



IEDA Relief Cameroon Highlight Report
Marcel: another victim of Boko Haram
Mokolo, Far North Region
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Summary

Within IEDA Relief's interventions at the Minawao Camp, the Child Protection team is in charge of looking after children at risk among which Non Accompanied Children. Marcel is a refugee child who arrived in Mokolo on his own, having lost his family, and lived very difficult times until the day when IEDA Relief was called upon to take care of him. Suffering from epilepsy and traumatized by war, Marcel was to be put in a reeducation center in order to facilitate his reinsertion in society.



Marcel: a victim of Boko Haram

Marcel¹ is currently 14-years-old. He was playing outdoors when Boko Haram raided his village and the house where his father, his mother and siblings were. When Marcel came back home, there was nobody left.

Marcel was taken to the city of Mokolo by a stranger. Not knowing anyone, he would wander in the markets and beg for money in order to survive. This is how one day, after an epilepsy crisis, Marcel found himself on the embers of a firebox, destined to cook meat in the market. He was driven to the District Hospital in Mokolo where IEDA Relief was informed of his situation and looked after him.

IEDA Relief visited him in hospital everyday to insure a nutritional and psychosocial support, as well as a higher level of security. Within the services covered by IEDA Relief, the organization also hired a carer to take care of him. Unable to move around, due to the first-degree burns on both foot soles, Marcel needed assistance to eat and get dressed.

Being able to place Marcel in care was a relief in a certain way, because he needed specialized medical care due to his epilepsy as well as regular medication. We hope that Marcel will come back to us after the one-year agreed period for his recovery, so he can adapt once more to society.

- Child Protection team from IEDA Relief

After two months, Marcel was released from hospital and taken to the Minawao camp. He was installed at the health post of International Medical Corps to continue his treatment. IEDA Relief was in charge of looking after his health and personal care.

Psychological and medical support as well as physiotherapy were due necessary from the fact that Marcel experienced a long period without walking.

After several weeks, Marcel's health improved considerably, and IEDA Relief looked for a host family to take him in. Yet, Marcel was still not stable: he kept being aggressed by children from his village who mocked his mental health and physical state.

Once recovered, Marcel started going into the fields looking for wood to take back home or to resell in exchange of some cash. He is sociable, attentive, hard-worker, and he loves practicing agriculture. He benefitted from everything that a child can have in the refugee camp: he attended school, he attended a course in carpentry, he took part in the games and contests organized for children in the camp, such as "the big eater contest" where he won first prize.

In spite of all this attention, the partners committee judged necessary to place Marcel in a specialized institution, with professionals that could look after him financially and prepare an eventual social reinsertion.

Thus, IEDA Relief took care of covering costs related to his nutrition, his clothes and personal

¹ The beneficiary's name was changed to keep his identity anonymous.

care, and made sure to do a follow up until Marcel was ready to restart his life once more.

The story through pictures



The partner committee reunited to determine Marcel's first interest.



IEDA Relief visits the rehabilitation center to make sure that Marcel is properly received.