NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY FOR ECONOMIC REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL COHESION FAR-NORTH REGION FOR REFUGEES, IDPS AND HOST COMMUNITY’S POPULATIONS

Report No. 1
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The plight of Nigerians living as refugees in the Far North Region of Cameroon has been documented on many levels. Accurately assessing their needs is vital to ensure that the aid essential for their survival is provided. This report summarizes the main preliminary findings of the needs assessment survey for economic rehabilitation and social cohesion for refugees, IDPs and host communities population carried out from the 19th to the 26th February 2015 in the refugee camp in Minawao and host communities (Gawar and Gadala).

The field visit consisted of a series of surveys in three settlements in the Far North Region:
- Minawao Refugee camp
- Gawar Community
- Gadala Community

However, the majority of studies have focused on primary needs, with most evaluations employing rapid techniques of data gathering and analysis, which rely on secondhand information and formal records to carry out a wide survey investigating in detail refugees’ perceptions of both their current situation and their future prospects. Also, the survey’s aim is to paint a bigger picture of the long-term conditions and needs of Nigerian refugees living in Cameroon.

Two questionnaires were developed. The first targeted the Refugees living in the Minawao camp while the second targeted the heads of households in the host communities. Another set of questions were developed and served as a guide for a series of focus groups discussions.

This study is distinct from others in that it adopts a methodology that not only assesses individual households, but also takes into account the general conditions of the sectors in which they live, with the aim of drawing larger correlations than a simple household survey. For each, two to three blocks were defined to create a sample that was as representative as possible of the various hosting conditions. Data was analyzed across the full spectrum of the refugee population; then details were verified, examined and refined within the confines of each blocks and households to draw out any particular patterns or correlations. The study looks at four main areas:
- Demographics and household information;
- Economic conditions;
- Social conditions and
- Future outlook.

UN Women wanted detailed answers to very specific questions. The report is therefore set out to develop a broad framework to understand the conditions under which these questions could be answered.
The main findings of the report are as follows:

1. The Nigerian refugee population in Cameroon tends to be slightly younger than the population of the host communities. The population at large tends to have slightly more females. The table below illustrates the estimated population.

Table1. Distribution of the population in refugee camp and host communities by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Estimated Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Refugee Camp</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midawao All</td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>14,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>17,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host Community I</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gawar All</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Host Community II</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gadala All</td>
<td>21,648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>7,144</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>14,504</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Most refugee blocks and host communities households are still headed by men. However, women now head a considerable number of households (20%) have assumed responsibility for their families.

3. The refugee community tends to have a representation of typical poor class, rural middle and lower middle class than the host populations, with great variations in terms of personal skills to survive in Cameroon.

4. The average household income of the host populations is a bit less than 200,000 FRS per season,(06months) in the host communities and less than 500 frs per week for the refugees. as provided by its head or a secondary member. However, there are great variations of income and expenditure across communities.

5. Female-headed households tend to be slightly poorer than the rest of the population in terms of income generation and activities. However they tend to spend equally to male-headed households, despite their lower income.

6. Most families have not made adjustments to send their more able-bodied members out to look for work. The level of dependency on the main income earners of the family is still very high in the communities and refugee camp.

7. Respondents reported not being able to fully employ their skills in their jobs/businesses. Whereas at least half the respondents had businesses in Nigeria and had abandoned
everything, more than half stated that the opportunities available for them in Cameroon require capital which they do not have.

8. Only about 15% of school age children are attending school, with a higher enrolment rate for girls. Differences in communities are considerable though no direct correlation was found to any one factor. It seems that the dominant pattern is that families are sending one or two of their younger children to school but not the majority.

9. Most respondents feel safe in the communities where they have settled, though some feel that they suffer from prejudice and discrimination. In general, the refugees tend to depend on each other and have developed complex word-of-mouth communication networks rather than formal co-operation structures.

10. NGO briefings are more effective in communicating with refugees. Even so, most respondents said their main source of knowledge about services is word-of-mouth. In fact, the focus groups have clearly shown the extent to which rumors affect perceptions of aid and its continuity and eligibility criteria.

11. Respondents were divided almost equally between those who believe they will return to Nigeria soon (i.e. in less than a year), and those who think they will be staying in Cameroon for a year or more. The early settlers had the highest hopes of an imminent return, though feelings of despair were not uncommon. Over 21% estimated that they would be staying in Cameroon for longer than five years or indefinitely.

12. The overwhelming majority stated that the reason for fleeing Nigeria was the violence and fighting, and that returning to their home country would only be possible when peace is restored.

13. When expressing their greatest concerns and fears, respondents listed issues such as poverty, remaining in refugee status, lack of dignified work, missing out on education for their children and losing a loved one during war.

14. Most respondent said they will feel safer if they are granted the means to set up and income generating activities.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Gadala and Gawar districts are situated in the Far North Region of Cameroon, a semi-arid part, which has a fragile ecological system. Located approximately 90 km from Maroua and 70 km from the Nigeria border, the Minawao Refugee Camp has two main refugee sites, which cover a total area of approximately 50 hectares. The region is semi-arid desert with sparse vegetation and no surface water. Before the establishment of the camps, the area was used as farmland by owners. At the time
of the assessment, a total of 32000 refugees had crossed into Minawao since 2011, bringing the total registered population to 32000 (UNHCR, January 2015 report).

Host and refugee communities overlap and their identities intertwine in a complex pattern. The two populations share a common language, culture and religion, and in many cases clan and sub-clan identity, together with a common-property approach to resources use across large swaths of land on either side of the border. Livelihoods in the host community are mainly agro-pastoral, but also strongly diversified. Households are applying many different strategies to make ends meet. The vast minority own some farm land and livestock although many have only a few.

In spite of the largely scant and anecdotal information on impact of the refugee camps on surrounding host communities, there are some indications of changes in environmental as well as socioeconomic patterns in areas around the camps. The locals, authorities, and aid agencies in the area are reporting environmental changes as well as social-economic consequences, such as increased market and employment opportunities to be created.

As impacts of the refugee camps on host communities becomes increasingly apparent, increased attention from donors, UN Women is being given to the provision of services to the districts around the refugee camps. In this regard, UN Women commissioned an assessment (19th June – 26th February, 2015) on the socio-economic needs of the refugees and the surrounding host population.
2 OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

1) Objective is to initiate economic activities that will enable the refugees to better integrate into their new environment and to fight against poverty.

Foster communication activities and solidarity between new and old refugees and host communities

The primary objectives of the survey were to develop a comprehensive needs assessment report on women and other vulnerable groups (refugees, IDPs, host communities) Support in economic needs in the Minawao camp that will complement the psychosocial support provided to them by UN Women through the local Implementing partner, and produce a report that will inform decision-making. Map out the economic prevailing context: activities, actors, constraints and opportunities
- Collect data on the humanitarian situation
- Collect data on GBV aspects and their impact on the life of the communities
- Identify the immediate social and economic skills available among the beneficiaries of the project
- Map out the needs of beneficiaries in the host communities and in the refugee site that will support their initiatives where women and girls can integrate their individual skills for profit making
- Identify on-going economic initiatives, analyse their relevance and identify the added value of UN Women and its potential niche of interventions.

TARGETGROUP
At the time of surveying, UNHCR had already documented and registered close to 32,000 Nigerian refugees in Cameroon, in addition to a new site of more than 19,000 refugees from Nigeria who will be admitted into the new camp some few KM from the old camp.

The target groups in the host communities and the refugee camp are women and girls, who are victims and survivors of SGBV/Rape,

4 METHODOLOGIES

- Observation
- Sampling
- Individual interviews with women and girls and boys and men.
- Focus groups discussions with women and girls, men and boys.
- Meetings with partners involved in economic activities in the camp and surroundings
- Meetings with local and traditional governmental authorities that can support economic initiatives and discussions about the modalities of partnerships.

The aim of the study was to maximize the explanatory power of the data through a mixed methods approach. This combined quantitative data collected through a detailed survey with qualitative data collected through focus groups and interviews with key officials. The advantage of this process is that it employs a representative sample of the general population to a reasonable level of accuracy using stratified targeting of the sampling locations as described below.

Three settlements were selected for the needs assessment survey:

- Minawao refugee camp
- Gawar community
- Gadala community
The above settlements were chosen because they are all sub-villages which are part of the population that host the refugees and IDPs and are the beneficiaries of the CERF. The target was to collect a proportionally representative sample of the populations residing in each type of settlement, while maintaining a representative distribution for the communities as a whole. A first analysis demonstrated that the chosen settlements covered approximately 99% of the refugee communities.

Within each community, individual households were randomly sampled through different approaches depending on the community size. In smaller communities, the approach was to select at random the households and organize focus groups. As for the refugee camp I selected two blocks from each sector, and did more of focus group discussion. The refugee camp is divided into 04 sectors and each sector has 08 blocks making a total of 32 blocks. Figure 1 below is a representation of the total respondents. A total of 170 individual discussions was realized and 12 focus group ranging from 20 to 30 persons per group. This gives an average of about 300.

**Figure 1. Discussions engaged with refugees and host population**

Constraints and limitations

Due to a lack of published statistical information, especially in relation to economics and trade, the assessment was conducted using a bottom-up approach for the estimation of impacts. Generalizing from samples always brings a risk of amplifying errors. However, the study ensured that figures were double-checked and conservative estimates were always used.
The lack of reliable information in the host community population, distribution and status meant that the assessment had to make its own estimates of these figures based on the community health center demographic results. This resulted in new insights into social and demographic changes in the host area, but it should also be stated that figures are estimates and have margins of error.

The other major constraint/risk was the prevailing insecurity in the Minawao camps and host community during the assessment period. This led to delays and some insecure areas not being adequately covered in the assessment.

The main constraint was the lack of means to generate a random selection system to tap into the population at large. UNHCR records are the most complete available documentation, but they only cover the population of the refugees.

UN Women do not have a social cohesion space where proper focus groups could be held in private to obtain accurate information and testimonies, and no logistics like tape recorder for live testimonies, camera, and transportation facility for easy and quick displacement.

**RESULTS**

The populations of the two districts are considered very similar in terms of livelihoods as the sites are geographically close to one another. As such, data from all the surrounding host communities was analyzed as one unique group/livelihood zone that is overwhelmingly agro-pastoral.

**5 MAIN FINDINGS**

The findings of the study will be presented in four sections:

- Demographics and social condition
- Economic activities, main skills and main needs
- Leadership and management and vulnerable groups
- Social cohesion and social outlook.

In each section, the quantitative data will be juxtaposed with information and knowledge that the focus groups generated to create a comprehensive interpretation. The questionnaires were composed of 19 and 22 questions.

**5.1 Demographics and Social condition**

A great proportion of the women were married before fleeing from Nigeria and some are leaving in Cameroon with their husbands. As for the host populations, majority are married about 51% of young girls of age 18 to 29 are married.
It became obvious from the focus groups that women often refused to identify themselves as heads of household despite being the primary income earners, as their husbands were either still in Nigeria, or were symbolically considered to still be the head of the household even though they were no longer the main income generators in the family. The status of women as heads of household is reviewed in more detail in later sections.

Demographics

The average household/block size in all sectors was calculated to be about 7.1 people per household and about 64 people per block for the refugees.

Many respondents stated the total number of people in the household simply as the number of people in their nuclear families, but when asked to provide details, proceeded to list names of other relatives living within the household.

Upon a critical look at the data it seems that a substantial number of refugee households include extended family members who were not always part of the original household structure in Nigeria.

However, household size varied considerably from one sector/community to another. The proportional structure of the population in terms of age differs considerably.

2 The main areas of difference are a substantial over-representation of 05 to 20 year-old and an under-representation of 21 to 49 year-old. In the older age brackets there are some minor variations with a slight under-representation of over 50 year old and older. The host
Table 2. Refugee Age Variations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refugee Age Variations</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>over-representation</td>
<td>05 - 20 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>under-representation</td>
<td>21 - 49 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slight under-represented</td>
<td>50 yrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. Host Population Age Variation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Population Age Variation</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>over-representation</td>
<td>20 - 49 yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slight under-representation</td>
<td>50 - 70 yrs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3. Comparative proportion of households with electricity and water in refugee camp and host communities

Social conditions

The majority of refugee families are enduring extremely difficult social conditions exacerbated for some by having to take care of members of the extended family. The focus groups demonstrated the full range of anguish and agony related to loss of social contacts; seclusion or anger by some members of the family; lack of self-esteem; over crowdedness; poor living conditions; poor health care and other problems. In the questionnaire, specific questions were asked to clarify some of the major social markers and constraints of the community.

The environmental impacts from firewood and building material collection associated with the camps and nearby host populations are very significant within the first 10 km from the camps, still highly visible within the 10-20 km radius, and gradually diminishing with little impact on standing volumes at 50 km. There are major impacts on biodiversity regardless of
the distance from the camps. Accessing firewood and building material is increasingly
difficult for both refugees and host communities. Likewise, grazing and browsing is
negatively affected by the cutting of live trees. Water abstraction is close to the level of
sustainable yield and care should be taken in increasing the abstraction volume from boreholes
and with the way water is used.

Education is a major concern for most families interviewed in the focus groups.
Overwhelmingly, the participants put high social value on education and indicated with pride
that children used to go to school and they fear their children will be losing out on the
chance of getting an education. The education of both boys and girls seemed to be of equal
value to the interviewees. The vast majority of children who came from Nigeria have had
schooling up to elementary level and most were enrolled in schools before they left. By
contrast, the data collected reveals the magnitude of the disaster for the majority of families
who sought refuge in Cameroon.

*Figure 4. Percentage of educational enrollment profile by gender*
Refugees tend to want to stay out of trouble and avoid problems, although occasionally they get caught in the middle of local conflicts over water, farm land, wood, food and animals.

5.2 Economic/Income generating activities (IGAs) and main Skills

According to respondents, so far the returns have been poor and no respondents had any positive experience of farming. Farming has been the main economic activity in the host communities and petit trade in the refugee camp. Those refugees who participated in these activities did so because they were given free inputs by local partners involved in economic empowerment whom are UN WOMEN and IRD.

The survey provides a rather grim outlook regarding the economic conditions and financial coping mechanism for refugees and host populations. However, it must be stressed that measuring households’ personal economic data is neither an easy nor a straightforward task. Respondents may downplay certain sources of income and exaggerate expenses, with the hope of preserving their eligibility for aid or support. Preliminary analysis of the need assessment survey reveal broad differences in the size of economies and significance of different income sources between the settlements.
Gawar community appears to be the wealthiest of the 03 settlements, with an estimated mean annual household income of about 250,000 Frs per season, (a season is 6 months). Gadala has a lower annual income of about 150,000 Frs per season, while the Minawao refugee camp is still to actively get involved in economic activities as a result of lack of financial resources. Household characteristics also varied between settlements. It is suggested that remoteness is associated with lower household incomes. Gawar, is relatively wealthy compared to Gadala and the refugee’s camp.

The main activities carried out in the host communities and refugee camps are represented in figure 4 below.

**Figure 5. Proportion of households engaged in IGAs**

The proportion of income obtained from trade and agricultural-related activities descends to 32% for Gawar, to 12% for Gadala. However, these figures are as a result of the massive inflow of refugees into the community that’s has led to the lost of their farm land, animals, other food items and resources. Over 6.5% of households in Gawar enjoy a salary, whilst only about 2.5% of households in Gadala enjoy one, and about 1.5% of refugees. Employment (both as unskilled laborers and semi-skilled workers) makes a significant contribution to the economy of the communities... A significant proportion of village income
is generated through employees working either as full-time or occasionally at the SODECOTON factory or working as teachers, community relays and nurses

5.2.1 IGAs of Refugees and Host Populations

Figure 6. Main IGA Activities in Refugee camp

Main IGA Activities in Refugee camp
- COMMERCE/TRADE
- AGRO PASTORAL FARMING
- TAILORING/WEAVING
- TEACHING AND RELAY ASSISTANTS

Figure 7. Main IGA Activities in the host communities

Main IGA Activities in the host communities
- AGRO PASTORAL FARMING
- COMMERCE/TRADE
- TAILORING/WEAVING

Unskilled and semi skilled laborers
- Carpentry and building
- Motors taxi (Ogada)
5.2.2 Skills of Refugees and Host Populations

Figure 8. Main Skills Profile of Host Communities

- Groundnut oil producer
- Teachers
- Bike Riders
- Carpenter/ Builders
- Farmers/animal rearer
- Tailors/local traditional and modern
- Traders/business men
- Restaurant dealers
- Pottery and jewelry designers
- Relay works
- Unskilled labours

Figure 9. Main Skills Profile of Refugees

- Local cake Baker
- Soap and cream makers
- Farmers/animal rearer
- Pottery and jewelry designers
- Weavers/caps/baby dresses
- Tailors/local traditional and modern
- Traders/business men
- Shoe and pot makers
- Restaurant dealers
- Groundnut oil producer
- Teachers

5.2.3 Needs of Refugees and Host Populations

The focus groups highlighted the perception that families are extremely concerned that they are no longer able to earn income and have been reduced to being dependent on aid. Those
who are finding work tend to have low level jobs well below the skill level of the jobs they used to have in Nigeria. Lack of education is a definite hindrance to getting work in Cameroon as most of the refugees and host populations are illiterate people are not able to get jobs, lack micro-credit and market, lack of adequate security to find and reduce SGBV in camp and host communities, lack of capital to set up a business, lack of farm land and farming tools to farm, lack of opportunities and new skills development are vital.

As a result of the analysis, it was realized that the needs of the refugees and host population are as follow;

**Economic difficulties and developmental problems**

No micro finance institution, No transportation Facilities, inadequate security

No grinding machines,

Lack of business skills and ready market to sell

Job creation should be developed.

**5.2.3.1 Main needs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAIN NEEDS</th>
<th>MINAWAO CAMP</th>
<th>GADALA COMM</th>
<th>GAWAR COMM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Micro-credit and new business skills.</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agro-pastoral tools and new techniques</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational training</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>88%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New markets</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security and animation</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>81%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The division of labor in host community areas is heavily gender-based. Men and boys herd and water livestock, while women and girls collect firewood, fetch water for household use, take care of children, handle the milk, prepare the food, and are responsible for other domestic chores.
5.2.3.2 General needs

**Needs Refugees**
- Security, Disposable Income, Market, Farm Land, Business support, Farming tools, Job opportunities, Adult Education
- Business skills training, New skills development, Micro Credit, Sensitization, Production materials, Machines, Capacity building, Shelter
- Medical facilities/Food stuffs, Educational infrastructures
- Water /Sanitation/Electricity, Clothes/Mats/kichen utensils

**Needs Host Communities**
- Business skills training, New skills development, Micro Credit/Finance, Sensitization, Production materials, Machines, Capacity building
- Security, Market, Business support, Farming tools, Job opportunities, Adult Education, Storage/magazine, Transportation Facilities
- Water, Family planning
- Medical facilities, Educational infrastructures
The main agricultural products of the host population and refugee camps are;

- Groundnut
- Wheat
- Onion
- Soya beans
- Cotton
- Corn
- Beans

The diagram explains the rate of production in the different settings, while the agricultural products are listed in order of production.

Some group of individuals has specialized in some IGAs both in the camp and host communities;

- **Minawao camp**
  - Weaving
  - Sewing
  - Puff puff sellers
  - Relays

- **Gadala community**
  - Farming
  - Sewing
  - Pottery

- **Gawar community**
  - Farming
  - Traders
  - Tailoring

Market integration in the two communities and refugee camps has an important bearing on food security and almost every district has at least one market that operates daily. Trade
volumes have significantly reduced due to diminished purchasing power. Focus group discussions indicate that households mostly purchase maize flour, rice, and beans for consumption, while goats and cattle are traded for cash income. Other household items regularly purchased include oil, sugar, soap, tea and milk. The prices of livestock in the market are significantly higher because most households are not willing to sell their stock. There are around 10 tables in the refugee camps and 30 in host communities ranging from petty traders to small businesses.

Figure 6  Percentage rate of labor force in host community

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farmers</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction worker and other building trades</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skilled labor (carpenters, blacksmiths and electricians)</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small business owners</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public servants and teachers</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craft (tailors and weavers...)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The sample also contained 30.9% of current heads of household who have never worked before (students and home makers).
1.5% of the current heads of household are retired or too sick to work.

Figure 7 Percentage of Migration factors of Respondents following need assessment

Most focus group participants were eager to say that they would move back immediately when their particular areas in Nigeria became safe. Indeed, a common answer was that they would move if the shelling stopped (not necessarily other forms of violence). Participants said that life in Cameroon was very difficult and that they had no desire to stay any longer than needed. Besides, most respondent in focus group solicited for adult literacy and the creation of more class rooms and new school for the education of their children.

5.3 Administration, leadership and Vulnerable Groups.

5.3.1 Administration and leadership

The camp is divided into 04 sectors and each sector has 08 blocks making a total of 32 blocks. Each block has a head. The camp has 16 different committees of which are; the SGBV, WASH, Distribution, Women, Health, Environment, AGR, Conflict Resolution, Child Protection, Security, Education, Construction, Youths, Men, head of blocks, Committees. Each of these committees has 64 members and a head for each committee. Women represent about 40% of the committee members.

As for the host communities, the Gawar community has an association known as the ASSOCIATION DES FEMMES de SOUKOUSOKOU. Gadala has a small village Njangi group known As the Gadala community Development Women Wing. The communities are headed by a Lamido while the camp has a camp leader and a women leader.

5.3.2 Vulnerable Groups

The Refugee’s camp has a wide range of vulnerable groups especially the massive numbers of women who are victims of SGBV and rape as a result of insecurity and darkness in the camp at night fall due to no electricity. Besides, most of the committees stated are above
have been identified as vulnerable groups because the members are not been offered any extra benefits, thus making them very vulnerable and cannot perform their functions.

Host Population also shows case a significant number of vulnerability such as the Fedio, soukouwo, sabére and logodawo. These groups are those who have been considered by the communities as outcast. They are self dependent and those have very limited access to resources.

5.4 The issue of social cohesion and Future outlook or Expectation

The refugee issue appears to be becoming more and more problematic. Today, refugees are spread over more than 50 hectares of farm land in two settings of the host communities. Vulnerable areas have been identified based on communal poverty indicators combined with the number of refugees. Some localities are believed to be most at risk, situated mostly in the borders.

For the most part the refugees tend to mutually support each other. However, they feel their economic constraints are a hindrance to how much they can help each other. The focus group narratives indicate that people feel ashamed of not being able to give more help to their fellow refugees. Consequently, some value judgments are made concerning self-promotion and hoarding.

About 85 per cent of the households felt that their refugee communities are mutually supportive all the time or at least whenever they can. None of the respondents in the focus group or in the questionnaires indicated that there is any form of formal conflict amongst them and with the host communities apart from the minor conflicts listed above. In some of the focus groups the respondents indicated good relations with the municipality. This seems to be an anomaly as most refugees do not indicate any major support - financial or otherwise - coming from local government. The refugee communities tend to perceive their relationships with the host community in neutral.

5.4.1 Future outlook and Expectation

Most respondents dream of being economically independent in the sense that for the past years that they have been in the camp, they have not got involved in any activity. They feel their lives are wasting. They are worried about the future of their children. Their main hope for the future is to be capable to educate their children and if possible obtain adult education. Some wish to go back to Nigeria. Their expectations are to own businesses, learn a trade, educate their children and have control over their lives so that they can make their own decisions.

As for the host communities, they seek for more job creation and new skills that will enable them to earn money and been able to send their girl child to school as a means to end the
harmful traditional practice in their districts of girl child early marriage as a source of income generation by men.

6. CONCLUSION

Petty trade is the main IGAs in the Minawao camp but of the 32000 refugees, not up to 200 refugees are actively involved. This goes to say that only 0.6% of the total population is actively involved in IGAs in the camp. Likewise, refugees seeking opportunities outside the camps in faraway places are impossible for they do not have access. However, the most immediate impacts are felt within a 50 km range and the study defines the inhabitants of this area as the host community. Impacts on the host community in this area are complex and very negative, economic opportunities and services are limited, while the most negative impacts are largely related to depletion of firewood and building material as well farmland as grazing competition in the immediate vicinity of the camps.

In conclusion, it should be noted that, of all the IGAs mentioned above, and of the total percentage involved, the majority of the population are not into any of the different activities as a result of no land to farm, no money and skills to do business, no micro credit institutions, no business centers, no market (lack of human resource capital, financial capital, material capital, and intellectual capital) Thus, the great mass needs to be economically rehabilitated.

7. The Perspective of the Traditional and Government Officials

To complement the responses of the Nigerian refugees and host population, I conducted a series of interviews with the traditional officials and community relay working directly with refugees. The aim of this was to make a better assessment of conditions and help provide a balanced perspective on conditions in the localities hosting the refugees. In addition to already prevalent discourses on refugees that focus primarily on the economic and humanitarian aid. Interview sought to address other aspects of the crisis by examining the situation from the point of view of the communities hosting the large influx of refugees. They show the effect of the refugee presence on host communities in the various areas, including the wider responsibilities of local officials and the local economic and infrastructural impact. They also lay out the financial difficulties faced by host populations and factors leading to possible tensions.

Government officials are ready and willing to partner with UN Women but they have a major problem of transportation and other logistics, thus they wish we could provide these facilities so that they can offer some of their training to the women and men of the refugee camp and host communities.
8. Recommendations

- Create development projects addressing marginalized communities to help rebuild trust in the camp and host communities.

- In the face of a protracted conflict, emergency responses should be dovetailed with long term development assistance and infrastructure projects that employ locals, as these would benefit both refugees and host communities.

- Support to host communities by UN Women and the government should be better coordinated. This can most effectively take place if the point of departure is the host community locations and their own planning processes. Efforts should therefore be made to support empowerment in localized planning and implementation and common pooling of funding by the various agencies into a “Local Development Fund” for each community. Such a fund should have its major focus be on financing activities that improve production and income generation, which in most cases are related to pastoral production. A continued emphasis on infrastructure is not required and will exacerbate high population growth rates and the shift from mobile pastoralist to sedentary lifestyles and handout dependency.

- Security was listed as a major concern. Respondents advocated better control of the influx of refugees in the communities and enhanced security in the different communities.

- Income generating activities (with either a positive or a low negative environmental impact) and income diversification should be piloted to explore the dynamics of how individuals engage with the activity and how best to promote such activities on a larger scale in the future.

- Support to host communities should focus on developing pastoral production, pastoral trade, and, above all, mobility. It could include support to veterinary services (including veterinary outreach services and training community animal health workers), mobile schools, and mobile clinics; development of stock routes, livestock holding grounds, dispersed water sources, and access rules; and supporting customary institutions for negotiation and regulation.

- The establishment of a micro credit facility to finance micro projects in host communities and refugee camp. Also this facility will served as a business bureau that will coach entrepreneurs on how to earn and save.

- Crop farming is highly dependent on rainfall contrary to the fact that rainfall is highly unreliable, resulting in crop failure risks. As such, communal kitchen gardens should
be supported as these can easily be watered using runoff from shallow wells and boreholes.

- The establishment of an animation center in the camp that will bring the refugees and host population together.

- Individual IGAs or economic kits are not advised. Economic kits should be distributed in groups of skilled trained personnel.

- Capacity reinforcement of existing skills and new skills development.

- The cohesion space of UN Women should be build as soon as possible for proper visibility and realization of UN Women activities.

- Creation of an organic market that will bring the refugees and host population together.

- Creation of a counseling bureau where the different leaders meet to discuss their challenges.

- Infrastructural development in the communities

- Adult education and family planning.

- Agricultural development.
## ANNEXES

**Annex 1: Key informant information list**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role/Team</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Grace</td>
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<td>Sali</td>
<td>Director CPFF Mokolo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armand Mokol</td>
<td>Lamido Gadala</td>
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<td>Koucheba and Berndict</td>
<td>Community Relays Gadala</td>
<td>679709257/676978303</td>
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<td>Hamidou and Isaitou</td>
<td>Community Relays Gawar</td>
<td>677186113/678455682</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth and Tabita</td>
<td>Community Relays Refugees</td>
<td>672381316/680901544</td>
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Annex 2: refugee’s questionnaire

Needs Assessment of Refugees For Economic Rehabilitation and Social Cohesion In Maroua.

Minawao Refugee camp.

TARGET: Refugees

OBJECTIVE: This survey seeks to explore the socio-economic activities, relationship with IDPs/Refugees/host community, with an aim to identify potential social impacts and available economic opportunities that will help to develop mitigating measures to promote economic empowerment for sustainable development, peace and security, and gender equality.

A. IDENTIFICATION

1. What is the primary language you speak? (Please choose only one.)
   - English
   - French
   - Other/multiple languages (please specify)

2. Which age category below do you belong to?
   - 17 or younger
   - 18-20
   - 21-29
   - 30-39
   - 40-49
   - 50-59
   - 60 or older

3. Are you married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?
   b. Do you have children, if yes, how many?

4. If yes, which age category do they belong to?
5. What is the highest level of school you and your children have completed or the highest degree you have received?

6. Where are you originally from?

7. When did you arrive in the camp and how?

8. How is your relationship with the old, new refugees, and community members?

9. Please list your skills according to their importance.
   - .................................
   - .................................
   - .................................
   - .................................
   - .................................
   - .................................

10. How much support are women and girls able to get from the community/camp?

11. How committed are you in making this community/camp a more comfortable place to live and work in?
   - Extremely committed
   - Very committed
   - Moderately committed
   - Slightly committed
   - Not at all committed

12. How well does the current activities match up with your skills?

13. How often do you participate in the local activities in the community/camp?

14. Would you like to become more active with the socio-economic activities in the community/camp?
iii-If at this moment you had 20,000 Frs, what would you do with the money?

15. How safe would you feel if you are given the opportunity to carry out an income generating activity?

16. What do you think can be done to improve on the situation?

17. Have you benefited from any previous support?

b. If yes, in what form and how did it help you?

18. What are the main activities carried out in this area?

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O ................................................................................................................

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19. What hopes do you have for the future?
Annex 3: host communities questionnaire

Needs Assessment of Host Community For Economic Rehabilitation and Social Cohesion In Maroua.

Target: Households/ family head

Objective: This survey seeks to explore the socio-economic activities, relationship with IDPs/Refugees/host community, with an aim to identify potential social impacts and available economic opportunities that will help to develop mitigating measures to promote economic empowerment for sustainable development, peace and security, and gender equality.

IDENTIFICATION

I. Are you married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?

II. Do you have children, if yes, how many?

III. What is the primary language you speak?

1. What is your level of education and what are your main skills?

  - ........................................................./........................................................................................................
  - ........................................................./........................................................................................................

Name of the Village ..........................................................................................................................................................

A. DEMOGRAPHY/GENERAL PROFILE

2. How many people are there in the village? How many households are there? .........................

3. How many different ethnic groups are there in this village? Can you tell me what the main ethnicities are? ................................../................................../................................../....................

What are the cultural/traditional practices?

  - ..............................................................................................................................................................
  - ..............................................................................................................................................................
  - ..............................................................................................................................................................

4. Which languages are spoken in your community?

  - ........................................................./........................................................./........................................................./ .........................................................

5. What is the main religion in your community? Are there any other religions?
6. Has there been migration into the area? Where have these people come from and why?

B. SOCIAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION

7. Has there been any type of conflict or tension over the past years in your village? If yes, what was/were the reason(s) for the tension(s)/conflict(s)? How did the dispute get resolved?

8. What were the positive effects of migration?

b. What were the negative effects of migration?

9. Has there been any conflict between residents and refugees/IDPs?

C. LOCAL ECONOMY/ LIVELIHOODS

10. What are the main jobs and activities that people in the community do?

11. Do certain groups specialize in certain jobs/activities? Which groups do certain jobs/activities?

12. What are the basic economic means of subsistence of the village?

13. What are the main agricultural activities and products of the village?
14. What is the average income level of the village? (Income per season) How would you describe the welfare status of the village? .................................................................
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D. ADMINISTRATION / LEADERSHIP

16. Are there any groups, (women) organizations, associations or cooperatives in the village? What are these groups? .................................................................
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................................................................................................................................................................................
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17. Does your district have a development plan that you know of? Have you been consulted about it?
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F. EDUCATION/HEALTH

18. Are there any schools in the village? If not, where is the nearest school?
................................................................................................................................................................................

19. What is the average educational attainment of Women and Girls of the village?
................................................................................................................................................................................

G. SOCIO-ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURES (to be Observed)

20. Do you have any environmental problems in your village? If so, what are they?
................................................................................................................................................................................

H. IDENTIFICATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

21. Are there any people who are very poor/dependent upon benevolent support from others? If yes, how many and how can we reach them (write down contact information)?
................................................................................................................................................................................

I. PERCEPTIONS AND EXPECTATIONS
22. In your perception, what are the most important five problems (development) issues in your village?

1. ..............................................

2. ..............................................

3. ..............................................

4......................................................

5. ..............................................

J. MAIN NEEDS

23. If you could have 5 things to develop in your community, which are the five things you would choose and in what order?

   ○ ..............................................................

   ○ ..............................................................

   ○ ..............................................................

   ○ ..............................................................

   ○ ..............................................................

24. What kind of project of common interest can you develop with the IDPs/Refugees to cement a peaceful co-existence?

   ○ ..............................................................

   ○ ..............................................................

   ○ ..............................................................

Thanks for your time and contributions.