

Human Rights Issues and the Rehabilitation of Cameroon Refugees in Cross River State

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Abstract

This paper focuses on: investigating the relationship between the refugees and the host community; to examine the efforts of stakeholders on the health of the Cameroon refugees in Cross River state; to assess the efforts of stakeholders on the education of the Cameroon refugees in Cross River state; and to evaluate the impact of humanitarian activities on the living standard of refugees in Cross River state. To do this, a sample of 423 refugees and humanitarian organization staff from three local government of Cross River State were purposively selected to participate in the interview through which data was gathered for analysis. Using description statistics and thematic analysis, the data was analysed and the result shows that some rights of the refugees are at risk, many of the young refugees are out of school; food, hygiene and sanitation materials are not in steady supply; the Humanitarian organisations are not well funded; lands for the resettlement of refugees are not enough. Therefore, the study concludes that to protect the rights of the refugees in order to guarantee the effectiveness of their rehabilitation, these challenges have to be resolved as recommended.

Keywords: Human Rights, Rehabilitation, Cameroon, Refugees, Nigeria.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The different definitions of the term refugee have one thing in common which makes it clear that the risk of human rights violations in their home country is what compels people to cross international borders to seek protection abroad, and in that process acquires that description - refugees. Therefore, the preservation of human rights in home countries is of great importance not only for the prevention of problems with refugees but also for their solutions. This could be why it is asserted in UNHCR (2006) that if situation in the country of origin radically change, encouraging and regulating the safety of their voluntary return enables refugees to re-establish themselves in their own society and to enjoy their fundamental human rights.

Nevertheless, beyond the safety of citizens in their home countries, the international human right laws should be held with utmost importance especially to the benefit of the refugees who seem to be at lost when it comes to the protection by national laws. This is important owing to the rapid increase in violent conflicts that has over the years displaced many from their home

countries. The case at hand is the intensification of the Anglophone crisis in the English-speaking Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon which have caused people to flee these areas and cross into their neighbouring countries especially, Nigeria.

More than 60,000 refugees fled to Nigeria, and more than 679,000 people remain internally displaced in the Northwest, Southwest, West and Littoral areas. While the Cameroon government began arrangements with Nigerian for the return of 700 refugees in January 2020, the municipal and parliamentary elections that took place on 9 February 2020 resulted in an increase in the spread of movements to Nigeria as the crisis spiraled out of control with violent clashes between the separatists and the Cameroonian military (ACAPS, 2020).

At the heart of the current displacement is the dispute between the central government and armed groups seeking to divide the predominantly English-speaking Southwest and Northwest regions from Cameroon's Francophone component. Lawyers and then

teachers in the Southwest and Northwest Regions of Cameroon began strikes starting in October 2016, protesting against the alleged marginalization of the two regions. On the symbolic date of 1 October 2017 which is when Cameroonians mark their reunification in 1961 the separatists made a token declaration of independence and called for protests in the Southwest and Northwest regions. Since November 2017, this violence have continued to increase the number of people moving away from their place of origin to seek protection in other places either within Cameroon or in neighboring Nigeria (UNHCR, 2019). The IDPs kept increasing in number as the crisis kept expanding, until their neighbouring communities were altogether no longer safe that there was the need to leave their country into their neighbouring country. ACAPS (2020) reports that the registered refugees in Nigeria are hosted by 87 local communities in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States.

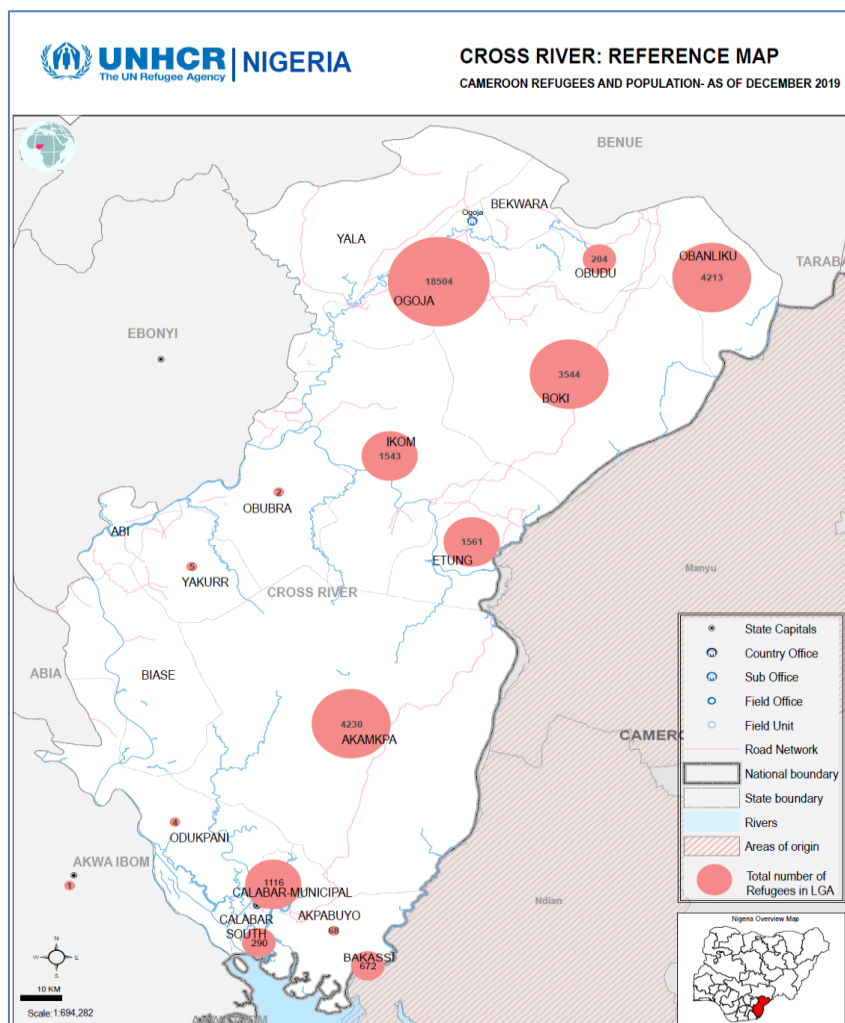
This study concentrating closely on the Cameroonian refugees moving to border communities in Cross River State in the south of Nigeria, observes that

the refugees arrive nearly destitute and eke out a living in low-wage jobs. But it is important to note that while the crisis so far is within Cameroonian borders, there is the possibility of its escalation destabilizing all of Central Africa and parts of West Africa, which makes it an issue that should attract attention.

2. METHODS AND MATERIALS

Study Area

Cross River state is one of the states in South-South geopolitical zone of Nigeria, sharing boundaries with Cameroon. They are eighteen (18) local governments in Cross River state, with fourteen of them hosting varying numbers of refugees, with the Cameroon refugees concentrating mainly in three locations which are: Ogoja (18504), Ikom (1543) and Etung (1561), bringing the total population of registered Cameroon refugees in our study area as at December, 2019 (The period with the latest figure approved for public consumption) to 21,608 (UNHCR, 2019c); see map below:



Source: UNHCR, January 2020

Research Design

For this analysis, the Descriptive Survey design will be followed as it involves collecting and using data systematically from a given population to explain those population characteristics. In order to identify the entire population vis-a-vis human rights issues and the rehabilitation of Cameroon refugees in Cross River State, the design is considered suitable for this study as the study is intended to collect data from small groups. It also has the value of collecting data on personal attitudes, values, desires, motives, aspirations and future plans, as well as past behaviour (Osuala, 2001; Leah, 2008).

Sample Size and Sampling Procedure

Since time and scope of the study would not allow for study of the entire population, a sample of the population is therefore inevitable. The population of the Cameroon refugees in Cross River state Nigeria as at December, 2019 according to UNHCR stood at 21,608. Therefore, using the Taro Yemene's formula which Jennifer and David (2009) highly recommends for calculating and selecting sample when the total number of the population is known, we have the computation as shown below:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where

$$\begin{aligned} n &= \text{sample size sought} \\ e &= \text{level of significance} \\ N &= \text{population size} \\ n &= \frac{21,608}{1 + 21,608(0.05)^2} \\ &= \frac{21,608}{1 + 21,608(0.0025)} \\ &= \frac{21,608}{55} \\ &= \frac{1+54}{21,608} \\ &= 392.87 \\ &= 393 \end{aligned}$$

The purposive sampling technique will be employed to select participants from the three locations for the study. This sampling technique is more applicable because the target population is not static or specific at a given location, as many refugees keep coming in. Cross River state have 18 LGAs out of which 3 has the concentration of the Cameroon refugees. Therefore, the refugees were purposively selected from each of the 3 locations according to the proportion of their population as follows: Ogoja (156), Ikom (139), Etung (98), to respond to the interview. Also, with the purposive sampling, 10 officials of humanitarian organization from each of the selected location, to make 30 officials, were selected as respondents for interview. This will give a total of 423 respondents (393 refugees and 30 staff of humanitarian Organisations).

Method of Data Collection

The major method of data collection used is the interview method which was administered by the researcher and some research assistants who understands and speaks the Cameroon Pidgin fluently. With the help of the research assistants who were thoroughly trained for the specific need of the study, the interview was in three sections administered simultaneously at the three locations. The collected data from the interview were collated, transcribed and configured for analysis.

Method of Data Analysis

To interpret quantitative data obtained from the field, basic descriptive statistics will be used. And for the qualitative data, improved immersion in the data is established by repeated reading of the transcripts. Therefore, in order to show participants viewpoint of key topics, key statements will be quoted in English for general understanding.

3. DATA ANALYSIS, RESULT AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

This section is set to analyse and discuss the results of the study from the demographic characteristics of the refugees as well as the staff of the humanitarian organisations who formed the study's respondents.

Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The section starts with the respondents' socio-demographic characteristics as shown in Table 1 below. The table shows respondents characteristics according to their age, gender, marital status, religious affiliation, educational qualification, and family size. The table 1 shows the age of the respondents to cluster between 36-55yrs, it shows that more of the refugees were in the age bracket 46-55years (38.2%), closely followed by those 36-45 and 26-35 years (26.7 and 24.4%) respectively. Therefore, the percentage of the respondents within the age bracket 46-55yrs and 36-45yrs implies that more of the families affected are middle-aged families. The older ones 56 and above scoring on 10.7% may indicate inability to run for a far distance and they therefore resign to fate. While the younger ones 26-35yrs scoring less percentage could be an indication of the mobility status of people in that age, meaning that much of that age may not be comfortable with the camp life and therefore move even to other parts of the country Nigeria with no trace. The finding shows that the Humanitarian Organisations (HOs) staffs are more within the bracket 36-45yrs (36.7) followed by those 26-35yrs which is a possible explanation of the labour policy on age of appointment and retirement across Africa.

The data shows there were both male and female refugees and HOs staff in the camp with more male (78%) than female (21.9%), which may be as a result of the African culture where men are seen as the head of the family and therefore should represent the family as heads. Therefore, most of the women who

responded to the interview as heads of their family were either separated with their husband, single or divorced.

Most of the respondents were married (47.5%), less were single (14.2%) and very few were cohabiting (0.7%). The divorced/separated and the widowed scoring (13.7 and 23.9% respectively) shows a relatively high percentage population of single parents among the refugees indicating possible trauma that could be a consequence of the displacement resulting from the dispute, which is worrisome considering the consequences of single parenthood. The religious inclination of the respondents is in no doubt a reflection of the popular religion practiced in the Cameroons added to the fact that the refugees are also aware of the prevailing religion in the area they were migrating and therefore must have chosen Cross River state as where they could be welcomed for religion's sake. The Christians refugees scored 81.9%, Moslems scored 13.5% and others 4.3%. This is also reflected in the HOs staff (63.3% Christian and 36.7% Moslems) as they could also be deployed according to religious inclination for easier operations.

Data reveals that the refugees' population was more of less educated people holding O'level certificates (61.6%), B.Sc./Equivalence (36.1%) and few postgraduate degree holders (2.3%). This level of education indicates that majority of the respondents must have lived by means other than blue/white collar jobs, which have been taken away by reason of displacement. Therefore, it suffices to say that they are for a fresh start in the camp, and life won't be easy for them. Conversely, the HOs staff is made of more B.Sc. holders (63.3%), followed by O'Level holders (23.3%) and Postgraduate degree (13.3%) indicating educational requirements for securing such job positions.

Lastly, data on the family size of respondents reveals that while the refugees have large family size, 4-6(41.9%) and 7-9(37.2%), the HOs staff go with smaller family size, 1-3(53.3%) and 4-6(23.3%). Among the IDPs, people with family size 1-3 are very few (6.4%) while the HOs staff have more respondents in this family size category. As the population of IDPs with larger family size 4-6 increases, that of the HOs reduces. This suggests a possible connection between level of education and family planning.

Table 1: Demographic variables of respondents

Variables	Group	Refugees		Hos		Total Response Frequency	Percent
		Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent		
Age	26-35 yrs	96	24.4	10	33.3	106	25.1
	36-45 yrs	105	26.7	11	36.7	116	27.4
	46-55 yrs	150	38.2	7	23.3	157	37.1
	56 yrs & above	42	10.7	2	6.6	44	10.4
	Total	393	100	30	100	423	100
Gender	Male	307	78.1	23	76.7	330	78
	Female	86	21.9	7	23.3	93	21.9
	Total	393	100	30	100	423	100
Marital status	Single	50	12.7	10	33.3	60	14.2
	Cohabitation	3	0.8	-	-	3	0.7
	Married	183	46.6	18	60	201	47.5
	Divorced/separated	58	14.7	-	-	58	13.7
	Widowed	99	25.2	2	6.7	101	23.9
	Total	393	100	30	100	423	100
Religious affiliation	Christianity	323	81.9	19	63.3	342	80.9
	Moslem	53	13.5	11	36.7	64	15.1
	Others	17	4.3	-	-	17	4
	Total	393	100	30	100	423	100
Educational qualification	O'Level	242	61.6	7	23.3	249	58.9
	B.Sc/Equivalence	142	36.1	19	63.3	161	38.1
	PG Degree(s)	9	2.3	4	13.3	13	3
	Total	393	100	30	100	423	100
Family Size	1-3	25	6.4	16	53.3	41	9.7
	4-6	165	41.9	7	23.3	172	40.7
	7-9	146	37.2	5	16.7	151	35.7
	10 and above	57	14.5	2	6.7	59	13.9
	Total	393	100	30	100	423	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2019

Key: HOs = Humanitarian Organisations, PG = Postgraduate

Relationship between the Refugees and Host Communities

This analysis on the relationship between the refugees and host communities is made to find out how receptive the host communities are to the refugees, which can reveal how much of their human right the refugees enjoys and the consequence this could exert on the rehabilitation of the refugees. This analysis is done bearing in mind that the influx of refugees into any community is not always easy for such community as it could affect their economy, politics and even the ecology (Leah, 2008; Jennifer and David, 2009; Isabel and Carlos, 2017). The study also took cognizance of the research (Nirmal, 2001, UNHCR, 2006) identified human rights, that may in general terms and based on the specific nature of the camp, be at risk. These includes the right to freedom of movement and rights related to it, Right to a name and nationality, Economic, social and cultural rights, and Access to education. It is on this background that both the HO's staff and the refugees were interviewed and the data collected analysed as follows.

The study has found that the relationship between the refugees and the host communities is both cordial and accommodating. Generally, the state government has mapped out areas in three local governments majorly, for housing of the refugees in camps. It is also discovered that away from the camp before the refugees are discovered, members of the host communities have been helpful in sheltering and helping the refugees to settle. This conclusion is well captured in some of the responses both from the staff of HO's and the refugees as seen in the following excerpts.

A Staff of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Agreed That the Relationship Between The Refugees And Host Communities Have Been Cordial And He Answered Thus:

"Some of the refugees were reluctant about going into camp, and that was because they felt safe in the communities. We only had to convince them with the added benefits of being together in the camp."

Asked About the Accommodation Arrangement for The Refugees, The Staff Answered Thus:

"...payment for their accommodation was another reason why many of them agreed to go to the camp, but some are still living in the community with arrangements between them and the people accommodating them".

In Some Similar Responses, A Staff of Catholic Caritas Foundation of Nigeria (CCFN) Agreed That the Relationship Has Been Cordial as He Reported a Partnership for Security Between the Refugees and Members of the Host Communities. And It Was Confirmed by A Staff of Mediatrix Development Foundation (MDF), Who Spoke Thus:

"...yes, I believe the host communities are ready to assist the refugees, else why would they take part in security patrols for the refugees as I have seen them do".

"...yes, in some of our training sessions, some of the attendees came from outside the camp. So, yes some of them are still living with members of the host community. ...some are living free in uncompleted building, while some are working for the owners of their shelter".

On the issue of violence against the refugees, a staff of CCFN, 32 years old male responded that violence against refugees is a global challenge, which his organization is involved in combating. Generally, most of the responses indicate there are no publicly reported case of violence against the refugees by the host communities in cross river state.

From The Refugees, A 19 Years Old Lady From Akwaya, Cameroon Who Fled Since October 2017 Found Shelter In A Man's House In Amana (Obanliku LGA, Cross River State), As She Responded Thus:

"Because of the crisis going on in Cameroon, I fled and crossed into Nigeria. Since October 2017, I have lived here in Amana and the local community embraced and welcomed us".

Another man of 35 years with his two children said to have lost the wife to the crisis and ran to cross river state, stated as follows:

"am happy with the people here, they welcomed us well, though we stayed in uncompleted building before we were taken to Adagom settlement, but its not their fault, they did their best".

Further Quizzed On Violence, Majority Of The Refugees Agreed There Is No Violence Against The Refugees From The Host Community, Except For One Young Girl Of 23 Years Staying In Okende Settlement (Ogoja LGA Of Cross River State) At The Time Of This Interview, Who Responded As Follows:

"it was before we came to the camp that some boys (She described "some boys" to be sons of their landlord) in Amana village will always want us (she explained "us" to mean she and her younger siblings) to do their biddings and if we fail to obey, they will be slapping us to force us".

When asked on who they reported such ill-treatment to, she complained she is just there with her younger siblings as she cannot say where their parents are.

Health Services for the Refugees

The study was interested in the health services for refugees based on the backdrop from the statement of the UNHCR (Sadako, 1995) on rehabilitation, that humanitarian and emergency relief, demilitarization, including demobilization and demining, political, social

and economic restoration are included in post-conflict rehabilitation. These are both interlinked and interdependent elements. The way one is tackled will ultimately impact the others. It is important to approach them comprehensively, simultaneously and with the same sense of urgency. Therefore, it becomes imperative to assess the health assistance available for the refugees as that can also impact on the effectiveness of their rehabilitation.

The Study Found Some Level Of Specialization And Division Of Labour Amongst The Hos Who Majority Of Them Agreed That The Health Services Was Majorly Coordinated By The MSF As Aided By Other Organisations. But Ultimately Medical Supplies Were Found To Be Sourced From Both World Health Organisation (WHO), And UNHCR. The Refugees Also Responded In Affirmative To Receiving Healthcare Assistance From The Hos, Thus:

"the sans Frances workers treat us when we are sick. ...like last week, when my daughter was sick, I took her to the Caritas office, they checked her temperature, ask her some question, then they told us to go to Sans Frances office for treatment". (38yrs old male in Okende settlement)

Further, the data reveals that the settlements are yet to be well equipped with health facilities, which the

HOs officers argued is due to lack of funding. According to them, they make do with the available funds to get the basic necessities for health. It was discovered also, that the WHO gives assistance to HOs for the immunization of the refugees, which the refugee respondents agreed to with much appreciation that expresses how much need they have for health care. During one of the interview sessions, the head of the 13 autonomous communities in Okende settlement (46yrs old male), who migrated from Eyumojock boarder village of Cameroon to Akwaya Cross River state in 2017 responded thus:

"the World Health Organisation have tried to give us immunization. ...the immunization is given to any new person that come in from Cameroon, because most of the time they are sick after staying many days in the forest".

On the current Covid-19 pandemic, the HOs officers responded that there was no confirmed case recorded among the refugees nor the HOs officials in Cross River state. But they were about three reported cases, two in Adagom settlement and one in Okende settlement, all of which were later found not to be covid-19 but other ailments with similar symptoms. It was discovered that the covid-19 protocols were also observed, but more at government offices and public facilities established by the HOs as can be seen in figure 1 and 2 below.



Figure 1: The Cross River State Emergency Management Agency's office in Adagom refugee settlement, Ogoja LGA.



Figure 2: Toilet and bathroom in Okende settlement in Ogoja LGA, Cross river state.

But for the refugees, they believed they have other challenges graver than the covid-19 as can be glimpsed from some of their responses as follows: *"...yes they told us not to make movement, not to check hands, not stay in crowd, but when am hungry, my children are hungry, there is no food at home and you tell me not to move, how possible is it?"*. (40yrs old male from Otu village in Cameroon, settled in Adagom settlement, Cross river state)

"they told us there is virus and what we should do or not do, but is it not when you have peace and comfort in your you will remember those things, here all we need is to

survive and go back home". (37yrs old female in Okende settlement)

These and similar answers in the gathered data shows that the refugees heard the news of the corona virus, were taught of the protocols to prevent the virus, and finally did not record any confirmed case as at the time of this interview. Yet, it is also discovered that the refugees did not follow the covid-19 protocols as confirmed in figure 3 and 4 below where the refugees are seen clustering against the social distancing protocol, without face mask either.



Figure 3: Refugees relaxing in an uncompleted building in Okende settlement



Figure 4: Refugees at a park in Adagom settlement

More on the health services to the refugees, the study found that the refugees are mostly aware that they need health assistance. Yet they are not getting the much desired assistance, since there are no standard health facilities in the camp, the health centers close to the camps are dilapidated and in need of repair, the roads that leads to the hospitals are in bad shape, making it difficult for the refugees to access health care. Nevertheless, the refugees report their health issues majorly at the MSF office in the settlement, from where necessary actions are being taken.

Education for the Refugees

The study sought to find out the efforts at educating the refugees, since it is believed that education is power. It is believed that their rehabilitation will be more effective if they are educated, since their students have left their schools there in Cameroon, their rehabilitation is incomplete without finding a way of getting them back to school. The data gathered indicate that most of the young Cameroonian refugees are not in school for lack of funds. That there have been limited opportunities for scholarship, which most outstanding the DAFI scholarship sponsored by the German government through the UNHCR. And that the refugees are eager and ready to go to school if they had the opportunity. It was also gathered that the refugees have started internal arrangement for themselves where some teachers among them are being recruited by some parents to teach their children on individual arrangements. The following responses from the refugees throw more light on the above data.

"most of the refugees of school age are not yet in school and mostly for lack of fund. ...some of them are helping themselves by getting private tutors for their wards, but others are not making any effort". ...yes, there are consultations on how to help them educationally, and they have been some scholarship opportunities though limited. (40yrs old staff of MDF in Adagom settlement)

"...no, the government is not giving scholarship. The only help I have seen is the DAFI scholarship which they selected only very few". (a 31yrs old female teacher in Adagom settlement)

"my children want to go to school, but I have not saved much to register them in school, so am still working to send them". (a 34yrs old man with seven children in Okende settlement)

Humanitarian Activities and the Living Standard of Refugees

On the living standard of refugees, the data gathered shows that the refugees are living below average as they lack in many basic amenities of life. Though the settlements are built in line with the WASH principles, the refugees still complain to be in lack of many amenities like water and sanitation equipment. This was attributed to lack of funding by the HOs staff who admit that the water supply in Adagom settlement proved insufficient especially during the Covid-19 lockdown period, with the social distancing protocol. The study also gathered that the HOs at the moment is more concerned with the settlement and security of the refugees than on economic empowerment. Nevertheless, the data reveals that the refugees are helping themselves to look for means of livelihood as captured in the following excerpts.

A 37yrs old single mother of two children, who fled Mamfe in the Manyu division of Southwest Cameroon in 2017, have this to say on how she fends for her family:

"...I do not want to rely on anybody to feed my children and meet my needs so I hustle on my own and I make up to ₦1,200 to ₦2,000 per day, working in construction sites, chewing stick processing factory, and in cocoa and cassava farms"

Relatedly, a 35yrs old father of two, gets paid ₦1, 500 per day to work from 6am to 2pm, but he complains:

"...but even the job doesn't come every day and things really getting worse for us..."

"...Sometimes they supply food items and other things we use in the house, but that doesn't reach everybody. People sleep on the bare floor when you visit some house-holds because there are no mats, no mattresses, no mosquito nets or stoves, which is why most of us cook on stones in the open."

Finally, the study gathered that more efforts are being put in place by the federal and Cross river state government to help improve the living standard of the refugees, and such assistants is said to come in forms of skill acquisition training and empowerment programmes.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the foregoing analysis of the Cameroon refugees in Cross river state, Nigeria, it is evident that the violence experienced by the refugees have left them in some levels of trauma that needs careful attention. It is also clear that they are aware of their need for protection and rehabilitation which is why they fled to safety. Yet it is also established both from previous researches and confirmed in this study that some of the rights of the refugees are at risk due to their status.

This study has therefore, studied the rights of the refugees and their rehabilitation, and have found that in as much as some of the refugees rights, such as right to freedom of movement, right to life, right to education and others are at risk, the UNHCR with partner organisations are making frantic efforts to ensure that the refugees right are being protected as that would go a long way in ensuring the efficiency of their rehabilitation. Nevertheless, the study found that notwithstanding such efforts several challenges still abound.

The study found that lack of funding is one major challenge that has led to many clogs on the wheel of rehabilitating the refugees. The study observed that water supply is insufficient in the refugee settlement, sanitation and hygiene equipment are not in steady supply, most of the time food and other household supplies does not get to everybody in the settlement. On health, there is no standard health facility in the settlements, the nearby ones are in need of repairs. There is no good road to access the nearby health centers to the settlement. Most of the young refugees are not in school yet, and all of these set backs are blamed on lack of funding.

Another major challenge identified is lack of land allocation for the settlement of refugees. It was

discovered that only two settlements have been allocated and built - the Adagon and Okende settlements in Ogoja LGA, while other settlements like those in Ikom LGA, and Agbokin Waterfalls and Ajassor in Etung LGA are more like transition settlements.

Finally, illiteracy on the side of the refugees was also identified as one challenge limiting the rehabilitation of the refugees. Illiteracy have made it difficult for most of the refugees to understand their rights, such that in their struggle for survival, they do things that infringe on their own right. It is on this backdrop that this study makes the following recommendations.

Since the issue of refugees is a significant aspect of the defense of human rights, human rights organisations, humanitarian organizations, the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights (UNHCR), governments and the United Nations should take a careful look at their respective positions and make concerted attempts to eradicate and secure the rights of refugees from human rights violations. In the specific case of the Cameroonian refugees in Cross river state Nigeria, the following recommendations (which can be applied elsewhere with similar situations) are made.

1. Improved funding: the limited funding has led to limited resources which are necessary for the protection of the rights of the refugees and consequently limits the effectiveness of their rehabilitation. Therefore, it is necessary and a matter of urgency, that the United Nations and all stakeholders get involved seriously in funding the security of rights and rehabilitation of the Cameroon refugees in Cross river state Nigeria.
2. Land allocation: it is necessary that the refugees are gathered together in a particular place where they can feel something close to home. This will go a long way in reducing the psychological effect of losing their homes. Therefore, the Cross river state government should allocate more land for the settlement of refugees.
3. Illiteracy: an illiterate is like a blind man who harms himself over and over without knowing how. The education of the refugees will go a long way in rehabilitating them, and that makes the improved funding recommended above very pertinent. Secondly, the UNHCR and other stakeholders can establish schools in the settlements and at least subsidize tuitions fees if outright free education can't be possible.

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