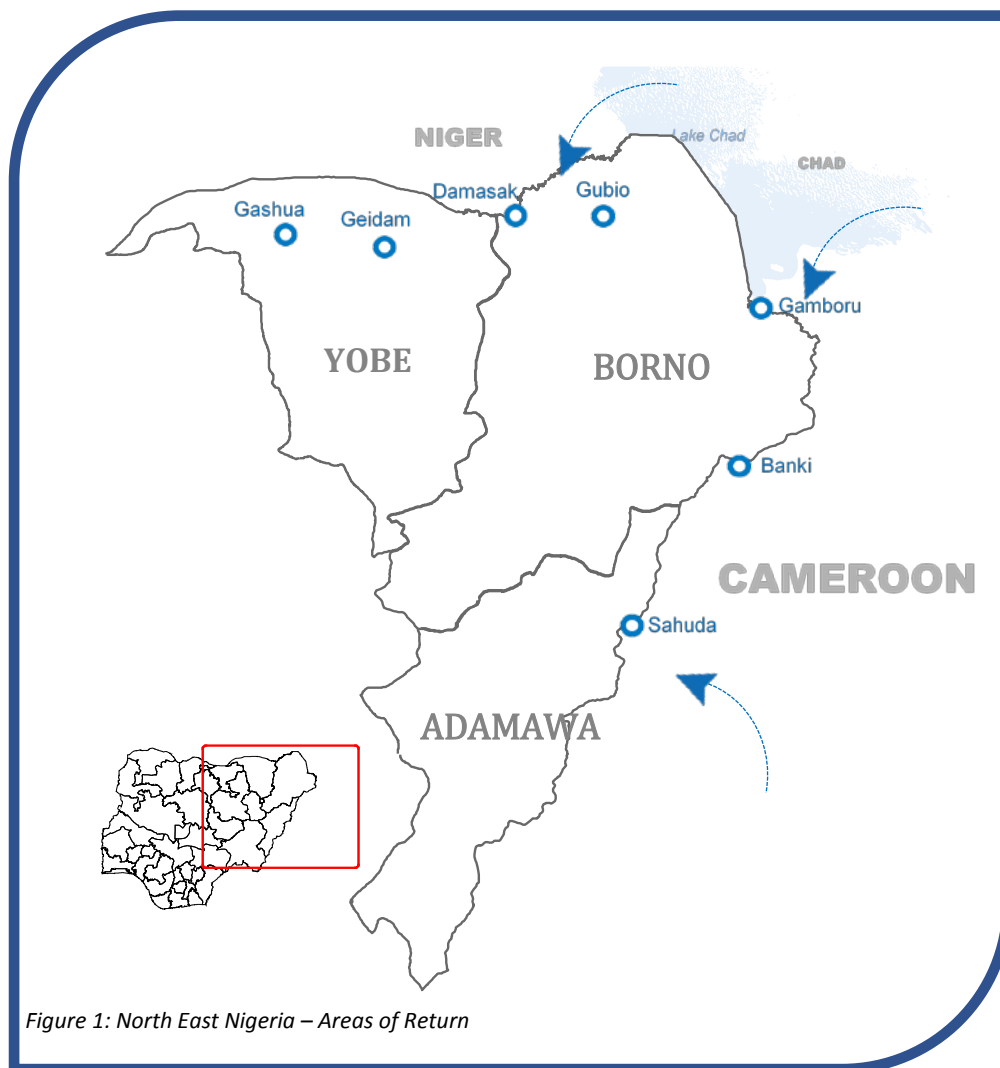
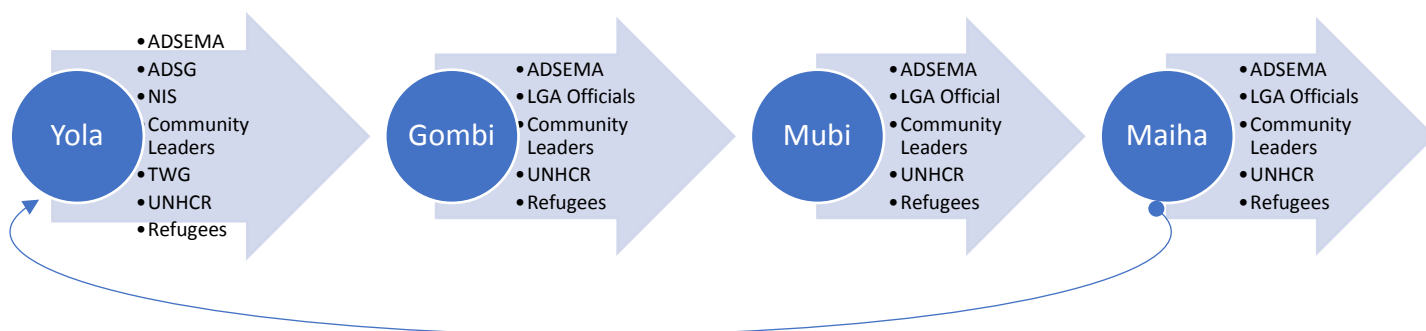


Cross Border Mission - UNHCR Cameroon & Nigeria (5th – 14th May 2019) Mission Report



Mission Itinerary & Team Composition



Mission Background Information

The Governments of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Cameroon including UNHCR signed a Tripartite Agreement on the 2nd March 2017, for the voluntary repatriation of more than 100,000 Nigerian refugees who had sought asylum in Cameroon as a result of the Non-State Armed Group conflict in the North Eastern Nigeria. The Tripartite Commission (TC) and the Technical Working Group (TWG) were created to spearhead work on the technical modalities for the implementation of the Agreement. To operationalize the process of voluntary repatriation in line with the provisions of the Tripartite Agreement, there have been several technical meetings including cross border discussions between Nigeria and Cameroon, Come and See/Go and Tell Visits inclusive representatives of the refugees on mission to gain first-hand information as to make an informed decision to return home, return intention surveys, preparation of facilities, and sensitization of communities both in Cameroon and Nigeria.

The TWG, had in 2017, agreed to initially commence organized repatriation of 4,000 refugees originating from Adamawa State, which is considered safer and sustainable for durable solutions. The exercise was to be piloted by road. Majority of the refugees in Cameroon are from Borno State, where the prevailing insecurity caused by non-state armed groups rendered many areas unsafe. From the ongoing return intention survey conducted in Minawao Camp in Cameroon, some 2,500 individuals registered their intention to return to Adamawa State. Approximately 2,000 of them are originally from Borno State. The stipulated return LGAs are Yola North, Yola South, Mubi North, Mubi South, Gombi, Maiha, Michika, Madagali and Hong.

The Federal Government of Nigeria has allocated resources to repatriate its citizens from Cameroon by air and have them reintegrated into selected return communities. In order to gauge preparation for the repatriation process, a cross-border team constituting UNHCR staff members from Nigeria and Cameroon including six Nigerian refugee representatives from Minawao Camp, undertook an assessment mission to meet with authorities and community leaders of Adamawa and Borno between 5th - 14th May 2019.

The Specific objectives of the mission include:

1. Field-level interactions with local council officials, traditional and religious leaders, community leaders and stakeholders in the target host communities.
2. Engage with the State and Federal Authorities represented by the TWG, to jointly discuss and review the readiness status and progress on preparatory actions.
3. Provide an opportunity for refugee representatives from Minawao camp to have first-hand appreciation of the conditions back home to enable them convey appropriate information to other refugees to support informed-decision making.
4. Facilitate joint review of identified challenges and proffer/support identified initiatives and solutions required to ensure successful implementation of the voluntary repatriation plan.

Mission Highlights

One of the key objectives of the cross border mission was to facilitate information gathering to better understand the contextual realities in the targeted hosting communities. The mission was also keen to know the state of basic services and infrastructure in the communities, and have a feel of the attitude, perception and level of receptiveness on the plan, to facilitate return of Nigerian refugees to the indicated

communities. The mission team had several interactions with State and local Authorities, traditional rulers, and a broad range of stakeholders within the targeted communities. The meetings were very well attended, interactive and result oriented. The highlights are as detailed:

A. [02 – 03 May, 2019] - Advance Introductory Meeting in Yola.

UNHCR facilitated an advance introductory meeting with the Local Government Authorities and traditional rulers from the targeted host communities. The focus of the meeting was to sensitize the Authorities and community leaders on the repatriation exercise and provide them required information on the process. The meeting provided an avenue for the Authorities and community leaders to frankly express their concerns, and share ideas on practical approaches that will ensure the successful reintegration of the returning refugees. Fundamental to the discussion was the expressed willingness to accommodate indigenes from Borno State whom they considered to be primarily Nigerians. The Heads of Service and District Heads from Yola, Gombi, Mubi North & South, Maiha and Mubi were in attendance at the meeting. The two-day meeting facilitated by UNHCR, was hosted at the Government House, in Yola.

[06 May, 2019] - Inception meeting with Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA), and Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS)

The UNHCR delegation had an inception meeting with the Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency – ADSEMA, and the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS). The meeting with both Agencies was to review the level of operational preparedness and discuss existing gaps and challenges with a view to identifying workable solutions as the final phase of preparations progress. The Executive Secretary ADSEMA updated the meeting on the ongoing preparations and progress on works at the Reception and Transit Centres. He noted that the contractor to handle the renovation works has been identified and some work has commenced at both sites, but the progress is very slow because the contractor is yet to be paid any mobilization funds on the project. The NIS expressed their willingness to support the registration process and maintained they have the manpower on ground. They expressed gratitude to UNHCR for supporting with trainings of their staff.

The meeting also interacted with the refugees from Minawao camp who were on on a Come and See/Go and Tell visit. Amongst other things, the refugees appreciated the opportunity to come and see first-hand, the level of preparations, and state of facilities being put in place to support their return. The refugees mostly originating from Northern Borno (in security challenged areas) requested that UNHCR and the Government of Adamawa State kindly assist to forward their plea to the Presidency to deploy needed resources to clear and secure their communities as to guarantee their return back their ancestral homelands.

UNHCR Deputy Representative (designate) informed that the repatriation to Adamawa is the starting point, and a pilot for the expected repatriations to Borno in the future. He encouraged the refugees to listen to information provided by UNHCR in respect of the repatriation exercise.

The Cameroonian delegation gave an update on the preparatory actions in Cameroon. It was discussed and agreed that Adamawa indigenes in the camp will be prioritized for the first set of airlifts. The budgetary limitation and funding gap were also highlighted. The team informed that

registrations were still ongoing in Cameroon and that, an advance list of those with special needs will be made available to the Nigerian team.

In the update provided by the Nigerian team, a number of existing challenges were highlighted – key amongst which is the delay in renovations, clarity on the return and reintegration packages, mapping out of receiving communities and required basic services, information on flight and luggage movement and response capacity beyond the 4,000 threshold within the State.

A security briefing was conducted by UNOCHA to the delegation that provided an insight on the security level and crime rate in the state.

C. [07 May, 2019] - Courtesy Visit to His Excellency the Deputy Governor of Adamawa State.

The team paid a courtesy visit to the Deputy Governor of Adamawa State, His Excellency Martins Babale. The Deputy Governor noted that the refugee returnees are welcome in Adamawa and admonished that they be encouraged to fully reintegrate within the earmarked communities. He emphasized the need to ensure effective screening of those being repatriated to ensure there are no cracks that may negatively impact the relative peace in the return communities.

Responding on behalf of the delegation, the UNHCR Deputy Representative (designate), appreciated the concerted efforts and commitment of the Adamawa State Government in providing support for the repatriation exercise. He noted that the facilitated returns to Adamawa is a pilot that if proven successful will set the premise in advancing returns to Borno State.

The Commissioner for Information and Strategy briefed on the advance meeting with community leaders from earmarked host communities. He informed that the community leaders are committed to receiving both Adamawa and Borno indigenes **within** their domains. He also reiterated the readiness of the people and Government of Adamawa State to receive the returning refugees. He noted that over 95% of the expected returnees are indigenes of Borno. **The** return communities have welcomed and are already hosting a large number of non-Adamawa indigenes in various communities.

Inspection of Facilities at Reception and Transit Centres: Team visited the Reception and Transit centres to inspect the level of works and state of facilities at the reception and Transit centres in Yola. It was noted by the State Government that the funding to facilitate quick completion of the work was still being awaited from the Federal Government. The site contractor informed that the works could be completed within 14 days of receipt of the needed funds.

D. LGA level Meetings with Emirate Council, Local Government Authorities, Traditional Rulers and Community Leaders in targeted hosting communities:

The delegation proceeded with field-level interactions to some of the local councils at which the returnees will be hosted – Gombi, Mubi and Maiha. The interactions at all 3 locations were attended by the Local Government officials, Traditional and Religious leaders as well as stakeholders from the community and security operatives.

a. [08 May 2019] Gombi LGA

The team was received by the Gombi LGA Head of Administration. He informed that the council-level meeting was to provide an opportunity for a larger group of stakeholders in the community to interact and get direct clarifications on some of the issues and concerns discussed at the 2 day meeting held in Yola.

A number of community members expressed concerns on the security implications of accepting the returnees into their community. It was however clarified by the Executive Secretary (ES) ADSEMA that the returnees are not a security risk to the communities and that there is a rigorous screening process they will undergo before arrival at the communities of interest. Members of the community also wanted to know why Gombi was chosen by the non-Adamawa indigenes as a settlement location. The representatives of the refugees responded that amongst others, a key consideration is the fertile soil in Gombi. A number of them had family members who had settled in Gombi and in the past a number of them crossed over to communities within Gombi to farm and engage in agro-businesses.

b. [09 May 2019] Mubi LGA

Courtesy Call on the Emir of Mubi: Prior to the interactions with stakeholders in Mubi, the entire team paid a courtesy visit to the Emir of Mubi. The Emir admonished that Adamawa citizens should be encouraged to return to their homes and start re-building their lives. He however encouraged the team to liaise with Government to ensure adequate funding is made available to support the reintegration of the returning refugees.

Meeting with Mubi Officials: The Mubi council officials led by the Head of Administration received the team and welcomed the District Heads and other participants to the meeting. He appreciated the visiting delegation and informed that the deliberations should be focused on identifying practical modalities on how best to support the expected arrival of returning Nigerian refugees to the communities in Mubi.

The ES ADSEMA updated the meeting with the outcome of the interactions at the Mubi Emirate Council. He informed that the Emir of Mubi, has given the green light to proceed with the exercise. The ES ADSEMA further reported that the Emir advised that those from relatively safe areas be encouraged to return to their localities. The Royal father gave a commitment that Mubi was ready to host those from Borno as long as they are coming from areas with security issues.

The representatives of the refugees expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and the frank discussions. They informed that the returning refugees are equally very concerned and identify with the feeling of fear expressed by the community leaders about hosting returning refugees that are not known to them. They assured the communities that the refugees returning to settle in the respective communities had no affiliations with the insurgents.

c. [10 May 2019] Maiha LGA

In Maiha, the team was received by the council officials and District Heads from the hosting communities. The community leaders requested support to have transit centres constructed within the five (5) districts that have been earmarked to host the returnees on arrival - providing them immediate accommodation while their shelter needs are being addressed. They also informed that pressure on farm lands could further exacerbate the farmer-herder crises as more grazing lands are being encroached for farming purposes. The ES ADSEMA informed that the returnees will be provided a reintegration package which will also consist of a shelter kit to support them in setting up their shelters. The community was requested to present their absorption capacities within the identified 5 hosting communities and needs.

E. [11 May 2019] – Meeting with the TWG Mission and Inspection of Reception and Transit Centres.

Members of the Technical Working Group (TWG) from Abuja flew in to Yola to interact with the representatives of the refugees from Minawao camp. The Meeting was chaired by the NCFRMI – Director representing the Commissioner, NCFRMI, attended by other TWG members, the delegation including Adamawa State Officials. The Chairman confirmed the Nigerian Government is ready to receive the refugees and is engaging with the Cameroonian Government for a confirmation of the commencement dates.

The ES ADSEMA briefed the TWG on the requests for support in provision of basic services and infrastructure. The TWG requested that the details be formally communicated for presentation and consideration at the next TWG meeting.

In response to clarification requests from the refugee representatives with respect to the luggage capacity for the travel by airlift, the Chairman informed that the possibility to transport extra luggage (livestock and bulky items) back to Nigeria by road remains an option to be explored.

F. [13 May 2019] - Meeting with Borno and Adamawa State Traditional Rulers.

A meeting between the traditional rulers from the communities of origin of the returning Borno refugees and the traditional leaders of the Adamawa hosting communities took place on Monday 13th May 2019. The meeting facilitated by UNHCR, was hosted by the Adamawa State Government and declared open by the State Deputy Governor. The UNHCR delegation and refugees on the mission also participated in the meeting. The Deputy Governor expressed the collective appreciation of the Borno and Adamawa Governments to the Government and people of Cameroon for hosting the Nigerian refugees for the last 6 years.

The Commissioner for Information and Strategy pledged that the Adamawa State Government will continue to interface with traditional and community leaders throughout the entire repatriation process. The UNHCR delegation informed that over 95% of the Nigerian refugees in Cameroon who have registered their intent to return, originate from conflict affected communities in Borno. UNHCR

Informed the meeting that LGA and host community officials have been advised to map out the absorption capacity of the host communities and share same. UNHCR also requested support of the traditional institution and the Royal fathers to facilitate grassroots sensitization.

The leader of the Borno delegation appreciated the Adamawa State Government for their hospitality and commitment in assisting displaced populations from Borno. He said the Government and people of Borno State appreciate the host communities and traditional leaders in Adamawa for their generosity in opening their doors to take in returning refugees of Borno origin into their communities. He assured that the returning Borno indigenes were not affiliated with the Boko Haram insurgents and offered to make available the local vigilantes from the respective communities to join the screening team as well. He also assured that the State and security agencies are working assiduously towards ensuring safe return environments for the sustainable return of its citizens.

Key Outcomes/Issues

1. The Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon are urged to constitute a Tripartite Commission and/or Technical Working Group as soon as possible in order to finalize plans for the repatriation exercise including completion of the rehabilitation of the Reception and Transit Centres and announcement of the commencement date of the exercise.
2. Adamawa State Government, traditional leaders and local communities are very receptive and have expressed their willingness to host the returning refugees. Many communities in Adamawa are already hosting IDPs displaced from Borno.
3. Refugee returnees who are indigenes of Adamawa State are encouraged to return to their communities and will be prioritized for the first set of airlifts, while Borno indigenes from unsafe areas will be integrated into selected target communities. No IDP camps will be created for the purposes of this repatriation exercise.
4. Thorough screening of the returnees will be conducted by relevant security organs. No security incidences were reported in Minawao Camp during the six years that the refugees sought asylum.
5. Refugee returnees will receive a reintegration package which will assist them to eventually be self-sufficient and not a burden to the hosting community. Assistance will be shared in the ratio 70% to 30% between returnees and host communities respectively. The latter will include provision of basic services & infrastructure support that has been requested by leaders from the return communities.
6. Sensitization and awareness of the intended returns will be conducted by UNHCR and community leaders at grassroots level in each of the return areas prior to the commencement of the repatriation exercise.

Recommendations & Next Steps

1. Cameroon to prioritize the registration and return of Adamawa Indigenes during the first phase of the airlift.
2. UNHCR Cameroon to identify and share in advance, list of all returnees with special needs.
3. Practical arrangements need to be in place in the receiving host communities to address the inadequate shelter and basic services needs in preparation for the returning refugees – especially non-Adamawa indigenes.
4. The UNHCR Nigeria needs to have a detailed and funded contingency plan in place, and be prepared to activate same in support of the process.



5. UNHCR Nigeria & Cameroon to engage respective Governments at the highest level to finalise components of the practical modalities in relation to movement, reception and integration of the refugee returnees.

Picture Collage



Delegation with Adamawa State Deputy Governor



Facility Inspection – Reception Centre



@ Mubi Emirate Council



In Session with the Technical Working Group

Picture Collage



With the Emir of Mubi



Cross Section of Traditional Leaders @ Gombi



Closed Session with Traditional Leaders



@ Government House, Yola

Date:	May 7 th 2019	Location	Meeting Venue – UNHCR Field Office – Yola.
Meeting Chair	UNHCR Nigeria	Minutes Recorder	UNHCR Nigeria
Attendance	UNHCR Cameroon Team, UNHCR Nigeria Team, Refugees from Minawao camp in Cameroon		
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feedback from Refugees on the Mission 2. Updates from SO Maroua Team 3. Updates from SO Maiduguri Team 		
Agenda item	Main points from the discussion		Agreed Actions / Timeline
1. Feedback From Refugees	<p>Key Points from the Refugees on the Come and see/ Go and Tell mission: Perspectives and Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refugees appreciated the opportunity to come and see first-hand, the level of preparations, availability and state of facilities being put in place to support the repatriation exercise. • Refugees requested clarity in respect of the dates for the commencement of the exercise. • The refugees expressed their hope that the exercise will proceed as scheduled and did inform of the apprehensions they have had in respect of the previous postponements. • The refugees requested that a feedback be provided to them on the outcome of the TWG meeting in Abuja (May 8th) to enable them convey the details of discussions and decisions to their colleagues on return to Cameroon. • Some Refugees have already sold their properties and belongings in expectation of the commencement of the repatriation exercise. This has increased the apprehension in the camp in respect of the delayed commencement of the exercise. • The refugees expressed their concern about the possible change in commencement dates, reminding that discussions around the exercise have been ongoing since 2017. • The mission and their observations has assured them of the seriousness and commitment of Government and other actors to facilitate their return home. • The team confirmed that they now have positive information to convey to their colleagues back in Cameroon on the state of security and access to basic services – health, education, WASH facilities etc. • The team requested assurances that they will be supported to integrate and allowed to engage in Income Generating Activities that will enhance their self-reliance and economic empowerment. • Refugees originating from Northern Borno (especially Gwoza area) requested that UNHCR and the Government of Adamawa State kindly assist to bring their plea to the attention of 		

	<p>Mr. President, to deploy all necessary effort to clear and secure their communities so as to facilitate their return back to their ancestral homelands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The refugees conveyed the request of their colleagues back in Cameroon, for UNCR assistance to commence repatriation back to Borno. 	
2. Discussions on Feedback from Refugees	<p>The team discussed and responded to some of the issues raised by the team of refugees – reiterating the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entire team has seen the state of preparedness and also received assurances from the Adamawa state Government. Based on the Assurances by the Government of Nigeria and the commitment of all partners to the tripartite agreement, it is hoped that the repatriation exercise will commence soon. For repatriations to Borno, the Humanitarian community is working to ensure that returns can happen in safety and dignity. Specific actions and information in that respect will be communicated to the refugees when the conditions are adjudged suitable enough to support sustainable returns. At such a time, organized returns will then be facilitated. There is a return working group looking into the possible areas of returns to ensure that returns can take place in safe conditions. Repatriations to Adamawa is the starting point, and will serve as a pilot for the expected repatriations to Borno in the future. Refugees are encouraged to listen to the information provided by UNHCR in respect of the repatriation exercise. The details in respect of the commencement date for the exercise will be communicated by the TWG holding in Abuja on Wednesday 8th May 2019. The details will be communicated to the refugees. The representatives of the refugees were reminded that the repatriation exercise is a discussion between 3 parties – UNHCR and the Governments of Nigeria and Cameroon. Both countries will have to be involved in the actualization of the exercise. Clarity is still being sought from the Nigerian Government in respect of the composition of the Return Package. UNHCR has advised the Government components and specifications of her standardized packages. Refugees will be provided appropriate information on this when there is clarity. Ideally, the initial package is expected to consists of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shelter Kit NFI kit Food ration and cash <p>The Government has informed of plans to improve on the packages given the amount of funds available. The details are to be further discussed at the TWG meeting of May 8th 2019.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government of Nigeria has confirmed that letters have been formally written to Cameroon in respect of the repatriation exercise. Preparations will continue in full pending the finalization of dates. 	
3. Update from Cameroon	<p>The team from Sub Office Maroua gave an update on the ongoing preparedness actions – highlighting a few concerns and challenges for discussions. The key discussion points from the presentation are as detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparedness actions ongoing across different sectors and thematic areas. Actions not dependent on budgetary requirement are being fully implemented. Two transit Centres are required to be set-up in support of the repatriation exercise: Temporary Facilities are required in support of the transit centre at the airport – mobile toilets and other facilities. Hot and Cold meals required is yet to be assured as a result of budgetary constraints. Medical cases: Refugees with medical conditions to be provided 3 months medication by Cameroon. Nigeria operation to assist the refugees with the additional requirements. An Ambulance required: Funding at this time is unavailable to support provision. Required Overall budget is to be prepared and shared. Adamawa Indigenes: Prioritization of Adamawa indigenes will assist the process. Adamawa indigenes in the camp to be prioritized in the early iterations of the airlift. This may be more receptive with the traditional rulers in the communities, and better facilitate the integration of those coming from other localities. <p>Persons with Special Needs and Unaccompanied Children: This category of individuals are to be considered for airlift later into the exercise. However, a few numbers of them may be part of the early arrivals to assist in triggering preparations for addressing their special needs on arrival.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Profiling Information: Community level destinations required as part of the profiling information. 	<p>Efforts will be made to compete the transit Centre at the Airport. Setting up the centre close to the camp will however be a challenge in view of budgetary constraints.</p> <p>List of Refugees with medical conditions to be shared with the Nigeria Operation.</p> <p>Cameroonian team to advice on an itemized budget highlighting resource gaps.</p> <p>Advanced notification required. List to be provided ahead of time by SO Maroua</p> <p>Contact registration officer – Ananib@unhcr.org, for details</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Luggage handling: Only 3 rotations are planned per day. 1st rotation of the airlift is suggested to carry all luggage. The 2nd and 3rd rotations to airlift passengers. • Information Campaign: While awaiting the official government communications at ministerial level between both countries, there is a need to commence discussion with the local authorities in Cameroon on the repatriation exercise 	Informer les autorités locales camerounaises sur la probabilité du VolRep
4. Updates from Nigeria	<p>The team from SO Maiduguri presented an update on the level of preparation which had details in respect of the profiles of the selected return communities and well as the engagement with community leaders and local authorities in the respective localities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LGA Profile: Specific LGA profiles were presented with details on basic services – Education, Health , WASH as well as the estimated population figures for the following location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Madagali ○ Michika ○ Maiha ○ Mubi North / South ○ Hong ○ Gombi. • Challenges and Concerns: Some challenges and concerns were highlighted and discussed as detailed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Personal Items and Livelihood Assets – freighting to Nigeria. ○ Profile information – destination communities not stated. ○ Reception facilities at the return communities. ○ Uncertainty in the commencement dates. ○ Gaps in implementation between Federal & Adamawa State Government. ○ Delays in renovation of facilities at the Reception and Transit Centres. • Recommendations : The following recommendations were made from the team: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Prioritize the registration of Adamawa Indigenes. ○ Share list ahead for all special needs cases to enable adequate preparations. 	
Meeting Closure	The meeting was brought to a close with closing remarks by the Deputy Representative (designate) and the HoSO Maiduguri.	

Date:	May 8 th 2019	Location	Meeting Venue – Gombi LGA Council Chambers
Meeting Chair	HoA Gombi LGA	Minutes Recorder	UNHCR Nigeria
Attendance	UNHCR Cameroon Team, UNHCR Nigeria Team, Refugees from Cameroon, Gombi Local Council Authorities, Traditional Rulers and Community Leaders, Security Operatives		
Purpose of Meeting	Interactions with Local Authorities and Community Leaders		
Agenda item	Main points from the discussion		Agreed Actions / Timeline
1. Welcome and opening remarks by Head of LGA Administration (HoA)	<p>The delegation and teams were welcomed by the Gombi LGA Head of Administration. He introduced the purpose of the meeting and highlighted the following in his opening remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGA officials participated in a 2 day meeting facilitated by UNHCR to discuss the modalities for receiving the expected returnees. The council level meeting is to provide an opportunity for interactions with a larger group of stakeholders in the community to get direct clarifications on some of the issues discussed at the Yola meeting. The Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, and UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement for the facilitated returns of refugees from Cameroon. The ongoing activities are part of the needed steps to commence the repatriation exercise. Participants are encouraged to actively engage and feel free to discuss their concerns. Based on the assurances by the Government of Nigeria and the commitment of all partners to the tripartite agreement, it is hoped that the repatriation exercise will commence soon. 		
2. Head of SO Maruoa	<p>The Head of Sub-Office Maruoa made the following remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appreciation to the Gombi LGA officials and traditional rulers for the warm welcome. Nigerian refugees have been in Cameroon more than 5 years. The delegation is here to afford the refugees the opportunity to interact with the Authorities and have a first-hand situation of the context in the local communities. Several meetings have already taken place with Government officials, the Deputy Governor and other actors with fruitful outcomes. The delegation is here to seek support from the host community for the expected return and reintegration of Nigerian refugees to communities in Gombi. The entire team has inspected facilities at the Reception and Transit Centres and also received assurances from the Adamawa State Government on the expected completion of the ongoing works. 		

Head of FO Yola	<p>The Head of FO Yola made the following remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and deliberations have been ongoing with officials from the targeted 8 LGAs in Adamawa that will be hosting the refugee returnees. • Successful return can only happen if we share ideas and discuss the issues together – which is the overarching purpose of the meeting. • As stakeholders, our role is to ensure that returnees are facilitated to return in safety and dignity for sustainable returns. • The discussions are expected to throw more light on the concerns within the community and also provide an opportunity for the refugees on the visit to get updated on the preparations and state of facilities in the return communities. 	
Traditional Leader - Hakimi of Gombi	<p>The Hakimin Gombi (a traditional leader) briefed the District Heads and others with details of the sensitization meeting held at the Government House, Yola.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of about 137 individuals are expected to settle in Gombi – inclusive of 113 indigenes of Borno State. • All returnees are to be settled within the communities; suitable and adequate accommodation will be required to support their shelter needs. • The returnees are refugees who have been at the Minawao camp in Cameroon for the past 6 years. They are Nigerians and will need to be assisted to integrate within the communities. • The discussions and interactions should focus on how best to support the returnees. 	
<p>3. Plenary Discussions</p> <p>Community Leaders + Stakeholders + Participants + UNHCR Delegation</p>	<p>The meeting provided an opportunity for participants to frankly discuss concerns from the community members and get clarifications to their questions. Some of the key issues discussed in the session are as detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice of Gombi: Gombi was affected and attacked by the Boko Haram insurgents. Some community members wanted to know why non-Adamawa indigenes opted to select Gombi as a settlement location – given the existing security concerns in the environment. The community members also asked why the Borno indigenes are not exploring the possibility of returning to safe areas in Borno. • Profile of Returnees: Some community members were interested in knowing the profile of the returnees. Concerns were expressed about the security implications of accepting and hosting returnees who were unknown to the community. Reference was made to past experiences 	

<p>Response by Executive Secretary ADSEMA</p>	<p>where returnees accept into the community were later found to have explosives on them. The community demanded assurances that the returnees will not be a security concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past Security Experience: Members of the community referenced an experience in the year 2015 when spontaneous returns were accepted from Cameroon. It was noted that a number of attacks and bombings happened almost immediately after the returns. It was suggested that the vigilante groups from the LGA of origin be involved in the screening process. The community was informed that in the 6 years that the refugees were hosted in Minawao camp – no security incidents had been recorded in the camp. • Cultural Differences: Reference was made to cultural differences that exists between some of the returnees and the communities where they are to be integrated. It was however discussed that behavioural differences at individual levels may not be generalized and hence may not necessarily be applicable to all returnees on a blanket basis. • Inadequacy of Basic Services: It was also pointed out the Gombi community will need to be supported to expand the availability and access to basic services in support of the expected returnees. Limited accommodation options and availability of farm lands were highlighted as challenges that would need to be further addressed by the community. The absorption capacity of the respective host communities as well as the requests for provision of infrastructure and services are to be compiled and made available to ADSEMA. • Further Consultations: It was agreed that the returnees are welcome to Gombi. However, further consultations and discussions be held with the District Heads to take decisions on the support needed by the community to ensure full integration of the returnees. • Call for Government Support: Members of the community requested that the Government needs to provide more support to Gombi LGA as well as spell out the details of such envisaged support. The community members sought assurances from the Government that the refugees will be supported and will not be abandoned to become a burden to the hosting communities. The community requested that all provisions required to support the returning refugees by made available before their arrival. • Involvement of the Emirate Council: It was suggested that the Emirate council sends a formal letter to the respective District Heads providing formal directives to receive and accommodate the returning refugees in their communities. It was noted that the traditional rulers have the final say as they are responsible for the people within their domain. <p>During the discussions, the Executive Secretary Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ES - ADSEMA) provided clarifications and responses as detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to Security Concerns: The expressed concerns have been tabled with the TWG in Abuja and the security subcommittee has put in place measures to ensure an effective screening 	
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<p>Remarks by Representatives of the Refugees from Minawao camp.</p>	<p>process. The Defence HQ, Department of State Security Services and other represented security Agencies remain fully on board and are working to address all security concerns in respect of the repatriation exercise.</p> <p>There will be several levels of screenings between the departure point in Cameroon and the arrival to the host communities in Adamawa. This is in addition to the self-screening to be carried out by the refugees themselves, to make sure no bad elements are allowed to pass through/infiltrate the process. The possibility of incorporating vigilantes from the host communities of origin will be explored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the Refugees: The refugees will be supported with a return/reintegration package. They will be provided stipends to take care of their immediate needs as well as further support with shelter kits for construction of their accommodation and housing requirements. • Acceptance and Reintegration: Gombi already hosts several thousand spontaneous returnees and IDPs. For the 137 refugees being facilitated to return to Gombi – Government will appreciate that they be received and supported as brothers and family members, and assisted to integrate in the communities. For most of the returnees, their places of origin are still not safe. Community members are hence called upon to provide all the support they will require to re-start their lives again. <p>The representatives of the refugees from Minawao camp appreciated the frank discussions and exchange with the community members and council officials. They made the following contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Nigerian refugees have been hosted in Cameroon for the last 6years. • The opportunity of the Come and See visit is appreciated and they will Go and Tell others what they have seen and heard. • The refugees fully appreciate the concerns expressed by the community members and assure that the refugees returning from Minawao camp will not be a security concern to their host communities. Every effort will be made to ensure peaceful living in the communities and the message will be communicated to other refugees back in Cameroon. • The returning refugees do support broad based screening for all those returning. The existing vigilante structures being utilized at the camp in Cameroon will also be availed the screening process to ensure the screening is carried out effectively. • The returning refugees especially those from the security challenged areas in Borno appreciate the hospitality of the Adamawa people in agreeing to host them in their communities. They will look forward to return to their home communities when their areas are considered safe. 	
<p>Meeting Closure</p>	<p>The Head of Administration, Gombi LGA, thanked all participants and appreciated the positive and fruitful discussions.</p>	

Date:	May 9 th 2019	Location	Meeting Venue – Mubi South LGA Council Chambers
Meeting Chair	HoA Mubi South	Minutes Recorder	UNHCR Nigeria
Attendance	UNHCR Cameroon Team, UNHCR Nigeria Team, Refugees from Cameroon, Mubi North and South Local Council Authorities, Community Leaders, Security Operatives, Religious Leaders, District Heads		
Purpose	Interactions with Local Authorities and Community Leaders		
Agenda item	Main points from the discussions		Agreed Actions / Timeline
Welcome and opening remarks by: HoA – Mubi South Executive Secretary, Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ES – ADSEMA)	<p>The Head of Admin and acting Local Government Chairman of Mubi South welcome participants to the meeting and made the following remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recall of 2 day meeting in Yola at the Governor’s office, with the Local Government Heads of Admin (HoA) who are the acting chairmen of the respective council areas. Mubi North and Mubi South are known be peaceful abodes and have been very receptive to hosting displaced populations. An invitation to all participants to fully participate in the deliberations in seeking modalities on how best to support the expected arrival of returning Nigerian Refugees to Mubi. <p>The purpose of the meeting was introduced by the ADSEMA Executive Secretary with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The focus of the meeting is to discuss how best to assist our brothers who have been in displacement in Cameroon for the last several years. Many of them are now ready to come back home; a number of them are from Adamawa and while a substantial number are from Borno. A good number have indicated their interest to settle in Mubi (North and south). Hence the need to come and interact with the community to further discuss how best to assist the expected returnees. At the courtesy call on the Emir of Mubi, His Royal Highness gave the green light to proceed with the exercise. He however advised that those from relatively safe areas should be encouraged to return to their localities. The Emir said Mubi was ready to host those from Borno as long as they are coming from areas with security issues. He said they are welcome but however advised that Government makes provision to facilitate their local integration. 		

<p>HoSO Maruo</p>	<p>The HoSO Maroua made a few remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team is in Nigeria as part of efforts to facilitate returns of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon who are ready to return. • The interaction with the local authorities will provide an avenue to better understand the contextual realities in the return areas. • The interactions also provide a first-hand opportunity for the refugees to see the conditions at home and Go Tell their other fellow Refugees back in Cameroon. • The interaction is geared towards finding a solution for the Refugees. 	
<p>HoFO Yola</p>	<p>Remarks by the HoFO Yola</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR feels very welcome as Mubi has been home to us and supportive of our interventions and activities in the last several years of response to the BH crisis. • Registration is still ongoing in Cameroon for refugees who desire to return. • Over 400 refugees have already indicated their interest to return and get settled in Mubi. • The interaction with the local authorities is to find ways on how best to receive and assist the returning refugees and ensure the returns are sustainable. 	
<p>2. Discussions and Interactive Session</p>	<p>The discussions were very interactive and the community leaders and local Authorities deliberated extensively on the rationale for selecting Mubi as a return community for non-Adamawa indigenes as well as their concerns. Some key issues raised and clarifications requested are as detailed:</p>	
<p>District Heads + LGA Officials + Community Leaders + UNHCR Delegation and Refugees</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Heads reminded the visiting team of the advice given at the earlier meeting in Yola insisting that the opinion and blessing of the Emirate council be obtained. • Clarifications were requested on why Borno indigenes are not being returned to safe areas in Borno such as Biu and other parts of southern Borno that have a relatively stable security environment. • It was noted with concern that of the 134 refugees returning to Mubi North, only 24 of them are indigenes of Adamawa. • The district Heads wanted direct answers as to the plan to provide accommodation, farmlands and support to the returning refugee families. • The meeting was reminded that Adamawa has 7 LGAs that still experience security challenges. Attention was called to the attack within the week in Gulak and Madagali to underscore the fact that Adamawa still had its own share of security challenges. • Certain members of the community recommended that the Government engages to find safe areas in Borno to which Borno indigenes can be returned. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District Heads request that for clarity, there is a need to provide in writing, the modalities and plans being put in place to ensure seamless returns and reintegration. • The community leaders informed of the great burden they bore to host displaced people at the peak of the crisis – stretching their lean resources without support from the Government. • The community leaders demanded to know what plans were in place to ensure they do not end up with the liability of caring for the referenced returnees once the Government facilitates their return to the community. • Local council officials were advised to see the Emir and request a meeting of all 25 District Heads at which the details of the respective wards and communities that will host the expected numbers may be worked out. • The council officials suggested the urgent need to engage the local community with sensitizations at the grass root level. It was suggested that this be done through the Religious and Traditional leaders with collaborative engagements from the security actors and the publicity unit of the local council. • It was noted that at the peak of the crisis – Mubi took in more IDPs than any other locality in Adamawa, and it turned out be a challenge as they were subsequently attacked and the entire community sacked. The local community still has memories of the experience and it is important to seek their support and acceptance. 	
3. Responses by ADSEMA + Contributions and Interjections by participants	<p>The Executive Secretary ADSEMA on behalf of Government, responded to most of the issues raised and clarifications requested. Some interjections were also provide by the community leaders and HoA who were at the Yola meeting of 2- 3 May 2019.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the signing of the tripartite agreement between Nigeria, Cameroon and the UNHCR, the Ministry of Interior has been leading actions and hosting planning meetings over the last two years to ensure a hitch free repatriation exercise. • Arrangements are in place to provide return and reintegration packages for the Refugees and this will assist to support the reintegration efforts. • Budgetary provisions for the reintegration package is in place and the TWG will provide more clarity at the Abuja level. • The Government is determined to ensure that the returning refugees do not return to unsafe conditions. Hence, the ongoing efforts to accommodate non-Adamawa indigenes in areas that are considered relatively safer than their localities of origin back in Borno. • Every effort is also being made to ensure they are reintegrated into the communities and community leaders are kindly requested to assist the Government to make this a reality. • Working collaboratively with all the security Agencies, plans are in place to ensure proper screening of the refugees prior to their return. All security agencies are on board for the screening process, and actions are in place to ensure the process is effective. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the TWG will be in Yola to have an interactive meeting with the Refugees on Saturday 8th May 2019. • Efforts are ongoing to ensure the returning refugees are supported with livelihood skills to enhance their self-reliance. • A team of Borno State Traditional Rulers will be traveling to Adamawa by May 12th, to meet with the traditional rulers of the communities that will host the returnees from Cameroon. They will also be accompanied by officials from SEMA and NCFRMI. The meeting will provide opportunities to further interact and iron out key issues and challenges. • Effective arrangements will be in place to address the practical issues of accommodation, sustenance issues, and other practical day-to-day concerns raised by the community leaders. • The government will need to be advised by the community leaders on the details of absorption capacity at the respective wards. When received, the information will facilitate planning of targeted actions in respect of the community level sensitizations and other detailed plans. • It is understood that given the high population density and the resultant challenges with accommodation and other required facilities within Mubi central ward, the returnees will be absorbed across other wards within the Mubi North and South LGAs. • Sensitization and training sessions will be held for Traditional and religious leaders and the council officials before the commencement of the exercise. 	
Response by the Refugees	<p>The representatives of refugees from Minawao camp made the following remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed appreciation for the warm welcome and the frank discussions. • Informed that the refugees are equally very concerned and identify with the feeling of fear expressed by the community leaders about hosting returning refugees that are not known to them. • Reminded the meeting that it was also for the same reason of fear and attacks that the Nigerian refugees in Cameroon fled their homes in Nigeria. • Assured the meeting that the returning refugees even in displacement are security conscious and screen all new arrivals to their camp in Cameroon. For the return process, the same high level of internal screenings will be applied to ensure no unwanted elements infiltrate the returnees. 	
Meeting Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Head of Admin and acting Local Government Chairman for Mubi South appreciated the keen participation and robust discussions. 	

Date:	May 10 th 2019	Location	Meeting Venue – Maiha LGA Council Chambers
Meeting Chair	Head of Service Maiha	Minutes Recorder	UNHCR Nigeria
Attendance	UNHCR Cameroon Team, UNHCR Nigeria Team, Refugees from Cameroon, Mubi North and South Local Council Authorities, Community Leaders, NSCDC, Police, Religious Leaders, District Heads, Nigeria Customs Service, SSS		
Purpose	Interactions with Local Authorities and Community Leaders		
Agenda item	Main points from the discussions		Agreed Actions / Timeline
1. Welcome and opening remarks by Head of Service – Maiha Executive Secretary, Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ES, ADSEMA)	<p>The Head of Service (HoS) and acting Local Government Chairman of Maiha LGA welcomed participants to the meeting – with the following remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm welcome to all guests and participants. • At the meeting of local council officials and traditional rulers in Yola, information was provided on the voluntary repatriation of Refugees from Cameroon. • The focus of the follow-up meeting in Maiha is to see how best to receive the returnees to the respective communities. • Update on the recommendations of the Yola meeting to be provided by the visiting delegation. <p>The ES ADSEMA, further expatiated the remarks made by the HoS, highlighting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the Maiha visit is to interface with the team on ground and rub minds on how best to receive the refugees who have indicated an interest to return to Maiha. • The Yola Meeting with the LGA Heads and Traditional Rulers suggested further interface at the council and community level – which is now being actualized with engagements at the respective councils and community level. • Interfaces have taken place at Gombi, Mubi and also with the Mubi Emirate Council. The discussion were all very fruitful. • His Royal Highness, the Emir of Mubi has given his blessings and support to the exercise and has advised that returning Adamawa indigenes be encouraged to go back to their places of origin, while those from unsafe areas in Borno remain welcome to stay until their areas are safe enough for them to make a decision on returning to Borno. • At the meeting in Mubi, it was decided that the 3 Heads of Service Maiha, Mubi North and Mubi South meet with His Royal Highness to work out the details of receiving the returnees to the respective wards. • The State Government appreciates UNHCR for hosting the refugees in Cameroon and for facilitating and supporting the repatriation process. 		

HoSO Maroua	<p>The HoSO Maroua made the following remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expressed appreciation for the warm reception. • The refugees in Minawao camp have been living peacefully in Cameroon for the past 6 years. • The discussions on the voluntary repatriation have been to see how best to support the returns of the refugees to their fatherland on-going for the last 2 years. ... • The visiting delegation has also come with some of refugees to enable them interface with the Authorities and the communities for a first-hand understanding of the realities back home. • Nigeria is a large country and delegation has a better appreciation of the context after the interactions on ground. • The delegation seeks the support of all actors to assist returnees come back home. 	
HoFO Yola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR is supporting both the Cameroonian and Nigerian Governments to assist the refugees and facilitate their returns. • In 2018, UNHCR completed and handed over about 60 housing units in Maiha which underscores our existing relationship. • About 2000 refugees have indicated their desire to return to Maiha – the interactions will focus on how best to support their return. • Nigerian refugees in Cameroon are almost 100,000 both in camp and within the host community. • There is a need to sensitize the receiving host communities on peaceful co-existence with the refugee returnees. This is an activity which UNHCR can facilitate as soon as possible, once the final return areas are confirmed. 	
2. Discussions and Interactive Session	<p>The discussions were very interactive and the community leaders and local Authorities deliberated extensively on the existing condition of basic services and facilities required to support the returns. Some of the key issues and concerns discussed are as detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The council officials met after the Yola meeting to review how best to support expected number of returnees. It was decided that the returnees be distributed across 5 wards. The immediate challenges are however summarized as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The facilities, infrastructure and basic services across the 5 wards are grossly inadequate to support the expected figure of approximately 2000 returnees. ○ Inadequate shelter options in Maiha community; in some huts – a single room is overcrowded with over 5 inhabitants. ○ Non availability of farm lands to support livelihood options for the returnees. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing security challenges from the farmer–herder crisis. Due to inadequacy of farmlands, the resultant encroachment on grazing lands has led to several hostilities in some of the communities. Police outposts will be required in all 5 hosting communities. <p>Further discussions continued with inputs from other participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the boundary areas between Borno and Adamawa are homogeneous communities. The people from the areas with security challenges are hence welcome to stay. The prospect of farming as a livelihood option for the returnees will be challenging as farm lands are no longer available even for rental at this time of the year. The returns could further exacerbate the farmer-herder crisis as there will be an increase pressure on available grazing lands. As far back as 2013, Maiha already received and supported several thousands of displaced people from Borno. However, there have been reported instances where the settlers have engaged in unwelcome behaviour. Government needs provide the communities with Water, Schools, Roads and Health facilities. Maiha is a very hospitable community and would want to set the pace for others by opening its doors to welcome the returnees. The request to host the returnees was not received timely. More time is required for the preparatory activities. Transit facilities may be required in the 5 hosting communities. UNHCR is requested to increase the current number of permanent shelters built in Maiha community, and consider the possibility of expanding the project to other communities. The Nigerian Government and UNHCR requested to provide detailed information with respect to the implementation of the repatriation process for the entire stretch - starting with activities in Cameroon to the point of integration in the return community. 	
Contributions by Refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After 6 years in displacement, as Nigerians, the refugees are eager to return home and start re-building their lives. What is required for most of the expected returnees is a place to stay temporary and farm to enable them take care of their families pending when their communities of origin are safe enough for them to return to those localities. The choice of Maiha was based on a number of pull factors: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The relative peace and security in Maiha Some of the refugees also have relations who have settled in Maiha and enjoyed the hospitality of the Maiha people. The refugees are mainly farmers and Maiha being a predominantly agrarian community with fertile lands is also a reason for their choice of Maiha. Maiha is a relatively inexpensive community compared to the others. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request Government support to put in place the necessary basic facilities as presented by the council officials so that the entire community can benefit. • The returning refugees are peace loving people, who will abide by the laws of the land. • The entire community is being assured that the returnees are not Boko Haram elements, and it is important to disabuse the minds of people in the host community. • Most of the refugee youth in Cameroon are currently idle and homecoming will provide more opportunities to keep them meaningfully engaged. 	
3. Responses by ADSEMA + Contributions and Interjections by participants	<p>The Executive Secretary ADSEMA on behalf of Government, responded to most of the issues raised and provided required clarifications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tripartite agreement was signed by Government of Cameroon, Nigeria and UNHCR in 2017. • Tripartite Commission (TC) and a Technical Working Group (TWG) and Sub Committees put in place with the overall task of facilitating actions in support of the repatriation. • Refugees are to be supported to return and get reintegrated into communities of their choice. • TWG - composed of selected Ministries and representatives of Security Agencies, Adamawa and Borno Government. • Represented Security Agencies – Defence HQ, Police Force HQ, Department of State Security (DSS) National Intelligence Agency (NIA), Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) • Security screening of the returnees will commence at the camp in Cameroon prior to their departure and at several points through the process. Arrangements have also been put in place with all security agencies for comprehensive screening at the Hajj terminal building on arrival at the Yola Internal Airport. • The returnees will be provided a return package for their immediate sustenance needs. • Shelter kits will also be provided at the return community to support shelter solutions for their needs. • Livelihood skills training and business starter packs will be provided to the returnees as well. • UNHCR was guided by the Government in selecting the location for the shelter project in Maiha, and the construction at that time was carried out from earmarked funding which determined the number delivered on the project. • The Council Authorities are requested to quickly put together details of their support requirements and share same with ADSEMA to facilitate discussions at the Abuja level. The details should also contain the absorption capacity of each of the proposed 5 hosting communities. 	
Meeting Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Head of Service and acting Local Government Chairman for Maiha thank all participants and the delegation for making it to the meeting. 	

Date:	May 11 th 2019	Location	Meeting Venue – PCNI Conference Room - Yola
Meeting Chair	NCFRMI – Abuja	Minutes Recorder	UNHCR Nigeria / ADSEMA
Attendance	UNHCR Cameroon Team, UNHCR Nigeria Team, Refugees from Cameroon, ADSEMA, ADSG, Technical Working Group Members (DHQ, NIS, NCFRMI Abuja, FMI Abuja, MBNP Abuja, NAPTIP,NIS, PCNI)		
Purpose	Provide a platform for interactions between the members of the Technical Working Group and the Refugees from Cameroon.		
Agenda item	Main points from the discussions		Agreed Actions / Timeline
1. Welcome and opening remarks by	The Meeting was chaired by NCFRMI – Represented by L. Hamidu – Director, for the Commissioner, NCFRMI. The Chairman welcomed all participants and gave brief remarks on the purpose of the meeting. The following were highlighted:		
NCFRMI, Chairman (TWG)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Further to the signing of the tripartite agreement – there have been discussions on the repatriation exercise and roles have been assigned. The Nigerian Government is responsible for the airlift from Cameroon to Nigeria, profiling and screening of refugees on arrival, and further facilitation of transportation to their respective local communities in safety and dignity.• Cameroon will facilitate the transportation from the Minawao camp to the Airport as well as other associated logistics within Cameroon.• Registration exercise is ongoing in Cameroon and about 2400 refugees have been registered for the voluntary repatriation exercise.• The Nigerian Government is prepared to receive the refugees and is awaiting readiness confirmation on the commencement dates from the Cameroonian Government.• The TWG requests an update from the Adamawa State Government and the Cameroonian delegation on the state of preparedness for the exercise.		
ADAMAWA State Government (Update)	<p>The Commissioner for Information represented the Adamawa State Government. The State Government provided the following updates to the interface meeting with the TWG. Additional inputs were made by the Executive Secretary, ADSEMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Adamawa State Government is ready to receive the refugees. Several activities are ongoing – renovation works at the Reception and Transit Centres.• The contractor handling the works needs to be paid.		

<p>UNHCR Update (Nigeria & Cameroon)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Adamawa State Government has provided the needed structures to support the exercise and the State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) is taking the lead on the ground for the coordination efforts. • Interface with UNHCR Nigeria is very cordial and the repatriation exercise is expected to proceed seamlessly. • With the assistance of UNHCR – There has been an interface meeting with Traditional and community leaders and local council officials from the hosting communities. The meeting was hosted at the Government house. • There has been further meetings at the target locations with local council officials, traditional and community leaders, and other stakeholders in the respective communities. Sessions were held in Gombi, Mubi, and Mahia. The meetings were very fruitful and interactive. The communities did express concerns, but after much discussions, all the communities have accepted to welcome the returning refugees. There are however, requests from the communities for the provision of basic services and infrastructure to support the expected returns. This requests are being compiled and will be shared with the TWG. • In Mubi the Emirate Council was very receptive and accepted to host the returnees – including those from Borno whose communities are still not safe for returns. Maiha is expected to host the largest number of returnees (approximately 2000). • The meetings provided an opportunity for members of the Cameroonian delegation and the refugees to have first-hand interactions with stakeholders in the respective communities. <p>Challenges Presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of the Transit centre requires specific details and dedicated resources which still needs to be addressed – provisions need to be made for dedicated staffing. • Details of the return package need to be provided as clarity on this has been requested at the field level interactions. • Luggage handling process will require about 10 – 15 dedicated staff. <p>The UNHCR Head of FO Yola and Head of Sub Office – Maruoa provided updates and input on behalf UNHCR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meetings were all fruitful – 3 clear issues came out from the interactions. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Security – communities expressed concerns and request effective screening of the returnees. 2. Acceptance – communities are willing to accept and host the returnees. 	<p>Requests from hosting communities for provision of basic services and infrastructure at the Sites to be Shared with the TWG - Action: ADSEMA</p>
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	<p>3. Absorption capacity –Basic services and infrastructure are limited and over stretched in the communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community leaders are asking for formal communications from the traditional council to the communities and District Heads to facilitate the process. • The communities have complained that their facilities are over stretched and have requested for provision of need facilities to support the integration of the returnees. • They have also requested that detailed and clear information be circulated at the local level – to create the necessary awareness. • Traditional leaders from the refugees’ communities of origin in Borno are being facilitated to attend a meeting in Yola, with their counterparts from the target Adamawa hosting communities’ and the refugees’ representatives. • For planning purposes, UNHCR will require some clarity on the expected number of rotations per day for the airlift viz-a-viz the number of refugees to the airlifted daily. <p>In Cameroon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The central government is not yet formally informed of the commencement of the repatriation exercise and that presents a challenge. • The registration and sensitization of refugees for the repatriation exercise is currently ongoing. • Screening of persons with special needs – chronic illness is ongoing as well. • A firm date needs to be agreed upon with the Government of Cameroon and the necessary authorizations obtained as quickly as possible. • Not a single security incident have been recorded in the Minawao camp in the last 6 years that the Nigerian refugees have been hosted there. The refugees have lived peacefully. • May 20th is the National Unity day in Cameroon – most government officials will be engaged in the activities. Hence, there needs to be a close follow-up on the communications in respect of the TWG meeting being scheduled for 15th – 17th May 2019. 	<p>Absorption capacity of the respective locations are to be provided by the host communities. (Action: ADSEMA)</p> <p>UNHCR Cameroon will provide the list to Nigeria. (Action: UNHCR)</p> <p>A letter has been written to the Government of Cameroon on the TWG meeting. A response is being awaited. Follow-up with the Cameroonian HC (Action: FMI)</p>
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<p>2. Discussions and Interactive Session</p> <p>NCFRMI, Chairman (TWG)</p>	<p>The chairman led the interactive discussions around the updates provided by the trio – Nigeria, Cameroon and UNHCR. Key summary statements from the discussion are as detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the onset there seems to have been a gap at the TWG level – the understanding was that UNHCR will be the link between the activities both in Cameroon and Nigeria but that didn't happen. A handbill has been developed to sensitize the refugees. - NCFRMI • In response to the challenges presented by the Adamawa State Government, ADSEMA is requested to present a plan to the TWG on the detailed requirements in respect of the management of the holding sites and inclusive of the referenced staffing needs. - NCFRMI • About 398 personnel expected to be involved in the repatriation exercise. • The sub committees need to work directly with ADSEMA as the lead, to ensure effective allocation of dedicated staff to manage the services and facilities at the holding sites. This will avoid lapses. • The TWG should look at the overall personnel deployment and revert on how best to address the deployment of dedicated and adhoc staff required by ADSEMA. • The repatriation of Borno indigenes to Adamawa communities is a variable that was not factored in at the initial planning phase of the repatriation exercise. Over 95% of the returnees are non-indigenes being repatriated to communities outside their places of origin. This presents immediate and potential long term challenges for the integration process. • Acceptability issues came up and were also discussed at the TWG. There are salient considerations such as concerns over 'population ratio imbalance' – host community/settlers, which have come to light in the course of interactions with communities accepting and hosting non-indigenes. We need to take a look at the long term realities that may be of concern to the host community. • Clarifications provided on reintegration package: The initial plans did not factor in the building of structures from scratch. The thinking was to provide shelter repair kits for individuals to rebuild their homes and also empower them with livelihood skills. - NCFRMI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Shelter kits will be made available at the host community level. About 30% of the kits to be provided will target vulnerable members of the host community as beneficiaries. ○ For medical cases – 3 months stock of medication will be provided by UNHCR Cameroon. ○ Initial rent support will be provided for those being integrated in communities other than their communities of origin. 	<p>Decision: ADSEMA to make a plan inclusive of staffing requirements and submit to the TWG before the next meeting.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The TWG may consider writing letters of appreciation to the host communities to appreciate their hospitality in accepting to host the returnees. - ADSG • Many places in Adamawa are cosmopolitan and accepting to host additional returnees is not so much of an issue. However, the prevailing security threats remains a concern - ADSG • Return communities will be glad to hear of the 30% allocation for the host community – ADSG • It is important to understand how those who returned spontaneously have integrated in the communities and learn how best to leverage on the structures and their experiences. • An important outcome from our robust interface with the communities is the need to have a robust plan for open communication and continued interactions with the host communities - ADSG. • ANSWER to Refugee Question on the possibility to change choice of selected host community: Those who want to settle in other communities outside the initial sites selected may need to indicate and give enough notice to the ADSG. This will enable engagement with such communities and facilitate effective arrangements to receive the returnees. There are communities that have drawn the line in terms of their hosting capacities, but a number of other communities remain open to receive more refugees. - ADSG • Provision of community projects is important to support long term peaceful co-existence and sustainable returns. • The immediate shelter needs of the returnees while they build their homes needs to be addressed to ensure they are not exposed to heightened risk exposures on arrival in the communities. • Question Asked by Chairman – What was the rationale for the large number of Borno indigenes choosing to return to Adamawa? 	ADSG to provide a draft to the TWG
Contributions by Refugees	<p>The refugees in the visiting delegation actively engaged with the TWG members providing responses and clarifications to the questions and remarks around the table. They also asked a few questions which informed some of the responses and key summary discussions detailed by the TWG members. Some of the key interjections from the refugees are as detailed:</p> <p>Some of the reasons the refugees gave on why Adamawa was chosen as a return location by Borno indigenes were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The hospitality of Adamawa people • Some of the refugees have relations and familial links from some of their communities of origin who are resident in Adamawa. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most of the refugees are farmers from agrarian communities – the selected Adamawa communities presents them fertile lands to engage in farming and other agricultural livelihood opportunities. Adamawa provides a relatively safe security environment compared to their communities of origin. <p>Additional comments and questions asked the refugees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appeal to the Government to fast track the repatriation process so it doesn't get caught up in the imminent handover and change in Government. An appeal that the TWG takes their cry to the President to assist in ensuring quick resolution of the security challenges in their communities of origin. Question: Are the refugees able to change the localities of interest which they had prior selected? Question: What is the content of the return package? This needs to be communicated to other refugees on return to Minawao. Question: How many kg of luggage are individual refugees entitled to come back with? 	<p>Luggage allowance will be determined when the Airforce advises the Adamawa State team on the weight and carrying capacity of the aircraft - ADSG</p> <p>The possibility to freight additional luggage back to Nigeria by road should be explored. (Action: ADSG/NCFRMI)</p>
3. Conclusions from the Meeting	<p>The Chairman of the meeting summed up the major points from the meeting as detailed</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Nigerian Government is ready and committed to facilitate repatriation of the refugees. Refugees are ready and eager to return to Nigeria. Adamawa communities have accepted to receive and host the returning refugees. Adamawa communities have requested support for provision of basic services and infrastructure to support the returns. Adamawa State Emergency Management Agency (ADSEMA) to submit a draft plan including staffing requirements. UNHCR Cameroon has assured of the peaceful existence – with zero security incidents recorded in the hosting Minawao camp over the last 6 years. Adamawa State Government will provide a draft of the letter to the community leaders. 	
Meeting Closure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair – NCFRMI thanked and appreciated the TWG members. The entire team proceeded to inspect the facilities at the Reception and Transit Centres. 	

Date:	May 13 th 2019	Location	Meeting Venue – Government House, Yola
Meeting Chair	Commissioner for Information and Strategy - Adamawa.	Minutes Recorder	UNHCR Nigeria
Attendance	UNHCR Cameroon Team, UNHCR Nigeria Team, Refugees from Cameroon, Traditional Rulers from (Bama, Banki), and Adamawa (Madakin Mubi, Galadima) Adamawa State Government (Deputy Governor, Commission for Information, ADSEMA) Borno State – SSS, SEMA & NCFRMI		
Purpose of Meeting	Interactions with Borno Traditional Leaders and State Officials		
Agenda item	Main points from the discussion		Agreed Actions / Timeline
1. Welcome and opening remarks Commissioner for Information and Strategy	<p>The Adamawa State Commissioner for Information and Strategy welcomed all participants – Traditional rulers from Adamawa and Borno, the Governments of Adamawa and Borno, and the UNHCR delegation from Cameroon and Nigeria. He made the following remarks to update His Excellency, the Deputy Governor and the invited Traditional and Religious Leaders:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation to His Excellency the Deputy Governor of Adamawa State, for the commitment to the repatriation exercise and for kindly finding time to declare the meeting open. • On 2nd March 2017, The Governments of Cameroon and Nigeria, and UNHCR signed the Tripartite Agreement for voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon. • Over 90,000 Nigerian refugees are estimated to be in Cameroon (both in-camp and host community). Most of them – Borno indigenes. • Tripartite Commission (TC) was setup as well as a Technical Working Group (TWG) to drive the implementation plan. • At the onset of the repatriation discussions, it was agreed that the repatriation to Adamawa be prioritized, given the relatively improved conditions to support returns. The exercise was scheduled to start with an estimated 4000 returnees to Adamawa. • For security considerations, it was agreed that the repatriation exercise be carried out by airlift. An Airforce C130 aircraft will be the carrier. • Planning meetings have been ongoing over the last 2 years. • Initial commencement dates have been shifted in view of the continuing engagements with Cameroon for an agreed start date. It is hoped that the airlifts will commence at the latest by early June. • The Government of Cameroon has requested for a TWG meeting which is expected to take place within the week. • It is noted that spontaneous returns have been taking place, and this has effectively reduced the number of Adamawa indigenes being repatriated, which hence explains why over 95% of those being repatriated are Borno indigenes. 		

<p>Leader of Borno Delegation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Cameroonian delegation, and the teams from Adamawa State Government and UNHCR, have visited several of the target host communities to engage with the local Authorities and stakeholders. • Discussions with the communities have been robust and open. The question on why Borno indigenes were not returning to Borno was asked and, clarifications were provided to the satisfaction of the communities. • UNHCR Cameroon gave assurances of the peaceful existence of the refugees in the Minawao camp over the last 6 years. • A TWG mission from Abuja came to interface with the delegation and refugee representatives from Minawao camp on the 8th of May. • The TWG has informed that ‘30% of the return package’ will target the host community as beneficiaries. The return package is to assist the returnees meet their immediate sustenance needs on arrival. • A Transit Centre has been secured and is being worked on. With the consent of the Lamido of Adamawa, access to an additional settlement site around the Transit centre has also been assured – effectively expanding the capacity to host additional returnees within the adjoining community, where people have been living peacefully. • The purpose of the meeting is to have engagements with Borno officials and Traditional leaders from the communities of origin of the Borno indigenes who have registered their intent to be repatriated to Adamawa. <p>The Borno delegation was led by the Chairman of the State Transition Committee. He made the following remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation to the Adamawa State Government for their hospitality and commitment in assisting displaced populations from Borno. • The Government and people of Borno State appreciates the host communities and Traditional leaders in Adamawa for their generosity in opening their doors to take in returning refugees of Borno origin into their communities. • Borno officials did visit the Malkohi camp hosting substantial numbers of IDPs displaced from Borno communities and did see a practical demonstration of the brotherly disposition of the Adamawa Government and people. 	
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UNHCR (HoSO Maruoa)	<p>UNHCR Head of Sub Office Maruoa made a few remarks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appreciation for the commitment and support of the Adamawa State Government, to the achievement of the mission objectives and the repatriation process. • The mission has provided an opportunity for a first-hand interaction with the contextual realities back in the return areas and this now makes it possible to make informed decisions. • UNHCR Cameroon has continued with preparedness actions – but a formal authorization is still being awaited from the central government at Yaounde. • The Nigerian Government is kindly requested to facilitate the formal processes with the Government of Cameroon as required. • The Nigerian refugees in Minawao camp have lived peacefully in Cameroon, and no security incident has been registered in their 6 years of presence. 	
His Excellency the Deputy Governor	<p>The highlights from the opening remarks made by His Excellency the Deputy Governor of Adamawa are as detailed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants were welcomed to the meeting which was described as being very crucial to the voluntary repatriations exercise. • It is expected that the meeting will deliberate and come up with solutions to any outstanding issues that still needs to be addressed in respect of the return and reintegration of the Nigerian refugees from Cameroon being repatriated to Adamawa. • Every participant at the meeting is a critical stakeholder in the process, and an open discussion and exchange of ideas is encouraged. • It is important to remember that in situation of forcible displacement, people flee with nothing. Now that our fellow Nigerians are returning, we all have to find a way to rehabilitate them – most of them will be coming back with nothing. • Borno and Adamawa Governments collectively appreciate the Government and people of Cameroon for hosting the Nigerian refugees for the past 6 years. • Every effort should be made to ensure the return package is properly organized. • For Borno indigenes who desire to return and settle in Adamawa, the simple message to them is that ‘we are brothers and we are a family’. They are welcome, and the people of Adamawa look forward to hosting them in our communities – that is why the Traditional rulers are here at this meeting. 	
Representative of the Lamido of Adamawa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lamido of Adamawa has accepted that the refugees may be brought back and settled in any community of their choice. 	

[illegible]

	<p>creating their own governance structures for the community. There has also been an instance where displaced populations were generously received and settled in a host community insisted on renaming the host community after their place of origin. In Malkohi as well, the community at some point reached a joint decision on addressing the issue of new arrivals to the community. The decision was unfortunately not adhered to by IDPs hosted in the community.</p> <p>These incidents are reminders of the abuse of the hospitality of the Adamawa people in the recent past. Such incidents will not be tolerated and the returning refugees are reminded to respect the existing structures in their host communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mubi Emirate council has promised to recover any properties of returnees that have been taken over. The Lamido Adamawa also remains committed to ensuring fair treatment for returnees. 	
<p>UNHCR (HoFO Yola)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 2500 refugees have been registered in Minawao camp with indicated interest to return to selected communities in Adamawa- Gombi, Mubi North & South, Maiha, Hong, Michika and Madagali. • Over 95% of the registered refugees originate from conflict affected communities in Borno. • LGA and host community officials have been advised to map out the absorption capacity of the host communities and share same. • A number of meetings have been facilitated at the community level geared towards exchanging ideas on how best to accommodate the expected refugee returnees. • LGA officials and host community leaders have indicate their willingness to host the returnees but the communities have also requested for provision of basic facilities to support the returnees. • The support of our Royal fathers is greatly appreciated and is required to facilitate grassroots sensitization within their domains. 	
<p>Participants</p>	<p>Other notable comments from Participants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some fear was also expressed about the possibility of some of the returnees being affiliated with Boko Haram elements. Assurances are require from the Borno Royal fathers. A lot has however been done to assuage this feeling at the community level - ADSEMA. • The security agencies will be supported to ensure effective screening of all the returnees. The Borno team is willing to avail the participation of their vigilante groups. The team is advised to link up with the security sub-committee to discuss the involvement of the Borno vigilantes. 	

Refugee representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borno State team is encouraged to ensure effective participation in TWG meetings. • While communities remain receptive to hosting the returnees – every effort must be made to avoid a situation where the returnees become a burden to the host community. • Structures are in place to monitor conditions in the host communities to ensure effective security. • Spontaneous returns are still ongoing and for Borno, most of these returns unfortunately end up in IDP camps as a result of the security contexts and challenges reclaiming their houses – especially in Banki. • Until the safe corridors are expanded in the security challenged areas of Borno – it is not considered safe for returns. UNHCR hence requests that this message be clearly communicated to the refugees back in Cameroon. UNHCR is hence not able to give any information at this time on when facilitated returns to those communities will be addressed. • Given the imminent arrival of the Rainy Season, efforts should be made to ensure speedy facilitation of the returns. • The communities are happy with the details presented with respect to the arrangement for the screening process. • It is important to provide the returnees with livelihood skills to ensure they are meaningfully engaged. • IDP camps in Adamawa have been reduced from 22 to 2. The total in-camp populations has reduced from about 300,000 to less than 3,000 as current figures. • The Adamawa State Government, UNHCR – Nigeria and Cameroon are kindly requested to engage in strong advocacy with the Nigerian and Cameroonian government to speed up implementation and hasten commencement of the repatriation. • The efforts made to include the refugees and facilitate the Come and See/Go and Tell Visit is greatly appreciated by the refugees and information gathered will be shared with other refugees on return to Minawao camp to better inform their decision making. • Borno State officials are kindly requested to assist the Adamawa State government and support the various initiatives being put in place to welcome and integrate the returnees into the respective host communities. • The Government of Borno is very capable and enthusiastic to support the process. The incoming Governor is very familiar with the context and sustained support is expected. 	
Conclusions from the Meeting:	<p>The Chairman of the meeting summed up the major points from the meeting as detailed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The return process is on course and the returning refugees – including Borno indigenes are welcome and accepted to settle in communities their choice in Adamawa. 	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Borno indigenes returning to settle in the selected communities in Adamawa are not a security risk to the State. They are considered to be brothers and will be received in dignity. 3. The Traditional leaders from Borno have assured that the refugees are not a security threat and UNHCR Cameroon has confirmed that no security incident has been recorded in the Minawao camp where they have been hosted for the past 6 years. 4. The Borno Traditional leaders have corroborated that the communities of origin of the Borno indigenes still have security challenges and hence are not yet considered safe for returns. 5. Details of the return packages should be made clear to the refugees before they come. 6. 30 % of the earmarked return package will be allocated to target host community beneficiaries. 7. Returnees will be encouraged to be self-reliant and to engage in productive income generating activities. 8. Returnees will be supported to integrate fully into the host communities – no camps will be setup for use of returnees. 9. The Adamawa State Government will continue to interface with Traditional and Community leaders through the entire process. 10. The Adamawa State Government appreciates the Royal fathers and the Traditional institution for their commitment and total support for the repatriation exercise. 	ADSEMA to draft a communique from the meeting to the TWG.
Meeting Closure:	The Commissioner for Information and Strategy thanked the Traditional rulers and the visiting delegations from Borno and Cameroon, for the efforts made to attend the meeting. He noted that the open discussions and frank exchange of ideas contributed to the productive outcomes from the meeting.	