

NCFRMI MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES, MIGRANTS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS



NCFRMI's RESETTLEMENT CITY PROGRAMME: A MODEL FOR AFRICA

For almost 10 years, the Boko Haram insurgency and other related violence in the North-east has forced the highest number of POCs into permanent and active displacement, with more than 2 million persons in the Lake Chad region left with increased vulnerability and a big hindrance to access to basic amenities.

As a responsive government, President Buhari deployed an inclusive approach in carrying out interventions, which has been exemplified in the context of specific interventions carried out for over 5 years, especially on issues relating to the Refugees, IDPs and Returnee migrants from across the globe.

Also at the forefront of this struggle is the Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development, Hajiya Sadiya Umar Farouk,

who has tirelessly and continuously supported the commission in its efforts of ensuring a successful resettlement, rehabilitation and reintegration of persons of concern.

Upon assumption into office, the Honourable Federal Commissioner, Senator Mohammed made the commission's priorities for the year 2020 and beyond take a shift towards delivering a holistic strategy that sets resettlement and reintegration of persons of concern as primacy.

This strategy gave birth to the NCFRMI's Resettlement City Development & Rehabilitation Programme aimed at responding to the growing need and request of the large numbers of IDPs and refugees in the country as it is worthy of note that as of December 2019, Nigeria has more than 1,000 formal and informal IDPs camps across the country.

NCFRMI's RESETTLEMENT CITY PROGRAMME: A MODEL FOR AFRICA CONTD.

A 2019 needs and mobility assessment report indicated that more than 80 percent of these persons of concern, who were displaced in these camps and many other camps in the neighbouring countries were ready and willing to return to communities of free movement, security and sustainable means of living.

And to make their dreams of such return come true, Senator Mohammed's Resettlement City Programme has been geared towards establishment of resettlement cities across the states in Nigeria, and designed for long-term impact through the reintegration, rehabilitation and resettlement initiatives for the persons of concern as well as a harmonious coexistence with the host communities.

Each resettlement city will include educational learning centres, religious centres, health facilities, recreational parks, skill acquisitions centres as well as security stations. Each city will also have easy access to water, solar electricity and be attached to social services that support their reintegration.

This is in lieu of the fact that the Honourable Federal Commissioner recognised the importance of ensuring a beneficial relationship between the host communities and the persons of concern, thereby ensuring a strategy of providing social amenities that will be beneficial to both parties and encourage a sustainable user-friendly relationships.

Senator Mohammed further recognised a very important inclusion in the resettlement city; is having learning and educational centres for the person of concerns, as the need to give the growing population of youths in these camps basic education, even if its just to learn how to read and write. The relevance of this aspect of the resettlement city cannot be overemphasised.

As the situation of displaced persons in the country gets direr as a result a number of crises, the commission in its efforts to bring comfort and succour to the persons of concern has worked tirelessly to secure vast amount of lands in some states across the federation for the establishment of the historic resettlement city, and the Honourable Federal Commissioner has ensure that every stakeholder is on board as the programme moves to the next level.

Therefore as the commission plans to add another mandate to its welfare plate for the persons of concern in camps across the states by providing a long-term and durable solution to the resettlement issues at hand, there is a growing need for more



assistance and support for the commission as provided through collaborations with various donors within the country and well-meaning Nigerians to this programme.

It goes without saying that a programme of this magnitude needs the continuous support and assistance of everyone in the country, from the government at all levels, corporate bodies to individual who wish to be part of this historic project. A project that is modelled to be the best in Africa and at completion, will be the pride of the nation and its people – there should be a general call to action.

Like we all know, displacement is often a survival mechanism, when fleeing is the only resort people have in order to avoid imminent danger or hardship. However, displacement also tends to make people vulnerable, often exacerbating the difficulties they already face as a result of the surrounding – armed conflict or violence. Displaced people are torn away from their usual surroundings and social support networks. Families are often ripped apart and relatives may be killed or go missing during transit.

The loss of income, possessions and sorts leaves internally displaced persons and returnee migrants unable to meet even their most basic needs in a predictable way or access to basic services. It is our collective duty to help the government and the commission bring back smiles to the faces of these people – for humanity and for ourselves through the commission's Resettlement City Development Programme.

REPARTRIATION OF REFUGEES: RETURN OF 158 NIGERIAN MIGRANTS

According to a report by LEADERSHIP newspaper, the returnees arrived at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja and were received by the National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced persons, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management & Social Development, NCDC, NEMA and NAPTIP. The exercise was done in collaboration between the Federal Government of Nigeria and the International Organisation for Migration (IOM).

The HFC, Senator Basheer Garba Mohammed, ably represented by the Head of Migration department, Joyce Okpara said, "We are here to receive 158 migrants of Nigeria origin that have just returned from Niger Republic, the 158 are made up of male, female and children.", she added that the returnees were supposed to be 177 in number but during the period of their return, some of them fell ill and were not allowed to travel, and that the FG was doing everything possible to reintegrate the returned stranded Nigerians into the society.

She urged them to make better use of their lives as they returned to the country, assuring them of Government's readiness to provide equal opportunities to everyone and enjoined the returnees to be careful with those that promise 'greener pastures' outside the country.



Photo(L-R): Hajia Sadiya Umar Farouq (Minister of Humanitarian Affairs), Senator Basheer Garba Mohammed (HFC, NCFRMI), AVM Muhammed Muhammed (DG, NEMA) and Julie Okah-Donli (DG, NAPTIP)



PARTNERSHIP WITH CBN: PROJECT RELIANCE



Photo (L-R): Tahirah Ikharo, Titus Murdakai, Anthony Ifechikwu, Senator Basheer Garba Mohammed, Harry Owanari and Hajia Fatima MD

As a follow up to the partnership established with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) on the 25th of June, 2020, the Honorable Federal Commissioner, Senator Basheer Garba Mohammed and his team met with CBN officials to fine tune support towards #ProjectReliance — an empowerment programme that will make IDPs & Refugees across Nigeria more self-reliant.

In attendance was the Honorable Federal Commissioner, Sen. Basheer Garba Mohammed, Hajia Fatima MD, Titus Murdakai, Tahirah Ikharo, Shafiu Abubakar, Anthony Ifechikwu (CBN) and Harry Owanari (CBN).

PHOTOS OF THE MONTH



Photo (L-R): Mohammed Alkali (MD, NEDC), Julie Okah-Donli (DG, NAPTIP), Trond Jensen (UNOCHA), Hajia Sadiya Umar Farouq (Minister Humanitarian Affairs), Chansa Kapaya (UNHCR Country Rep.), Franz Celestin (Chief of Mission, IOM) and Sen. Basheer Garba Mohammed (Honorable Federal Commissioner, NCFRMI)



Press Briefing to mark World Humanitarian Day



Nigerian returnees from Niger Republic, at the International airport



Sen. Basheer Mohammed at the NAF Conference center to mark the 1 year anniversary of the ministry



Sen. Basheer Garba Mohammed speaking at the 1 year anniversary of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs



Some of the Returnees children who returned from Niger Republic

OTHER STORIES

1. National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Person's Resettlement city programme: A Model for Africa
<https://leadership.ng/2020/09/02/refugee-commissions-resettlement-city-programme-a-model-for-africa/>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“

A boy or a girl who has been in the displaced persons' camp since the beginning of the Boko Haram crises has probably been out of school for about a decade. That is ten wasted education years for the millions of youths in the camp. This should be a source of concern for anybody.

”

Sen. Basheer Garba Mohammed

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