

The Protection and Integration of Displaced Persons within the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon: Measures, Challenges and Impact

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ABSTRACT: Among the seven Divisions of the East Region of Cameroon, the Kadey has been referred to as “a new haven” and has acted as a sanctuary to Internationally and Internally Displaced Persons from other central African states and from within Cameroon. The main aim of this paper is to analyze the situation of Central Africa Refugees (CARs) and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within the Division. From findings, there were different integrationist strategies that were employed by stakeholders. In conformity with the 2005 Laws relating to the status of refugees in Cameroon, the CARs were allocated Lolo, Mbile, Timangolo and Gbiti as special settlement sites in the Kadey Division by the government of the Republic of Cameroon. As a corollary to these measures, the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) carried out measures rotating around the issuing of identification papers which permitted them to move freely and to benefit from the free humanitarian emoluments provided by national and the international donors. Similarly, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence crusades were carried out in the area to ensure the habilitation of these CARs and IDPs. Since education tops the agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the CARs and IDPs were admitted in both primary and secondary educational institutions in the Kadey. To ensure better health standards for them, the CARs and the IDPs in the Kadey Division were reached by the “Flying Doctors”, both at the settlement sites and government hospitals of the Division. Despite these humanitarian gestures, the CARs and the IDPs faced a number of challenges in integrating into the local community of the Division. The challenges ranged from little knowledge on basic human and refugees’ rights, xenophobic tendencies emanating from the host communities among other challenges. The integration of CARs and IDPs in the Kadey Division of the East Region has thus produced opposing outcomes which on the one hand led to the enforcement of diplomatic ties between Cameroon, Central African Republic and the UNHCR and on the other hand, has raised security issues in the area through the expansion of rebel and criminal networks.

KEYWORDS: Cameroon, East Region, Integration, Internally Displaced Persons, Kadey Division, Protection, Refugees.

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the first fifteen years of the 21st century, crises of humanitarian migrants in Africa most especially in CEMAC Region has been one of the topical issues on the political agenda in affairs of Humanitarian Action and in International Relations in general. Since 1960 the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali and other countries in Africa have been wrecked by civil unrests caused by a number of complicated factors. The Republic of Cameroon by virtue of its geography and other factors served as a sanctuary to the refugees from Central African Republic, Nigeria and Chad. This was because Cameroon has been a state party to the 1967 refugee convention, 1969 OAU protocol and incorporated aspects of the protection of refugees and IDPs in her refugee law that was passed by the lower House of Parliament in 2005. By 2016, more than 20.110 Central African Refugees were hosted by Cameroon in the Lolo, Timangolo and Mbile Refugee Camps in the Kadey Division of the East Region. The Division also played host to more than a thousand IDPs from restive regions of the country. These CARs and IDPs were integrated and granted protection by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other partners. From this background, this paper attempts an inquest into issues surrounding the events that pushed the immigrants into the East and specifically into the Kadey Division; the different integrationist strategies adopted towards the CARs and the IDPs from other regions of Cameroon; the challenges faced by the immigrants and the impact of their integration within the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon.

II. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

For better understanding of this study, we are going to define three basic concepts on which this work dwells almost entirely. The key words are integration, refugee and IDPs. A number of scholars have published on integration, refugees, IDPs, but as regards the East Region of Cameroon and the Kadey Division in particular, little has been done on the aforementioned notions. As a result, UNHCR defines integration as a process of mutual adaptation between a host society and immigrants (including refugees), committing themselves to a common goal. Mafany defines integration as the process of insertion of refugees and IDPs into the host society.

Secondly, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA) defines IDPs as persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence, in particular as a result of or in order to avoid the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized violence, violations of human rights or natural or human-made disasters and who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border. There is no international law applying exclusively to IDPs, but it is up to each country to protect its IDPs' rights. On his part, MareaGrinvald defines IDPs as indigenous people who have left their ancestral sites for a new site in the same region or country.

According to Article 1 of The 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, and its 1967 Protocol, a refugee is a person who,

Owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality, and is unable to or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country.

This is a legal definition, internationally recognized and used in determining whether a person fulfills the criteria for being a refugee. A person, recognized as a refugee, is provided with "international refugee protection", which entitles them to certain rights, benefits, protection and assistance. It also binds them with specific obligations, defined by their host countries. Apart from the 1951 Convention, there are other regional agreements, which give their own definition of refugees. The Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa, also known as Organization of African Unity's Convention, is a regional agreement accepted in 1969, which expands on the existing definition from the 1951 Convention, characterizing a refugee as a person who,

Owing to external aggression, occupation, foreign domination or events seriously disturbing public order in either part or the whole of his country of origin or nationality, is compelled to leave his place of habitual residence in order to seek refuge in another place outside his country of origin or nationality.

Bearing all these conventional definitions, this study defines a refugee, as someone who is out of his or her country of origin as a result fear of persecution or death for political, economic or socio-cultural reasons.

III. SKETCH VIEW OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN CRISIS

After gaining independence in 1960, the CAR has been subjected to five Coup d'états. The first took place in 1965, when President David Dacko was overthrown by Colonel Jean-Bedel Bokassa. Following years of additional unrest under the regime of Bokassa, Ange-Felix Patasse became president in 1993. The democratically-elected Patasse stayed in power for a decade, until he was ousted by former army chief of staff Francois Bozize in March 2003. In 2010, the Francois Bozize's regime came under fire from opposition leaders who announced their intention to boycott the January 2011 elections in light of institutional changes affecting voters' registration process. When Bozize was reelected in 2011, his victory was shrouded by allegations of electoral mal-practices that further threatened the already declining security situation in the CAR. The Bozize government's inability to demobilize rebels and ex-soldiers, along with such foreign involvement as a February 2012 joint offensive between troops from the CAR and neighboring Chad added to growing instability throughout the country.

Deducing from above, the country has been rated the fifteenth most violent countries by the Armed Conflict Location and Even Data Project (ACLED) dataset, with over 2,000 recorded events of political violence between January 1997 and September 2014. However, violence has escalated sharply in recent years: the majority of these events occurred since the outbreak of the current conflict in the country in late 2012. The conflict was superficially a religious inclined, between the Muslim *Séléka* and Christian *Anti-Balaka*. However, its dynamics are rooted in the failing political infrastructure of the state. Indeed, the conflict has seen very limited involvement of state forces, including the army and police forces, which were overwhelmed and under-resourced. Furthermore, the Christian versus Muslim dynamic took form of reprisal attacks.

Violence of the post election’s result of 2012 peaked in the first quarter of 2014; both in terms of the number of violent political events and the number of deaths associated with this unrest. Indeed September 2014 was the most violent year for CAR in the ACLED dataset, with over 800 politically violent events resulting in over 3,000 dead. Targeted violence against civilians was a significant pattern of the conflict in CAR, accounting for over half of all conflicts events in the country. A contributing factor to the levels of violence was the weak chains of command within the active rebel groups and the “communal” nature of conflict as state forces were relatively absent agents in the recent wave of unrest. This resulted to the targeting of civilians not only for strategic political reasons, but also with the intention of terrorizing and displacing large sections of the population.

Since the Republic of Cameroon is one of the nearest neighbors, it resulted to the migration of over 560.000 Central African citizens into the East and the Adamaoua Regions of Cameroon (See Fig. 1)

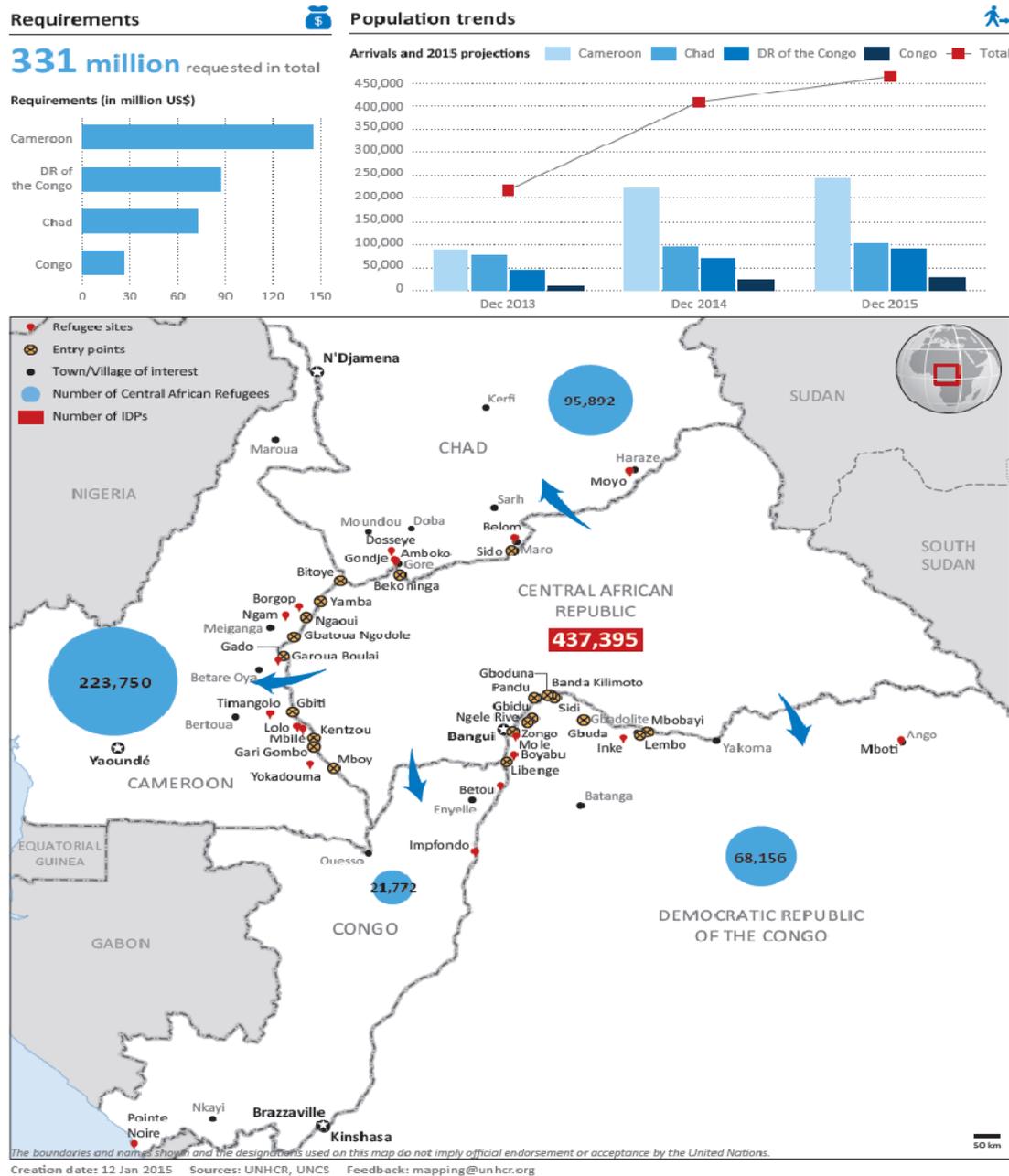


Figure 1: A Combined Histogram-Map Showing a Projected Number of Central Refugees according to UNHCR and UNCS

IV. LEGAL BASES FOR PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS

The Republic of Cameroon ratified the 1951 Convention and Protocol Relating to the status of refugees. Cameroon was part of the 30th October 1961 Convention and also ratified the 1967 protocol relating to the status of refugees in September 1967 whereby the different signatories agreed to apply most of the Articles of the Refugee Convention to all persons covered by the Protocol's refugee definition. Finally, she was a signatory to the 1969 OAU Convention governing the specific aspects of refugees' problems in Africa that entered into force on the 20th June 1974. She finally passed the 12th July 2005 law relating to the status of refugees in Cameroon in Law No.777/PJL/AN of 2005.

From the onset, the UNHCR has been the sole institution that was created in 1951 and implanted in Cameroon in May 1982, vested with the primary duty of refugee affairs. This institution with its bases in all countries was the sole institution that worked with its related implementing international partners in Cameroon, particularly in the East Region of Cameroon. These institutions included the Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Medical Corps (IMC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), International Relief and Development (IRD-US), *Faites Aux Femmes*, Plan Cameroun, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), *Afrique Solidarité* (AS), *Première Urgence-Aide Médicale Internationale* (PU-AMI), the World Food Programme (WFP), CARE International, *ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM*, the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF). Other related UN agencies were the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund formerly United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and World Food Program (WFP). The institutional national partners were government's Ministerial Departments which were formally, led by Ministry of External Relations (MINREX). With all these inter-connected institutional frameworks, the refugees from the CAR in the Kadey Division of the East Region were granted relief aid by the donors led through the UNHCR.

Problems and needs of IDPs were considered to be national problems until the last decades of the twentieth century. There has been global violation of the rights of IDPs, which did not get an international response, since they were happening within a state. The government of Cameroon accepted humanitarian aid coming from the international community. Situations of this kind pointed out that the international response was necessary in Cameroon with the case of the displacement of indigenous people in the Kadey as a result of humanitarian crisis. Finally, in 1991 an international conference on human rights protection for IDPs was held in Washington, DC. The international legal framework and the adoption of binding treaties in the case of IDPs were supported by participants. In 1992, Francis Deng was appointed the first Representative of the UN Secretary General on IDPs, with a role of studying the causes and consequences of internal displacement, as well as their status in international law. In 1998, Deng presented *Guiding principles on internal displacement* (GPID), which were submitted and approved by Commission on Human Rights. This document defines who IDPs are, address their needs and sets out the rights and guarantees their protection, during the whole process of their displacement.

Some governments like Cameroon based their national laws or policies referring to this Document. This document was widely accepted even though it did not present a binding legal instrument, due to the traditional concept of sovereignty, which excludes an outside intervention. Cohen turns to the UN Secretary-General's reform plan, stating that:

If national authorities are unable or unwilling to protect their citizens, then the responsibility shifts to the international community to use 32 diplomatic, humanitarian and other methods to help protect the human rights and well-being of civilian populations. Sovereignty cannot be dissociated from responsibility.

In October 2009 in Uganda, a historical accomplishment was made when the African Union's Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs (AUCPAIDPS) in Africa was adopted. This legal framework is also referred to as the Kampala Convention. It has been the first legally binding instrument on regional level, focused on prevention of displacement as well as the protection and assistance of IDPs. The convention needs to be ratified by 15 AU states to come into force, and so far it has been ratified by 11 (IDMC, 2010b). Bearing in mind that Africa is a continent with more than a half of the total IDPs; this convention might present an important achievement in the field of protection of IDPs. These premises laid the bases for the protection and integration of CARs and IDPs within the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon.

V. MEASURES AT PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE KADEY DIVISION

Measures were taken by UNHCR through her multi-national partners in facilitating the protection and integration of refugees from CAR and IDPs from other regions of Cameroon into the local community of the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon. These protectionist and integrationist strategies included but were not limited to the provision of health care, the inclusion of the refugees into the educational sector, the enforcement of peaceful coexistence and the provision of identification papers.

5.1. Health Integration Initiatives

One of the greatest domains of humanitarian action to refugees from CAR and other IDPs in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon was in the domain of health. The efforts of the government were through the provision of health institutions. The UNHCR through her medical partners by 2011 opened 21 Health Relief Units (HRU) at the Mbilé, Lolo and Timangolo refugee camps in the Kadey Division. The health centers were equipped with medical facilities and medical staff from the different humanitarian institutions under the control of UNHCR. From 2005 to 2015 four HRUs were constructed in the Kadey Division. Six of them were rehabilitated and twenty health centers were equipped to meet the needs of refugees and IDPs within the Division. The UNHCR, AHA, MSF and IMC conducted vaccination campaigns against measles and poliomyelitis. The campaigns targeted refugee children below five years of age.

The Cameroon Government through the Ministry of Public Health, headed by André Mama Fouda supplied drugs, basic laboratory kits and other medical consumables to the health units of Trypano and to the Catholic Health Unit in Batouri. This was intended to reinforce their capacities to be able to resolve the health problems of the Refugees and those of IDPs within the Division. Health care, referral and evacuation services were also made available to refugees from the CAR as formal measures of the government's health aid. The Cameroon government in partnership with the UNHCR and other related NGOs like the Red Cross Movement and *MSF* in the refugee host sites of the Division, conducted community awareness on HIV/AIDS and sexually transmissible infections. The health personnel from AHA, IFRC and CRC in the Kadey Division from 2005 conducted sensitization and awareness-raising campaigns against Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV), child abuse and exploitation. Between 2013 and 2015 the agents of *MSF* paid annual visits to both government and private institutions of learning at the secondary school level to sensitize the IDPs' and refugees' students who were admitted on basic health care methods.

Annually, the Ministry of Health, from the ratification of the plethora of the Conventions and Protocols relating to the status of refugees in the 2005 refugee law subsidized the health sector with the provision of drugs and additional funds. This permitted them to provide HIV/AIDS, STIs testing, early infant diagnosis, anti-retroviral therapy and other drugs and treatments to the Refugees in the respective camps. The CRS, AHA and *MSF* also procured and distributed supplementary and therapeutic foods and other essential nutrition commodities to treat malnourished refugees' children from CAR.

The UNHCR from 2011 monitored and supervised nutritional actions in the refugee sites of Timangolo, Lolo, Mbilé, Gari-Gombo and at community levels in the Kadey Division. Also the UNHCR offered blankets and supplementary feeding programmes for over 34,503 persons in refugee sites and to the host community of the Kadey. This was because humanitarian aid according to humanitarian law is usually intended to benefit both the host and the refugees. Organized vector control interventions with the involvement of community health workers in 2009 were also launched by the UNHCR and its related partners. The UNHCR provided minimum package for the reproduction health center in all the main centers of the East Region of Cameroon. This included obstetric and neo-natal care. This was to meet up with the increasing number of Refugees and IDPs who flooded both public and private hospitals and clinics of the Division. The UNHCR through IMC, *MSF* and the AHA also identified, ensured and took charge of the management of chronic diseases including non-communicable diseases, mental health, HIV/AIDS, TB and facilitated referral services as appropriate to the resurgent refugees from CAR within the sites that were allocated within the Kadey Division by the government of the Republic of Cameroon. Also food (Food by Prescription) was provided to about 150,000 malnourished refugees between 2011 and 2013 by the UNHCR through CRS and IMC in the Kadey Division. The Cameroon Red Cross (CRC) also provided tents that were distributed by the infirmaries in the hospitals and at the different refugee sites of the Division. This emergency appeal as a humanitarian relief to the Refugees and vulnerable IDPs in the region was initially launched on 03 September, 2010 and by 2012; it had assisted over 1500 refugees from the CAR within the Division.

The staff of the Nbandoungué, Betare-Oya and Guiwa-Yangamo integrated health centers in collaboration with the CRC, supported by the IFRC, organized measles immunization campaigns in the regions from 2009 to 2016. This targeted Central African Refugees and IDPs' children, aged between 0 to 15 years in a bid to avoid an epidemic in the camps created to host the refugees. The team also conducted immunization sessions in the camp once a month, following the advanced strategy, for children aged 0-5 years, according to the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) protocol of the Cameroon Ministry of Public Health. Awareness-raising on good health practices was also carried out each week on several themes by the same team.

Due to the massive influx of the 2005 caseloads, many of the supplementary structures and human resources set aside by UNHCR were increased in 2014 at the sites and at the Trypano health unit. Also, by 2015 a primary healthcare system was put in place by the health department of UNHCR, the *MSF* and by the CRC. Medical care in rural areas included services of "Flying-Doctor" to the refugee host villages, outdoor clinics, and mobile dispensaries. The provision of universal health services to IDPs and refugees in the Kadey Division was seen as a priority for human development of the community and the refugees specifically within the

Division. All these health initiatives greatly contributed in integrating the refugees from CAR and IDPs into the local community of the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon.

5.2. Educational Protection and Integration Strategies

The CRS is an international NGO that was created immediately after WWII in 1945 in the USA when the US Bishops saw how vulnerable refugees were as a result of the Second World War. The NGO was to see into the plights of the refugees that fled their countries as a result of the war. Initially, the UNHCR, created in 1951 was given the mandate over refugee affairs. The CRS has been a project-implementing partner of UNHCR. Concerning the package of CRS towards CARs and IDPs within the Kadey Division in the East Region of Cameroon, it outlined a plan of action around community relief service, social cohesion, the propagation of the message of peaceful coexistence, community mobilization spirit and educational empowerment of the refugees.

The main relief service of CRS to the refugees in the refugee camps and those within the community of the Kadey was mainly in the domain of education. This was in line with the goals of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which outlined among other goals the idea of “universal education to all or the advocacy for literacy.” In respect to this goal, the CRS, UNESCO, UNHCR and other partners deployed over 200 sensitization teams between 2013 and 2016 to the refugee sites and camps in the Kadey Division. This was because 99% of the refugees from CAR were Muslims whose cultural values are restrictive to formal education.

The CRS, UNESCO, UNICEF led by UNHCR facilitated the admission of CARs’ kids into the respective formal educational institutions (primary, secondary and vocational) in the Kadey Division. This was because many of the refugees and the vulnerable IDPs retained their children at home for marriage for the girl children and cattle rearing for the boys. Also the educational partners of UNHCR facilitated the admission of the refugees’ children without sex distinction into the nursery, primary, secondary and vocational educational institutions. Their fees at the level of nursery and primary were paid by the UNHCR/UNESCO through her implementing partners. Also in 2013/2014 academic year Government Bilingual High School (GBHS) Batouri, the UNHCR through the CSR paid 208.200FCFA as fees for seven of refugee students within the Kadey Division. Within the same year, over 54 refugees were admitted in Government Secondary School (*CE de*) Gbiti in 6^{eme}, 5^{eme}, 4^{eme} and 3^{eme} classes.

In addition, the UNHCR/UNESCO through CRS and other related implementing partners still subsidized *Ecole Primaire Publique* (EPP) *de* Trypano, EPP *de* Mokolo, EPP *de* Timangolo and EPP *de* Kambelle and paid all the school fees of all the refugees’ children that were enrolled in the different establishments. At the level of the sites, the UNHCR in the refugee camps of Lolo, Timangolo and Mbile organized special space education called *Espace Temporelle D’apprentissage Pour Les Enfants (ETAPES)* for the refugee children. This was to enable them adapt to new curricular in Cameroon which was slightly different from that of CAR. In addition, yearly minimum packages, known as “*Kits Pedagogique (KP)*” were offered to refugee pupils and children of IDPs in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon. This initiative helped thousands of Refugees’ and IDPs’ children in improving their literacy rates. The CRS with funds from UNHCR/UNESCO also offered assistance in the construction and the rehabilitation of classrooms. The construction and rehabilitation depended on the number of refugees and IDPs children enrolled. From the year 2014, yearly universal assistance was offered to primary educational institutions of *Ecole Publique Primaire de* Ngonkora Barrier (Kuete), *Ecole Publique Primaire de* Kuete Groupe I and II, *Ecole Publique Primaire de* Gbiti, *Ecole Publique Primaire de* Baka, *Ecole Publique Primaire de* Chantier and *Ecole Publique Primaire de* Namara. Desks and benches were also offered to educational institutions in need. Besides, School uniforms were offered to refugee pupils in the above schools by the implementing partners of UNHCR in the Kadey Division.

In addition, the CRS with funds from UNHCR/UNESCO assisted hundreds of the refugees and children of IDPs by giving birth testimonials to them in order to facilitate their recruitment and registration into the end of course examinations at the primary and secondary levels. More so, the UNHCR/UNESCO through their implementing partners provided prescribed text books to the schools hosting the Refugees and children of IDPs. This enabled the pupils, students and the staff to have the scarce prescribed textbooks by the state at their disposal.



Figure 2: School Kits to Displaced Pupils at Gbiti (Kadey Division)

The Fig 2 above shows samples of school kits handed to the CARs at Gbiti. The financial packages as means of humanitarian assistance that were offered between 2013 and 2016 by the different stakeholders to the refugees and to the respective institutions in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon depended on the assistance packages that were put at their disposal by the UNHCR/UNESCO. From 2011 to 2016, the secondary school establishments that were at the disposal of the different UNHCR/UNESCO implementing partners were *Lycée de Kentzou*, *Lycée de Kuete*, *Lycée de Mbang*, *Lycée de Boubara*, *Lycée Bilingue de Batouri*, *Lycée Bilingue de Mbang*, *Lycée Bilingue de Ndélélé*, *Lycée Bilingue de Kuete* and *Lycée Bilingue de Gari Gombo*.

From 2013, over 1.500 Refugees, from the Timangolo, Mbile, Kentzou, Gbiti and Lolo Refugee camps were referred to government both primary and secondary school establishments. The refugees in the respective camps were grouped and led by an elder. The designated leaders in the camps worked in synergy with the NGOs in identifying recipient families to host the refugee pupils and students. These families were sponsored or assisted financially by the CRS, the Red Cross, *ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM* and WFP with the subsidization that came from UNHCR and UNESCO. Dafi Scholarships (DS) were also offered to refugee-IDPs' pupils and students who were enrolled at the different levels of education.

Due to the sensitization campaigns that were launched by the UNHCR/UNESCO, CRS and other related NGOs from 2005 to 2017, many of the refugees from CAR and children of IDPs within the Kadey by 2013 were aware of the importance of education and started sending their children to schools. Increased school attendance by pupils of pre-school and primary school-age was witnessed in schools between 2014 and 2016 in all the refugee host sites and in the refugee schools ran by UNESCO under UNHCR in the camps of Timangolo, Mbile, Lolo and Gbiti. Teachers were recruited, trained and supported by UNESCO/UNHCR. More so, the UNICEF produced sensitization materials and organized community mobilization and sensitization campaigns on the importance of education (particularly girl-child education) and participation in school management setup in the refugee camps by the international community in the different sites that were allocated to the refugees by the government of the Republic of Cameroon within the Kadey Division.

Also accelerated learning and remedial programmes for out-of-school refugee children from CAR in the refugee camps in the Kadey Division were also targeted. School kids like bags were distributed to all refugee children and 2,500 host-community students and teaching materials to teachers in the schools in the various camps and in the community schools that also hosted IDPs. According to Article 22 of the international Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, the Cameroon government since 2005 with the assistance of the international humanitarian institutions provided formal education to Refugees in the Kadey in conformity with the international refugee Convention of 1951 which states that;

The Contracting States shall accord to refugees the same treatment as is accorded to nationals with respect to elementary education. The Contracting States shall accord to refugees treatment as favourable as possible, and, in any event, not less favourable than that accorded to aliens generally in the same circumstances, with respect to education other than elementary education and, in particular, as regards access to studies, the recognition of foreign school certificates, diplomas and degrees, the remission of fees and charges and the award of scholarships.

The Cameroon government has regarded education as the backbone of national development since the establishment of its first national development plan. The rate of literacy among the young refugee and population of IDPs in the Kadey Division was very high; more than 98% in 2008. Due to the compulsory education program established by the government of Cameroon, the illiteracy rate amongst the Refugees in Division reduced drastically by 2016 as testified by the increased number of refugees in schools in the Division.

No.	Schools	Refugees class size	Effective indigenes	Total class size	Staff Effective	No. Teachers Needed
1	EPP Becimbam	180	103	283	01	03

2	EPP Boma	75	155	230	01	02
3	EPP Nyabi	241	519	760	03	04
4	EPP Ngoura II	193	307	500	02	03
5	EPP Tapare	82	324	406	02	03
6	EPP Ndende II	167	157	325	01	04
7	EPP Gadji	70	553	623	01	04
8	EPP Ngouindi	46	186	232	01	01
9	EPP Dem II	58	446	504	01	04
10	EPP Sandae	40	205	245	02	01
11	EPP Mobe	26	323	349	01	03
12	EMP Nyabi	32	21	53	01	01
13	EMP Ngoura II	38	15	53	01	01
14	EMPMokolo-	06	134	140	05	01
16	EPP Beuta II	43	136	179	01	02
Total		1374	3720	5094	25	39

Table 1: Class Size of Refugee Pupils under the Divisional Inspectorate of Basic Education for the Kadey Division, 2013-2014.

From the data, over sixteen primary schools in the Kadey Division had on their lists enrolled refugees pupils from CAR. The total number registered that year by the different primary institutions was 1374 with 3720 indigenous IDP children making a total of 5094 pupils in the Division in the year 2013. Due to the efforts made by UNICEF through the UNHCR in synergy with other partners, over 25 primary school teachers were recruited and distributed in the different primary educational institutions in the Division.

5.3. Provision of Identification Papers as an Integration Initiative

Concerning the granting of status to refugees, UNHCR was the sole institution that was responsible for the choice of those refugees or displaced persons to be granted a refugee status. The Cameroon lower House of Parliament in June 2005 voted and setup organs that were in charge of the management of refugees called the Commission of Eligibility on Refugee Status (CERS) and the Refugee Appeal Board (RAB). The prerogatives attributed to these two boards by the law were to see into refugee plights, the internal laws governing refugees, asylum seekers and lastly to see the conditions for a refugee to gain or lose his/her status in Cameroon. Unfortunately, since its creation, it had remained dormant with the escalation of the Central African crisis in 2011, which resulted to the massive migration of refugees from CAR to the East Region of Cameroon. The UNHCR was therefore entrusted by the government of the Republic of Cameroon the role of determining the status of refugees. This was because of the 1951 refugee Convention, the 1967 Protocol and the OAU Convention of 1969 relating to the status of refugees emphasized that “refugee status was to be given on individual basis”. That was why the CARs in the East Region and specifically in the Kadey Division were to be registered as individuals not as group. Since Cameroon is a signatory to the refugee protocols and amended the 1951 refugee original Convention in 2005 in law No.777/PJL/AN, stipulating that “any person considered as a refugee shall receive a refugee card of which the duration of validity and conditions of renewal shall be determined by decree.” This same section provided for the free movement of refugees after the acquisition of passports in what has been termed as “the freedom of movement” in section 9 under “the rights and obligations of refugees”.

The UNHCR issued refugee identification papers to CARs in the different camps in the Kadey Division of the East Region. By 2013, over 30.747 were successfully registered. In Lolo and Mbile being the main entry points, identification was accepted on group basis, pending individual identification that amounted to over 250.000 of them by 2016. It was thus paramount to this effect that the role of UNHCR in the determination of status and protection was not the same in all the refugee camps and the different villages inhabited by the refugees. This was as a result of the mentality of the refugees, the geo-strategic location and geo-politics of the camps in the Division which differed from one another. In 2014, registration of the CARs in the Region was implemented in a manner that ensured that every refugee held a certificate or a refugee card. The provision of travelers’ documents by UNHCR was according to Articles 27 and 28 of the refugee convention of 1951 stating that:

The Contracting States shall issue to refugees lawfully staying in their territory travel documents for the purpose of travel outside their territory, unless compelling reasons of national security or public order otherwise require, and the provisions of the Schedule to this Convention shall apply with respect to such documents. [...]. Travel documents issued to refugees under previous international agreements by parties thereto shall be recognized and treated by the Contracting States in the same way as if they had been issued pursuant to this article.

The registration or status determination of the refugees was done through a special biometric system as a pilot project in the Division by the UNHCR in synergy with the Republic of Cameroon. By the year 2017, over 125,000 refugees were registered and were assisted by the UNHCR in the Kadey Division, its implementing partners with strict collaboration with the institutions of the Republic of Cameroon. The refugee identification cards offered by the UNHCR to the CARs in the Kadey Division were of two types which were based on individual identification and on the composition of the family respectively.



Figure 3: Samples of the Different Identification Papers provided to Refugees

Figure 3 above shows samples of the identification papers provided to the CARs within the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon. The type of card issued by UNHCR to the refugees had the State of Cameroon and UNHCR emblems inscribed on it. This was helpful to the refugees because the document conformed to the international standard and was recognized by the police, the banks and other government services. The UNHCR sensitized the legal department on the relevance of the identification card. Apart from the provision of identification documents, the government of the republic of Cameroon together with UNHCR facilitated the acquisition of birth certificates by the refugees. This was especially with kids who were born in public and private dispensaries in the Division. Births in the Adventist, Catholic, the Divisional Hospital at Trypano and other private dispensaries or hospitals within the past decades were registered, though obtaining a birth certificate was painstaking once the mother and child left the facility. The acquisition of a birth certificates offered legal protection to the refugee children within the Division. The government of the Republic of Cameroon also promoted the naturalization of refugees. Naturalization of a refugee in the host country is a key principle in the refugee convention and protocol of 1951, though local integration is not always a durable solution available for the social protection of refugees. The Article 34 clearly states that;

The Contracting States shall as far as possible facilitate the assimilation and naturalization of refugees. They shall in particular make every effort to expedite naturalization proceedings and to reduce as far as possible the charges and costs of such proceedings.

With the case of Cameroon, the 2005 refugee law and 2011 Presidential Decree stipulated that individuals could apply for residence permit or naturalization. The application for naturalization was approved by the Head of State only if the individual demonstrated an additional value to the country. Since the UN entrusted the affairs of refugees into the hands of the UNHCR, it ensured the aspect of enabling individual refugee who were separated from their families to reunite with their relatives, either in the East Region of Cameroon or back in the CAR. Since the UNHCR was charged with the provision of identification papers to refugees, the papers permitted many of the refugees to successfully reunite with their family members. Between 2009 and 2016, over 15,000 refugees were identified by the UNHCR and out of this number, over 7,000 managed to identify their relatives in the Kadey Division and voluntarily returned to their home country. The provision of identification papers to the refugees greatly assisted in integrating the refugees into the local community of the Kadey Division.

5.4. Provision of Settlement Sites and Shelter

From inception, the government of Cameroon with the consent of the host community allocated Borgop, Ngam, GadoBadzere, Timangolo, Lolo and Mbilé as settlement sites for the refugees in the Kadey Division. This was in the spirit of section 9 of the 2005 refugee law. The sites were allocated to the 2013 caseloads. The type of shelters provided to the Central African Refugees in the different camps were both durable and non-durable shelters since the right to shelter is a fundamental right that was adopted by the Cameroon Lower House of Parliament in 2005 in ratification of the 1951 refugee convention. As cited by Nchinda, a shelter refers to any wooden structure covered with tarpaulins and tents which can last long and withstand hard storms, rain and ants. The refugees in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon were housed in the camps that were set up by the UNHCR. The temporary shelters were constructed, based on the urgent demands for the increasing number of refugees in the Division. Semi-durable shelters were constructed

with sun dried bricks. The UNHCR collaborated with World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Plan Cameroon in the types of structures that were set up easily and were resistant to strong winds. Also some temporary huts were set up by the refugees and the indigenous population in the above sites.

In 2014, the Government of Cameroon allocated some sites for refugees in the Kadey in order to move the new arrivals away from insecure border areas. By 2014 over 59,000 new arrivals in 2014 were settled in the designated refugee sites (**See Map No.1**). The remaining 63,000 of 2013 were dispersed across 98 villages in the East and Adamaoua Regions. Concerning reallocation of the refugees, over 59,000 refugees were moved from the border into the seven safe sites which were established and made functional. Precisely, 8,303 temporary shelters were constructed for 61,781 refugees. The Government of Cameroon has been playing an essential role in providing protection, assuring security, identifying and making refugee sites available. In support of the Government's efforts, UN agencies (UNHCR) and related NGOs provided multi-sectorial assistance with the aim of improving living conditions, restoring dignity and promoting the self-sufficiency of refugees.

Resettlement schemes have been implemented since the early second decade of the 21st century in the Region. The acquisition of lands from traditional authorities and placing them under the auspices of central administration went a long way in relocating the refugees in the Division. Among the earlier projects, was the resettlement of the refugees at Gbiti and Kuete? Later under the first National Development Plan (NDP), new villages were identified as new settlements towards the end of 2013. Examples were Mindourou, Nyabi and Gadji. The housing or the resettlement of refugees was done in accordance with Article 1 of the principle of the refugee convention of 1951. Since the mid-1970s, the government has supported an ongoing housing programme for refugees and IDPs including the construction of refugees' camps with the support of the NDP. This was to encourage and support home ownership for all citizens. Since 2007 the CARs have been eligible for the National Housing. More than 20 relocation grounds were available for all the resident refugees in Cameroon.

By 2015, refugees' temporary communal shelters were transformed into family shelters in refugee camps in the Division. It provided temporary shelters for 875 families and transformed 9,250 temporary shelters into semi-permanent shelters. The needs identified in 38 villages hosting refugees included the construction of 1,500 semi-permanent shelters for the refugees and hosting populations. Some 400 semi-permanent shelters in 98 refugee hosting villages were also constructed in the area. The state provided technical support and distributed construction materials aimed at transforming temporary shelters into semi-permanent structures for both refugees who decided to stay within local communities and those who preferred local families hosting. The UNHCR Constructed semi-permanent shelters for refugees with specific needs, using the community-based approach. It also constructed 110 latrines in the refugee sites, 81 waste disposal areas and installed 606 waste bins in the refugee sites.

Summarily, Lolo refugee camp hosted a total of 12,232 refugees. By 2015, 3,004 shelters were available with about 30% of the people living in descent shelters. Mbile had 12,104 inhabitants with 1,944 shelters constructed by 2016 with a percentage of 33 persons in descent shelters. Timangolo had 6,654 persons with 1,812 shelters by 2016 with a percentage of 61 persons in descent shelters. Ngarisinga had 960 populations with 61 percentages of persons in good shelters. This made a total of 31,950 refugees within the four sites with 6,760 shelters by 2016 with a global rate of about 42% of persons living in good shelters.

5.5. Enforcement of Social Cohesion

Another integrationist strategy was seen with the enforcement of social cohesion and crusades of peaceful coexistence. In order to ensure that the refugees forget their past psychological traumas, psycho-social counselors were placed at their disposal at the level of the camps within the mobile health units and at the level of the Divisional hospital at Trypano by the medical partners of UNHCR. The counselors from AHA sent to the Trypano Divisional health center succeeded in restructuring the mental psyche of hundreds of refugees referred to them by the field teams. To ensure that the refugees co-existed with the indigenous population and IDPs peacefully, sensitization teams were deployed by the different implementing partners of UNHCR to the refugee camps within the Division and into the quarters where IDPs, indigenous populations and refugees lived. The crusaders capitalized on the respect of one another by the refugees, IDPs and the indigenes. Due to the campaigns carried out by the partners of UNHCR, the refugees and the IDPs were capable of co-existing with the indigenes within the community of the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon. The refugees were sensitized on the need of respect of state symbols, property, national emblems and the respect of order. The indigenes were sensitized on habits of non-stigmatization of the refugees, IDPs, the inclusion of the refugees into the educational sector and the inclusion of the refugees into indigenous daily activities. In 2016, the CRS organized social and recreational activities in Timangolo, Lolo and Mbile. Recreational games embodied football, judo and draft in a mixed and integrated manner regrouping the refugee and the local communities. This facilitated social cohesion and eventual peaceful coexistence amongst the IDPs, the CARs and the indigenous communities.

As part of the search for durable integration strategy, the IMC, WFP, CRS and Plan Cameroon between 2013 and 2014 facilitated the gradual socio-economic self-reliance of refugees in the Division and also looked for alternatives to refugee sites or camps. Socio-economic integration resulted in the gradual dismantling of

refugee sites and camps and the integration of refugees into host community of the Division. To confirm this, in 2016, 10% of the refugees that were lodged in Mbilé left and entered into the nearby villages of Ndélélé, Nyabi and Manjou. In order to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and local populations, both groups were taken into account in the assistance provided by humanitarian and development actors. The new elements of the response of 2013 included self-reliance of refugees, resilience and environmental sustainability. In this sense, the response foresaw projects that sought to anchor refugees and permitted them pursue a community-based life approach in the new societies. The integration of CARs and IDPs in the Kadey Division was faced with some challenges as will be articulated below.

VI. CHALLENGES TO MEASURES AT PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE KADEY DIVISION

In spite of the multi-faceted efforts at ensuring the protection and integration of CARs and IDPs in the Kadey Division, there were some of obstacles in the path of a smooth integration into the local community. Also IDPs within the Kadey Division from other regions of Cameroon also faced enormous difficulties in integrating into local community. These challenges included but not limited to the little knowledge on basic human rights, xenophobic challenge, Challenge related to education and Challenges Related to Health Services as will be elucidated below.

To begin, one of the remarkable challenges faced by CARs in the Kadey Division was the limited knowledge on basic human rights awareness. The Cameroon's refugee law of 2005 spells out the rights and obligations of refugees and asylum seekers in the country in its Section 9. These rights and obligations include: administrative justice, legal protection, non-discrimination, access to social services, [...] right to housing, access to court, freedom of practice of religion, right to social and public assistance, right to transfer assets and the right to naturalization among others. In addition, all these were detailed by the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and well elaborated by the 1948 code guiding human rights. All of these constituted part of what has been described as the basic minimum rights and standards that facilitate the survival of refugees and asylum seekers in Cameroon in particular. Conversely, obtaining necessary valid documents and permits from the UNHCR has been a primary step in accessing these government and humanitarian needs and services in the Kadey Division, such as housing, education, medical services and employment of refugees and asylum seekers from CAR in the Kadey Division. The implementing partners of UNHCR who did not extend relief to those who did not comply with the above prerequisite in the Region thus deprived them of some of the rights they were supposed to have benefited in the East Region of Cameroon. Abraham Goni declares

Understanding of human rights by the displaced persons can empower them since it helps refugees and asylum seekers to be aware of their rights which permit them, to seek possible ways which may help them pursue and secure them where the state machinery is reluctant to protect their rights."

Awareness of human and refugee rights as well as the obligations of the Cameroon government in protecting these rights is a necessity in the struggle for the realization of basic rights of refugees and asylum seekers in Cameroon and in Kadey Division in particular. During our research some of our respondents were refugees and asylum seekers from CAR in the Lolo, Timangolo and the Mbile refugee camps. Many of them generally demonstrated very shallow knowledge of their rights first as human beings and secondly as refugees. Over 99% of the 2005 and the 2013 caseloads from CAR, who were in the camps that were set aside in the Kadey Division by the efforts of Cameroon/UNHCR, were not aware of human rights as forced migrants. Only those who were educated had little knowledge on refugee rights. The creation of awareness of human and refugee rights was part of the possible ways of overcoming frustrating effects of xenophobia and acts of intolerance in the Division. According to them, nobody had told them what their rights were except issuing of refugee and asylum permits which were usually unnecessarily delayed. One of the respondents maintains that;

I am ignorant of the international refugee law and instruments including domestic instruments that protect the rights of refugees in Cameroon. I believe most of the security officers as well are not aware of the content and rights enshrined in those documents because of the way they treat us. [...] Ignorance and general lack of awareness by officials of both government and private establishment including us is one of the main problems all of us are facing here at Timangolo.

Mahama Mustapha still reiterated that one of the pressing challenges they faced in Lolo was the issue of processing their permits in time which according to them was supposed to be a priority at the top of preference scale of UNHCR in tackling their plights in the Division. The CARs also acknowledged the fact that their lack of knowledge of human and refugee rights in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon affected their survival since some of them were often intimidated by security agents at the level of the frontier villages of

Gbiti and Kentzou and in the camps allocated within the Division. In such cases, the refugees were generally defenseless since they lacked basic knowledge of their rights.

Mores so, xenophobia and hate speech were some of the challenges the CARs and other IDPs faced in Lolo, Timangolo and Mbilé refugee camps in the Kadey Division. The xenophobic attitudes that developed among the indigenous peoples against the IDPs and Refugees in the Division posed a serious threat to refugees and IDPs protection and the integration into the community. Edward argues that the manifestation of xenophobic behaviour in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon by the inhabitants of the host communities towards the Refugees and IDPs was attributed to inexperience of the population of the Division and the inability of the government of Cameroon in hosting the refugees and other non-nationals particularly those from Mali, Senegal and Morocco. He still reiterated that the natives of the Kadey were among the least educated communities in Cameroon. This affected their perception of the refugees and IDPs in that Division. While maintaining that the problem of xenophobia towards Refugees and IDPs in the Kadey was exacerbated by the confusion created in differentiating refugees from other foreign immigrants, the economic impoverishment of a majority of the indigenes also played a role. They tended to regard the refugees with antipathy because they saw their presence as increasing pressure on the limited job opportunities, food, educational and health facilities and other amenities provided by government and humanitarian institutions. All these made the refugees, IDPs and asylum seekers within the Division to be more vulnerable to attacks from the host and were subjected to discriminations and hate speech as a result of xenophobic attitudes as they were portrayed as a burden and parasitic agents to Cameroon and to their local communities.

Another challenge that was faced in the process of protection and integration of CARs and IDPs in the Kadey Division was related to education. The educational attainment rates of the refugees were generally lower than the national standards. It was especially challenging to staff of the Space Learning Programme called *ETAPES* in Division by the UNESCO/UNHCR. The influx of refugees and IDPs created a situation where the students-teachers ratio of 1:80-100 was far above the national standard of 1:53. The ratio of teacher-students rose to 1:300 in the Gbiti, Lolo, Timangolo etc refugee camps. The amount of school kits that were provided to the pupils and the teaching-learning aids were limited. The number of the pupils, made classroom management by teachers ineffective. In terms of infrastructure, the few infrastructure that existed were not able to contain the large number of the refugees that were admitted at the level of the host sites in the Division. The structures provided by the UNHCR as schools at the refugee camps were simply temporary. Some of these temporary structures were easily carried away by strong winds. At Gbiti on 10th October 2010 out of the 40 temporary structures that were constructed by the UNHCR to be used for *ETAPES*, over 25 of them were blown off within two months by strong winds. The structures that were not adaptable to the environment posed a problem to the smooth execution of the plan outlined by UNHCR/UNICEF in reducing the rate of illiteracy amongst the refugees in the Region.

Between 2005 and 2017, over 30% of the population of Kadey Division constituted of immigrants. The fact that it hosts the largest number of refugees signifies that the host and the refugee communities from CAR were desperately affected by the challenge of food security and malnutrition problems. Nchinda argues out clearly that in the East Region of Cameroon, there has been the challenge of food insufficiency. This was the task humanitarian institutions like WFP, IMC, *ACTION CONTRE LA FAIM* among others had to meet up with the nutritional demands of the host and the refugee communities from CAR. The challenge of food insufficiency stood as one of the principal difficulties that worked against the smooth integration of CARs in the Kadey Division.

As far as the health of the CARs and IDPs was concerned, they were highly vulnerable. As a result of their vulnerability, access to health services became indispensable to their survival. Silove and Steel are of the view that “refugees and asylum seekers who flee conflict areas may develop mental health disorder and may be traumatized by the consequences of war either on transit or in country of asylum”. The adaptation huddles in the Kadey Division and the bottle neck rings in obtaining refugee permits from the refugee department of UNHCR in the Kadey division, worsened the vulnerable situation of the refugees which led to emotional disturbances, illness or deterioration in health within their respective sites of Lolo, Timangolo and Mbilé. Poverty and ignorance further compounded the health challenges of the CARs and some IDPs. It thus became clear that the CARs and IDPs in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon faced a number of challenges in spite of the multitudinous efforts made to protect in integrate them in their host communities. These efforts were however not without some impact.

VII. IMPACT OF THE PROTECTION AND INTEGRATION OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN THE KADEY DIVISION

The integration of CARs in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon resulted in some outcomes on the local economy of the Division and to the country at large. The first noticeable effect was the enforcement of diplomatic ties between Cameroon, CAR and UNHCR. The diplomatic ties between Cameroon and UNHCR

started since the 8th of May 1982 with the implantation of the head office of UNHCR in Yaoundé. In order to live up to its task, the government of the Republic of Cameroon in July 2005 for the first time adopted set of laws relating to the status of refugee, and Asylum seekers. This set of laws determining the status of humanitarian migrants pushed the President of the Republic in 2011 to set up the Refugee Eligibility and the Appeal Commissions, charged with the duties of determining the status of refugees in Cameroon.

These fruitful cordial understanding between the government of Cameroon and UNHCR that started as a result of the ratification of the 1951 Refugee Convention in the 2005 law that projected the image of Cameroon at the level of UN diplomatic discourses as a country of sanctuary for humanitarian migrants. The tradition of hosting immigrants also encouraged other economic migrants from Senegal, Chad, and Mali to migrate to other regions of Cameroon like the Littoral, Center, and South West. The accommodation of economic migrants from other countries by Cameroon also boosted her bilateral diplomatic relations with various African countries. This has reinforced cordiality between Cameroon and Nigeria, Cameroon and Central African Republic, Cameroon and Chad, Cameroon and Gabon and Cameroon and Congo. Consequently, Cameroon stands out within the CEMAC sub region as “a safe haven in the turbulent Sub Region”.

The integration of the refugees and IDPs in the Kadey Division also resulted in the improvement of the state of portable water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH). The presence of the refugees and other immigrants within the Division resulted to the numerous constructions of over 450 water pumps in the sites and some of the host communities. The water tanks were also constructed at the level of the hospitals, clinics and the primary and secondary educational institutions that hosted the CARs and IDPs children. Also, in the Kadey Division, more than 150 hand pump water tanks were constructed and rehabilitated by the UNHCR. Apart from the tanks that were made at the disposal of the refugees, the UNHCR by 2015 successfully provided enormous water tanks to the host communities of the Division. The provision of water to both the local community and to the refugees went a long way in improving the health situation of the refugees.

Also, the extension of universal education by UNHCR/UNESCO resulted in the improvement of literacy rate on the side of the refugees in the Division. By 2016, over 600 school kits were successfully extended by the implementing partners of UNHCR to both primary and secondary school learners. Tayimlang illustrates that in 2013, UNICEF, together with its partners responded to emergency situations and succeeded in assisting over 6,300 CARs and indigenes of the host communities who recorded outstanding results in examinations. The support was placed under the auspices of the education and foreign affairs ministries of the Republic of Cameroon. This greatly enabled the Refugees of school-going ages to pursue their basic education. By 2015 the number of refugee children enrolled successfully in the East and Adamaoua Regions stood at 100.000 and 4.000 at the primary and secondary education levels respectively.

The integration of refugees and IDPs in the Kadey Division also resulted to an increase in the population of the region from 30.200 in 2010 to 75.000 inhabitants in 2016. The integration strategies made many of the refugees and the IDPs to be self-reliant. This was seen in the domain of agriculture and petty commercial activities carried out in the Region by the immigrants. There were also aspects of inter-cultural or inter-ethnic enculturation on both sides that came as a result of the integration of the Refugees and IDPs in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon.

In spite of the apparently positive outcomes of the protection and integration of CARs and IDPs in the Kadey Division, there were also some negative outcomes. This was particularly noticeable in the area of security. Though Chambers has maintained that, “in most cases, the presence of refugees does not have a significant negative impact on the political and security situation of the host countries”, the integration of Refugees and IDPs in the Kadey Division resulted to some negative political and security impacts. These included, the expansion of rebel social networks and diffusion of violence in the villages along the Eastern borders of Gbiti, Mboy, and Kentzou; Refugee camps located close to the boundary of the Cameroon with CAR like Yamba, Ngaoui, GarouaBoulai, Gbiti, Kentzou, GariGombo and Mboy (See **Map No.1**), became hideouts to rebel organizations and a base from which operations were carried out; and created fertile grounds for recruitment of the vulnerable refugees into the sectarian rebel groups of *Seleka* and the *Anti Balaka*. For example, within the aforementioned villages, the involvement of the villagers in the conflicts either against the *Seleka* or against the *Anti Balaka* between 2005 and 2017 created conditions in the Region that radicalized sections of the host populations. This resulted to the proliferation of arms, ammunitions and the traffic of contrabands from the CAR into the East Region of Cameroon in general. This situation weakened Cameroon’s security initiatives along the border villages with CAR.

More so conflicts of coexistence surfaced. The conflicts were over land ownership, grazing land, mining sites since the Kadey Division was endowed with gold nuggets. The conflicts that came as a result of struggle over ownership of resources resulted to a strain on fuel, loss of grazing land and depletion of natural resources.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This paper sought to examine the different measures of protection and integration of CARs and other IDPs in the Kadey Division of the East Region of Cameroon, the challenges and aftermath. From the forgoing analyses, in conjunction with the UNHCR, its implementing partners and other UN specialized agencies, the government of the Republic of Cameroon carried out measures aimed at protecting and integrating the CARs and IDPs in the Kadey Division. These measures included the provision of identification papers and food assistance, theand promotion of peaceful coexistence between the CARs, IDPs and their host communities, educational initiatives which encouraged the enrollment of displaced persons in schools, health promotion mechanisms as well as socio-economic empowerment measures. All these protectionist and integrationist strategies however were not without some challenges including the limited knowledge on basic human and refugee rights on the part of the refugees, xenophobic tendencies and hate speech portrayed by some members of host communities, difficulty adapting in the new system of education as well as health and security challenges. Despite these difficulties faced by CARs, IDPs and the host communities of the Kadey Division, the integration of these immigrants in the Division produced some outcomes including the enforcement of cordial diplomatic ties between Cameroon-UNHCR and Central African Republic, a significant increase in the population of the Division, the provision of portable water points and a significant increase in literacy rate of the CARs and IDPs within the Division. Conversely, the process also produced negative outcomes which largely hinged on the increase rate of insecurity as well as inter-personal and inter-community conflicts in the Division.

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