



SELF SUFFICIENCY PROJECT

Supporting Cameroonian Refugees to Become Self Sufficient

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Acknowledgement

Many thanks to all the donors and groups (see list at the end of this report) who have made this project possible, the refugees who have collaborated in different ways to monitor and support the project, Rhema care organisation at the Ogoja settlement for their expertise, volunteers and project management groups for helping to steer the project to meet the needs of skilled and vulnerable refugees.

Preamble

Following an initial project visit to Ikom local government refugee camp in May 2018 to provide donated items and food, a subsequent visit was planned to support skilled refugees to become self-sufficient. An initial needs assessment exercise carried out at the camp indicated that most of these refugees had skills and previous business expertise that will support their economic independence and minimise the burden on the state if interest free start up loans with free mentoring was made available to individuals. This report provides an update on the level of support provided to skilled Cameroonian refugees in Ogoja to set up businesses and peer group training during the second project visit in September 2018.

1. The Self-sufficiency Project Phase 1 Progress Report

The self-sufficiency project was set up in July 2018 in response to the Anglophone struggle in Cameroon which left over 50,000 refugees displaced in Nigeria. Following the delivery of support to Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria, the self-sufficiency support project carried out a needs assessment exercise to identify key priorities for these refugees. It was evident that Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria had a wide range of talents and skills that could be enhanced and supported to provide sustainable income for their families. A short report on the needs, gaps and opportunities was produced to generate support and donations from groups, individuals, families and friends.

A small team of three individuals was set up to help with fund raising. A total of **£11,311.29** was raised to support refugees in areas where they had skills and previous work experience. To effectively deliver this intervention and gather evidence for donors, a member of the self-sufficiency project travelled to Nigeria for 10 days in September 2018. Her remit was to set up monitoring mechanisms and ensure swift and efficient implementation of livelihood projects across a range of vulnerable groups. This progress report provides a summary of achievements so far. The report provides updates on total donations, individuals supported with livelihood projects, key gaps, structures set up to monitor the project, data gathering steps and next steps. A more detailed research report will follow in 6 months' time with more comprehensive information on project targets, deliverables and impacts.

1.1 Overview of The Cameroonian Refugee settlement Ogoja Nigeria

The Ogoja refugee settlement has over 2200 refugees. The Camp is well structured in communities with quarters and management systems operating as they do in Cameroon. Quarters have structures in place to encourage unity, community level support, altruism and conflict resolution. The Ogoja Cameroonian refugee settlement is made up of 32 communities with 32 community leaders (quarter heads) managing between 18-24 tents of families. Distribution of items and conflict resolutions are carried out directed by community leaders for each community. Only unresolved issues are taken to the next management level

in the settlement. All these leaders are appointed by their communities. The settlement also has a chair and vice chair overseeing all community leaders.

The tents can be locked but they are not very secure - stories of items disappearing from tents are common. There are plans to build more permanent structures in the near future. Refugees are provided with rice/oil and other items but no fish, meat or tomatoes. During the visit, most refugees were complaining of hunger noting that they do not have the money to buy meat or fish to eat. The diet is not balanced and this can have implications for their health.

Most houses in Ikom/Ogoja do not have lights – people must purchase generators to provide lights intermittently. Many cannot afford generators and even when they do, they need money for petrol to run the generators.

There are currently no shops located in this large settlement. Refugees will need transport to visit shops to purchase basic household items and most cannot afford this.

2. Donations and support provided

The Self-sufficiency project has raised a total of **£11,311.29 excluding Volunteer time and expert support**. In addition to group donations from **TMG, Harmony Group, Upper Banyang women Group, PEMEXA batch of 96 USA, Bible Society, Mega Voice and Cameroon Prays, 20 individuals** also provided significant donation to the project. Please see Annex 1 for more specific details.

2.1 How many people benefited from the Self Sufficiency Project livelihood intervention?

Over **800** refugees receive support from the self- sufficiency project intervention carried out in September 2018. **These included counselling and trauma workshops for over 300 refugees, school books for 400 refugee children, business start up and trading for 100 refugees and clothes and shoes for widows.** Following an initial needs assessment and skills audit, it was evident that support to start small businesses and facilitate peer training was required to provide practical opportunities for these skilled refugees to become self-reliant and less dependent on intermittent handouts from generous donors. Support to refugees was provided in the form of interest free credit over a period decided by refugees themselves as suitable to pay off the credit and still support their families. All repaid interest free loans will be used to support more refugees to become self-sufficient. Given the high number of refugees in need of help, credit provision was the most effective way forward to maximise benefits for more refugees. It is recognised and accepted that some vulnerable refugees may not pay back the credit due to unavoidable reasons.

Donations provided by groups and individuals enabled the Self-sufficiency Project to deliver the following grants, equipment and training to Cameroonian refugees at the Ogoja settlement September 2018.

2.2 Bible Provision

Refugees were scrambling for the limited number of bibles the project supplied during phase 1 visit. Consequently, they were reassured of free bible provision during the next project visit. Following a number of written requests for donation of bibles from relevant bible organisations, bible society donated 300 holy bibles. Additionally, Mega voice also donated 150 audio bibles for refugees without primary education. 25 copies of audio bibles were provided for use in the library. Please see photos below.

2.3 Counselling support and Trauma Healing workshops

The Self Sufficiency Project negotiated and secured free Bible society trauma counselling workshops for refugees. Two successful workshops on trauma healing was held with refugees over a two-day period. Over 300 refugees attended the sessions. Key topics addresses were - Theology of Suffering and Dealing with Trauma, Lesson 1, 'If God Love Us, Why Do We Suffer?', Lesson 2, 'How Can the Wounds of Our Hearts Be Healed?' Here, participants were introduced to the concept of trauma- what it means, how people respond to it, why people respond to it the way they do and what to remember about the character of God when passing through trauma. Also, participants were taught that trauma is like a wound of the heart. They were taught the similarities and differences between a wound of the heart and a physical wound, how people with wounded hearts behave, what makes some wounds of the heart more serious, what the Bible teaches us about how to handle our feelings and how we can help people heal from the wounds of their heart. The second session addressed how participants can grieve in a way that brings healing and avoid bitterness and revenge. Here, Lesson 3 of the Module, titled, 'What Happens When Someone Is Grieving?' was treated. Lastly, participants were taught **about trauma in children**. Here, Lesson 4 of the module, titled, '**Helping Children Who Have Experienced Bad Things**', was treated. In this lesson, participants were taught how children who have experienced bad things behave (how their emotions, bodies and behaviours are affected), and **how to help them**.

Responses and feedback from the IDPs underscores the positive impact of the session on them. Many of them stated that they have been **better equipped to heal their trauma and help others do same**. A lot of them were able to change their warped perception of the character of God in the face of their trauma and embrace the true character of God as a loving father who loves and cares for them no matter what they were going through. The session availed participants the knowledge and understanding of **how to identify trauma in children and how to deal with**.

2.3.1 Regular Weekly prayer meeting to provide consistent spiritual support

Following the high level of interest expressed to grow spiritually a weekly conference call prayer meeting was set up to facilitate the provision of spiritual and counselling support on demand.

2.4 Businesses set up

The Self Sufficiency Project funded and supported 100 small scale businesses and market trades including the following.

- Cash provided to start up 60 market trading petty businesses for 60 widows (women and men)
- provision for 30 traders to start the sale of fishes
- 6 small scale business on mobile phone charging, 6 generators, 6 phone charging sets, 240 sockets
- 18 coolers for trading in table market and fishes
- poultry farm funded for a refugee to raise funds and pay for his education
- 3 sewing machines for established tailors in the settlement to start work and train 10 others
- 10 generators for barbers to use for light and shaving
- 15 barbing equipment for established barbers and facilities to train 10 other barbers in the settlement
- two wheel barrows for a refugee carrying load on his head in the market to carry more, earn more and support his family
- One grinding machine for a refugee to use for business in settlement
- 3 Hair dryers and 3 hand dryers for hair dressers to start working
- Laptop for ICT training centre – to train refugees to become computer literate This will be done by a refugee who is an ICT specialist.
- Clothes and shoes for widows and children

Please see table 4 for cost breakdown and spend details. Receipts are all filed for auditing and can be accessed on request.

2.5 Support for Orphans and other school children

The settlement has a high number of orphans (hundreds) and unaccompanied children who have lost their parents. All these children do not have school books or uniforms. We purchased and supplied 1728 exercise books, 576 sharpeners, 576 pencils, 500 pens, 20 school bags for **400 school children in the camp without school books.**

2.6 Provision store and shopping mall for trading

Ogoja refugee settlement is located in a very remote area with no nearby shopping facilities. Following the submission of a proposal from the self-sufficiency project to build a provision store and shopping mall for refugees to carry out their businesses, the settlement officials discussed and agree it was a very urgent necessity. Consequently, the management committee has granted the Self Sufficiency project land to build a provision store and shopping mall to house refugee businesses. **See Pictures below for draft design.**

2.7 Library

The self-sufficiency project also put forward a proposal during the visit in September to construct a library with reference materials to provide a place for collaborative learning, studies, independent research and information literacy skills. This was also approved. The settlement has allocated a plot for the library. **See pictures below for draft design.** The settlement Engineer is working on the building design. Phase 3 of this project will work towards raising funds to build these structures and source relevant library materials from donors.

3. Key gaps

The self-sufficiency project resource could not reach out to all the vulnerable groups in the camp. Only 50% of the widows received support. Given the limited resource available we had to prioritise the most vulnerable. This meant orphans were on top of our priority list. We only reached out to around 30% of the orphans in the camp and the educational material provided did not include school uniforms. We currently have a long list of widows, orphans and skilled refugees waiting for support for education, trade and business start -ups.

3.1 Equipment to support spiritual activities

The settlement runs an interdenominational service for refugees without chairs to sit during service. Additionally, they have no mic for preaching and no projector to use for teaching and worship. Given the importance of spiritual growth to refugees especially at a time when they are very traumatised, it will be helpful to support the church with these facilities.

The settlement has 2200 refugees and only 300 bibles were available. The hall was full for service on the day we promised to distribute bibles. It is unfortunate that many were left without bibles.

3.2 Support facility to treat simple emergency health crisis

Refugees have serious health challenges but lack consistent, adequate and prompt medical attention. Whilst refugee status may entail access to free medication and treatment, in practice there are delays and protocols that mean that some refugees have no drugs. Refugee nurses in the camp requested assistance in the provision of first aid facility to treat

emergences like fever e.g. they reported children having fever in the night when it is very difficult to find a bike in the remote settlement to take the children to hospital.

Over all there are key gaps in the following areas:

- support for over 100 widows on the waiting list;
- school equipment for unaccompanied children;
- support to start trading for over 100 refugees waiting;
- church equipment to support church attendance/preaching;
- bibles for over 1500 refugees waiting in the queue; and
- emergency first aid facility with basic medication for refugee nurses in the settlement to attend to emergencies in the night
- Volunteers to help with fund raising for phase 3.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

An advisory group has been set up to monitor the implementation of businesses and training and provide weekly progress report to the project steering committee. This group is made up of 11 community leaders and 1 refugee – 7 males and 5 females. They have been briefed on terms of reference and project protocols. International meetings with the Project teams in Nigeria and UK take place every Wednesday to discuss progress, challenges and mitigating plans. Clear recording processes on all activities and spend has been set up to ensure accountability and reporting. All project records on spend, receipts and activities are ready for auditing at any point in time.

A steering group made up of 7 volunteers (3 in the UK, 3 in Nigeria and 1 in Ghana) has been set up to ensure effective and efficient delivery of project interventions. This group will produce quarterly report on all activities and spend for donors and any interested parties. The steering group is made up of expert volunteers with skills in the following areas: migration, trauma healing and counselling, data analysis, community development, evaluation methods, social research, customer analytical modelling, geographic information system analysis and medicine.

4.1 Evaluation of Impact

Self-sufficiency Project Phase 1 livelihood support in Ogoja included the collection of baseline data on demographic characteristics, skills profile, previous occupation and plans for interventions received. This data will provide benchmark for assessing progress at 6,12, 18 and 24 months and will help us monitor and evaluate the medium to long term economic outcomes for project participants. It will allow for better understanding of possible causal relationships at this point in time and also in the longer term.

5. Next steps

The next steps include raising more funds to continue supporting more refugees and build structures for shopping provision/ secure areas for different businesses to operate.

The self Sufficiency Project will work very hard to collaborate with willing groups to raise funds for constructing a provision store, shopping mall and library in addition to seeking more support for the widows, unaccompanied minors and potential traders who are currently on the waiting list. Any form of support to drive this forward will be helpful (e.g. groups may take up the library to construct, another can source out books for the library etc). The target is to construct these structures within the next 3 months. Refugee builders in the settlement have indicated their interest to be involved in building the structures. Refugees will be employed to run the shop and trained to run the library. All proceeds will be reinvested in supporting more refugees to become self-sufficient.

Fund raising target for phase 2 to support livelihood projects for 240 refugees and purchase bibles for 1000 waiting for bibles

Table 1. Priority items for fundraising

Description of priority items for donation	Cost per item £	Number of items	Total costs
Monthly cost per unaccompanied minor to support feeding and school equipment	40	100	4,000.00
Monthly cost per unaccompanied minor to support feeding and school equipment	40	50	2,000.00
Cost per widow to start petty trading and buy school books for children for 100	100	100	10,000.00
Cost per trader to start petty trade and purchase equipment for 50 traders	100	50	5,000.00
Cost per trader to set up small businesses for 30 skilled refugees	200	30	6,000.00
Cost to purchase church equipment (projector, sound system, mic)	500	1	500
Cost to purchase 100 chairs for church service	5	100	500
Cost per bike plus documentation for 10 refugees to use for transportation	450	10	4,500.00
Cost to build simple brick provision store, library and market stalls	6,500.00	1	6,500.00
Cost per bible for 1000 refugees	3	1,000.00	3,000.00

Cost of petrol to drive to refugee camp 3 hours return Ikom-Ogoja to monitor project	500	1	500
Data collection, input, cleaning and analysis	300	3	900.00
Total			43,400.00

Table 2. Other items for fundraising

Other Items Required
Donation of old android phones to access, WhatsApp and connect to families and friends. Any other old phones donated will be helpful to provide access to families and friends as many refugees cannot afford phone.
Donation of old laptops, including laptops with cameras for use in the ICT training centre that will be constructed to train refugees to become computer literate/ICT specialists.
Reference books for primary, secondary and high schools for the library
Shipment costs for educational materials

Pictures of Self Sufficiency Project Livelihood Interventions Sept 2018 Nigeria Ogoja



Figure 1 Orphans providing details to receive support Sept 2018



Figure 2 Orphans reaching out to receive support Sept 2018



Figure 3 providing details to receive support Sept 2018



Figure 4 Refugees receive generators, phone charges and box to charge phones for business. Lucrative business for an area with no electricity



Figure 5. Refugee professional Barber selecting his barbing equipment for the project to purchase. Holding receipt for his equipment below





Figure 6 Refugee Cargo Carrier received wheel barrows requested to support back and carry more cargo to feed family



Figure 7 Refugees receive free bibles from bible society



Figure 8 Trauma Healing workshop with refugees attended by over 300 refugees



Figure 9 Widow requesting help. Lost husband lost children



Figure 10 Lost wife, lost a child and now has to support young children with no strength or money



Figure 11. Where some refugees sleep – usually a fight to receive cooked food, which is not enough for all – rice with no meat, fish or vegetables



Figure 12 Refugee child washing dishes by the family tent



Figure 13 . Refugee family in their tent

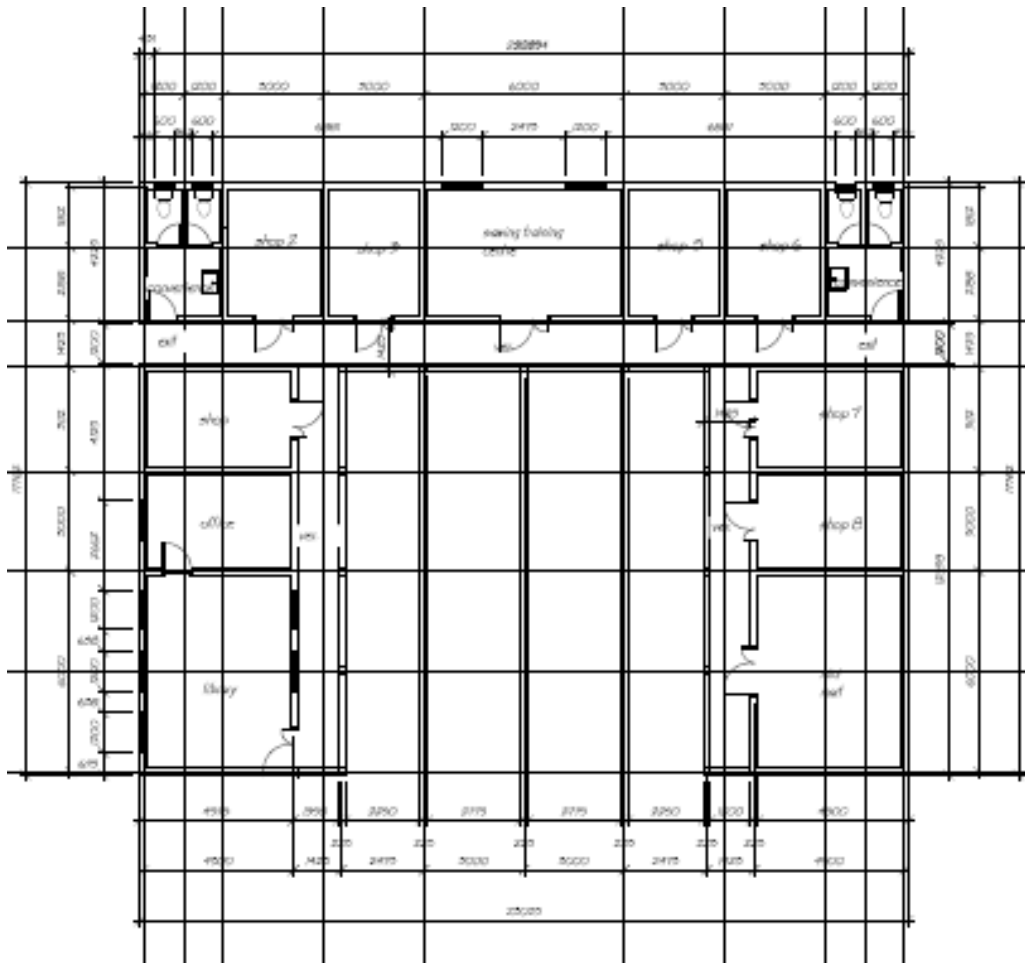
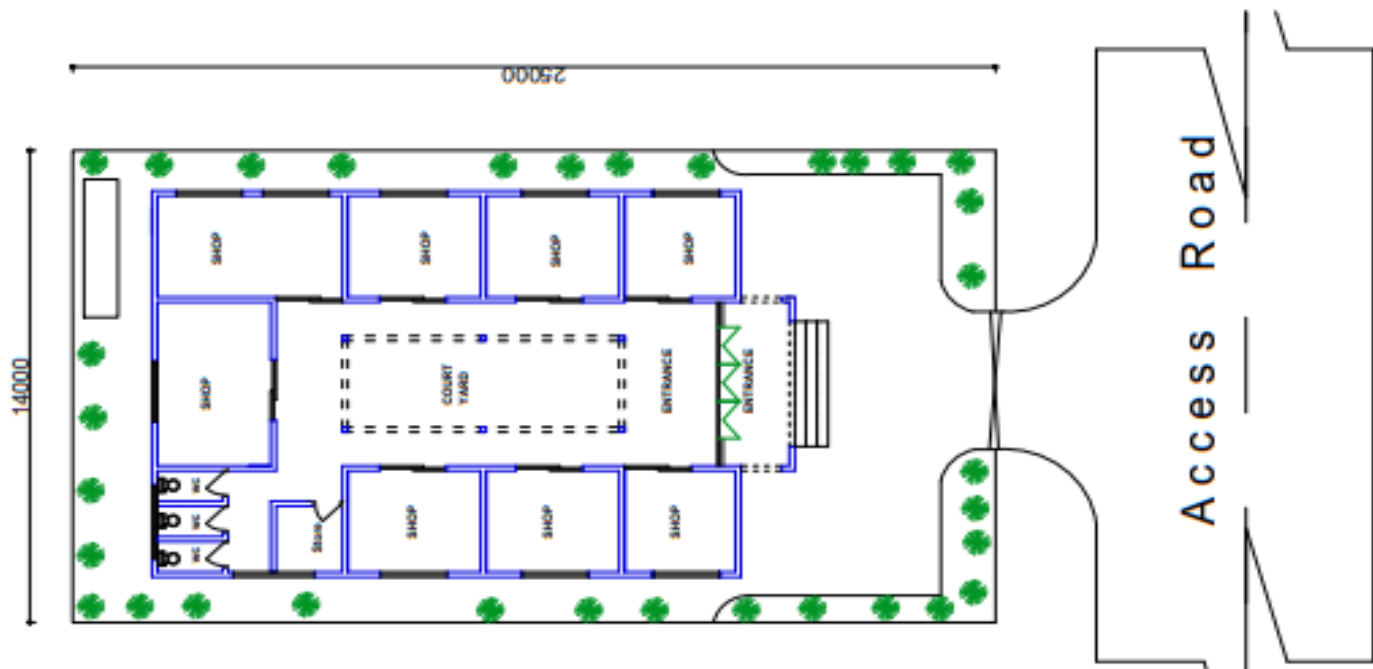


Figure 14 Design for Provision store, Library and Shopping Mall – Option1



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Figure 15 Design for Provision store, Library and Shopping Mall – Option 2

Table 3 List of donors and donations

	Amount
Donor 1 Group	2,000.00
Donor 2	1,000.00
Donor 3	1,000.00
Donor 4	1,000.00
Donor 5	1,000.00
Donor 6	1,000.00
Donor 7	150.00
Donor 8	150.00
Donor 9	150.00
Donor 10	100.00
Donor 11	100.00
Donor 12	100.00
Donor 13	100.00
Donor 14	100.00
Donor 15	50.00
Donor 16	50.00
Donor 17	20.00
Donor 18	40.00
Donor 19	30.00
Donor 20 group	221.29
Donor 21 group	200.00
Donor 22 group	50.00
Total cash donations	8,611.29
Discounts and Donations	

Item	Amount
300 bibles donated worth	600.00
150 electronic bibles worth £ 2250 donated for a token of &150 with 2100 donated	2,100.00
Total discount and donations	2,700.00
Total cash, discounts donations	11,311.29

Table 4 Project transactions

Item	Cost
Company set up fee	48.39
Travel cost; Breakdown = £100 ticket Lagos/Enugu return 10th August, £475 return ticket Lagos on the 31st July 2018, visa processing fees £127.52 on 28th August 2018, travel fuel Ikom Ogoja Enugu, £37.5 fuel cost for car provided 13th -23rd September, £55.97 for malaria and mosquito drugs 11th September, £80 taxi Bicester to Heathrow to catch 6:30 flight 12th Sept, £80 return 24th September	1027
Food items including bags of rice, cartoons of magi, bags of salt, beans, onions, palm oil and tomatoes 200 refugees in the Local Ikom government camp to share	431
Bible Provision discounted rate for 150 audio bibles	170
Counselling support feedback questionnaires	100
Workshop materials, paper, cardboard paper, pencils, eraser, marker etc	40
Refreshments for 2 workshops	100
Petrol for generator to provide lights during workshop sessions	30
Businesses set up cost	
Cash to set up 30 Women/men to sell fish in the market	1200
15 Coolers to preserve fish	510
3 standing dryers and 3 hand dryers for hair dressers 'saloon business and train 10 other hair dressers	210
Sewing equipment (thread, needle etc)	50
1 generator and 15 barbing equipment for 3 established barbers to use for business and train 10 other barbers in the settlement	200
Tapeline and nails to build barbing area	39
10 generators to produce lights for phone charging businesses, 240 sockets for charging phones, 6 charging boards built, lamps	700
2 Wheel barrows for carrying load in the market to earn a living	60
Tiger generator for provision store	200
Table market for baking	50
ICT training centre computer/printer/petrol for generators	400
Poultry farm to use profit and fund education	80
Support for widows to start trading in previous areas of expertise	
Small trading business set for 60 widows including men who have lost their wives	1250
School items for orphan	
School items for orphans including books, pens, pencils sharpeners, rulers	200
Print questionnaires for baseline data collection	100
Data input of 547 questionnaires at half the cost price	120
Refreshments for volunteers	250
Cash donation for small emergencies	118.98
Total	7684.37

Table 5 Project Organisation

Project Board UK		Project Board Nigeria	
Mrs U. Mbuamuh		Dr Unuodion Obeyce	Co-ordinator
Dr. P. Abangma		Dr Awukam	
Dr. C. Tah		Refugee	Secretary
		Mr Temitope Omogbemi	Doctoral student
Self Sufficiency Project Volunteers			
Name		Location	Profession
Dr. Obeyce		Nigeria	Medical doctor
Mr Temitope Omogbemi		Nigeria	Trauma Healing Specialist and Research Analysts
Mr. Hammed Oguntade		Nigeria	Geographer
Mr. Olowookere Damilare Tunde		Ghana	Economist
Emmanuel Oguntade		UK	IT specialist
Professor J. Tah		UK	Academic
Mrs U. Mbuamuh		UK	IT Consultant
Dr. Patience Abangma		UK	Teacher

Figure 16 Map of Nigeria showing refugee settlement in Cross River State

