees are supported with technical expertise and site planning in all the phases of construction - Refugees are provided with cash grants to pay for labourers to complete each phase of construction of the shelter and for finishing touches

Request for funds

Considering the information above, the table below recapitulates the contribution requested by the UNHCR Nigeria country operation in order to better respond to protection concerns of IDPs and refugee returnees.

	Requirements	Proposed Belgian contribution	
	USD	USD*	EUR
Rights Group: Security from Violence and Exploitation			
Protection from effects of armed conflict strengthened	836,260	430,458.33	371,916
Rights Group: Favourable Protection Environment			
Access to legal assistance and legal remedies improved	150,605	100,288.19	86,649
Law and policy developed or strengthened	194,000	30,000.00	25,920
Rights Group: Basic Needs and Essential Services			
Shelter and infrastructure established, improved and maintained	1,000,000	520,942.14	450,094
Activities sub-total	2,180,865	1,081,688.66	934,579
Project Support costs - 7%		75,718.75	65,421
TOTALS	2,180,865	1,157,407.41	1,000,000
* The exchange rate used is 0.864 (UN rate as at 1 July 2018)			