ACTION PLAN FOR THE VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION OF NIGERIAN REFUGEES FROM CAMEROON

INTRODUCTION

In conformity with Article 26 of the Tripartite Agreement signed on 2 March 2017 in Yaoundé, Cameroon, the Technical Working Group (TWG) constituted by the Tripartite Commission, among other steps, will adopt operational modalities, timelines and an agenda for the implementation of the
Tripartite Agreement for the smooth return; transitioning and final repatriation/reintegration/resettlement processes. The Action plan seeks to convey the commitment of all stakeholders to joint planning and implementation of the repatriation exercise. This Action Plan will also be complemented by other working documents, implementation modalities, Standard Operating Procedures, guidelines developed/adopted by the TWG. In order to achieve the above, this Action Plan is set out by the TWG to provide a clear and practical checklist of actions related to movements/repatriation arrangements for voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees in Cameroon.

The objective of the Plan of Action is to ensure the successful repatriation of Nigerian refugees meets the provisions of the Tripartite Agreement through a properly planned and coordinated exercise that is done in safety and dignity. This is to ensure the successful return, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction in places of return in Nigeria; and equally the environmental restoration and rehabilitation of refugee affected areas in Cameroon. The planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the exercise will conform to the following minimum guidelines:

- ✓ Improved security situation in Borno, Yobe, Adamawa, Taraba and any other state of return;
- ✓ Start basic rehabilitation in areas of return, revise 3W and reinforce humanitarian presence in strategic areas of return
- ✓ Review the capacity of civilian institutions and law and order; where appropriate, build the capacity of these institutions (or mobilize other actors to do so)
- ✓ Readiness of accommodation on minimum expected to completed or near completion ✓ Ongoing security update
- ✓ Training of government staff, NGOs, etc.
- ✓ Effective coordination and information sharing mechanisms between the two countries and internally.

PLAN OF ACTION AND TIME-FRAME FOR THE REPATRIATION EXERCISE COUNTRY OF ASYLUM/DEPARTURE					
ACTIONS TO BE COMPLETED		**OFFICIALS**	**COMMENTS**	**TIME-FRAME**	**Observations**
PREDEPARTURE PHASE					
1. Information and awareness-raising of refugees on the repatriation process	▪ Awareness campaign	UNHCR, CMR	Permanent action	In progress, Until December	DONE A mobile information caravan has been put in place in Minawao camp to provide information to refugees about conditions in return areas A partnership agreement has been signed with LWF for a mass information campaign on volrep A communication campaign has been launched in collaboration with local media under the coordination of the CRTV
	▪ Surveys on intentions to return				First round in May and second in Novmber 2017
	▪ "Go and See", "Come and Tell";				First visit in November 2017 Second round planned for January 2018
2. Level 1 and 2 registrations of refugees living out of camp and biometric registration for refugees living in Minawao Camp		UNHCR, CMR		In progress, until December	DONE
3. Measures shall be taken to ensure family reunifications		Parties	ICRC	In progress, until	Strengthening of BID panel in Mayo-Tsanaga divsion (where Minawao camp is located)

				December	BID Panels being created in the three other divisions hosting the biggest number of refugees Campaign to conduct BIAs for all UAM/SC in Minawao Data on UAM/SC shared with UNHCR Maiduguri
4. Registration of refugees applying for voluntary repatriation		UNHCR, CMR		mid-September through December 2017	VRP production mechanism available Broadcasting of the repatriation preregistration calendar until 15th december First wave of preregistration between 15th december and 15th January
5. Development of transit areas		UNHCR, CMR		December 2017	Land for sites has been attributed, topographic mapping and plans completed for the three centres (Dabanga, Mora and Bourha) Approval for construction given by government ; to be completed by 31 december 2017
6. Documentation:	▪ Voluntary Repatriation Form	UNHCR, CMR		As from January 2018	Need to agree on the standard form Electronic signature from relevant authority
	▪ Issuance of civil status (birth, marriage, death) certificates to children born of refugee parents in CMR	UNHCR, CMR		In progress, until the end of the exercise	Birth certificates systematically issued to children born in Minawao camp Mobile court hearings planned for children born outside of the camp but in Cameroon Some decisions need to be made about children born in Nigeria and children born outside of the camp but in Cameroon

	▪ Issuance of school attendance certificates and diplomas obtained in CMR	UNHCR, CMR		In progress, until the end of the exercise	Processus en cours au Cameroun Travail technique a faire sur l'equivalence des diplomes
7. Mobilization of resources	▪ Media	UNHCR /All parties		October - December 2017	In progress
	▪ General repatriation exercise;				till end of exercise
8. Securing repatriation routes		CMR,		In progress	In progress
9. Easing of health formalities		CMR, UNHCR		At the beginning of the repatriation exercise	all refugees from Minawao camp are vaccinated Define the necessary vaccines for repatriation candidates
10. Easing of customs and immigration formalities		CMR	▪ Identifying crossing points; ▪ Authorization to cross the borders; ▪ Exemption of entry, exit, customs duties, taxes and levies	As from November 2017	Ready In Progress In Progress
11. Planning of logistical and material aspects		CMR, UNHCR		As from November 2017	In Progress
12. Simulation of the repatriation exercise		CMR, UNHCR		January 2018	On 23/01/2018, tentative repatriation date by the February 8th, 2018

REPATRIATION MOVEMENT PHASE				
1. Ensuring security and safety during the repatriation exercise	CMR/NIG/UNHCR	On either side of the borders January 2018	During the entire repatriation process	On going
2. Granting approvals to UNHCR to ensure tax-free use of HF, VHF, UHF radio licences and frequencies to ease communication during the repatriation exercise	CMR/NIG/UNHCR		December 2017	Authorization Granted/ On going
3. Ensuring the effective participation of humanitarian actors in the repatriation exercise	UNHCR		As from November 2017	On going
4. Fixed travel allowance granted to refugees who wish to return on their own (spontaneous return)	CMR, UNHCR	Assistance needed for the return (Financial, material means, etc.)	As soon as the funds are available	In progress
5. Organizing convoys for the transportation of refugees and their properties	CMR, UNHCR		As from January 2018 subject to review of security situation	In Progress
6. Granting return package to refugees applying for voluntary repatriation	UNHCR / All Parties		January 2018	In progress
7. Easing of health, customs and immigration formalities	CMR,		January 2018	On going
8. Specific measures to be taken for people with specific needs	CMR, UNHCR		As from mid-September 2017	Done

POST REPTARITION PHASE				
1. Ensuring the participation of humanitarian actors in the mobilization of resources for programmes to rehabilitate the sites affected by refugees	UNHCR, CMR		After repatriation	On going

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN/ARRIVAL

CORE ACTIVITIES	ACTIONS	Responsible agency	TIMELINE	
PRIOR TO ARRIVAL				
1. Pre arrival arrangements				
	▪ Disarmament and "cleansing" operations are carried out in areas of origin of refugees	NIGERIA	In progress	In progress
		NIGERIA		In progress
		NIGERIA/UNHCR		In progress
		NIGERIA/UNHCR		
		NIGERIA/UNHCR		

		NIGERIA/UNHCR NIGERIA NIGERIA		
	▪ Securing repatriation routes		In progress	Government state/In progress
	▪ Establish a field presence (in areas of return) and identify/analyse possible constraints and obstacles to determine whether refugees can return		3 months from 14 August 2017	Done
	▪ Collect returnee area profile information and needs and assess the absorption capacity		3 months from 14 August 2017	Done
	▪ Planning of logistical and material aspects		In progress	In progress
	▪ Recovery and peace consolidation process carried out (conflict resolution, access to land, socio-economic integration, etc.)		In progress	State government
	▪ Easing of health formalities		On arrival	In progress

	▪ Easing of customs and immigration formalities			In progress	In progress

2. Return Help Desk	▪ Information: prepare estimated movement information (way stations, logistics, road repairs, etc.) ▪ Review security and accessibility situation in main areas of return ▪ Establish civil registration system including biometric verification ▪ Health Screening ▪ Desk for persons with special needs	NIGERIA/UNHCR	3 months from 14 August 2017	Identified On going Done On arrival On arrival
ARRIVAL AND RECEPTION				

3. Provision of Kits	▪ Core relief items to include blanket, Mosquito net, Jerry can, torch light etc.	NIGERIA/UNHCR	On arrival	Departure and arrival
4. Establish Border Way Station – Between Cameroon and Nigeria	▪ Return Registration ▪ Home way station- Reception centre ▪ Biometric verification again for confirmation ▪ Provision of Hot meal ▪ Water, sanitation wares, updates of climate situation. ▪ Lodging for one night. ▪ Desk for persons with special needs	NIGERIA/UNHCR SEMA/NEMA	Subject to clarification from critical stakeholders/Security agencies	On arrival On arrival On arrival
5. Distributio	▪ Provision of plastic sheets	NIGERIA/UNHCR	On arrival	On arrival

n Site at Reception Centre	▪ Blanket ▪ Jerry can etc			
REINTEGRATION PHASE				
6. Arrival Home-Reintegration	▪ Community based project: shelter kits, food rations for 3-12 months, livelihood packages ▪ Provide transportation	NIGERIA/UNHCR/PCNI/NCFRMI/NEMA/SEMA	Subject to clarification from critical stakeholders/Security agencies	
7. Returnee Monitoring systems in place	▪ Post Return Assessment ▪ Establish returnee monitoring systems and mechanisms ▪ Establish Feedback Systems and information Mechanism	NIGERIA/UNHCR	To be established once repatriation is launched	March 2018
	▪ Promote and support initiatives to foster coexistence and			On arrival

	reconciliation;			
8. Ensuring reintegration of returnee refugees	▪Ensuring the participation of humanitarian actors in the mobilization of resources for the reintegration and assistance programmes to Nigerian returnee refugees	NIGERIA/CAMEROON /ALL PARTIES	On arrival	On arrival
	▪Easing birth registrations on arrival to Nigeria Recognition of ▪school attendance certificates and ▪diplomas obtained in CMR Easing ▪the integration of returnee children into the Nigerian educational system	NIGERIA/UNHCR UNHCR/NIG/MINISTRY OF EDUCATION	On arrival	On arrival Post Arrival

	Facilitating access to land for returnee refugees 6-Exempting returnee refugees from various taxes, levies and any financial obligations for a year, or for any other duration deemed appropriate			

POTENTIAL ENTRY POINTS OF RETURN

1. Borno state: Banki and Gamboru Ngala

2. Adamawa: Sahuda

3. Taraba: Gembu

4. Any other states