



Refugees waiting for the transfer to the Minawao camp

IEDA Relief Event Rapport Cameroon

Refugee relocation from the transit center to the Minawao Camp

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Summary

On September 1st and 28th, 2015, IEDA organized the transfer of 343 newly arrived refugees, or 98 households, from the transit center of Zamay to the Minawao camp in the Far North region of Cameroon. This activity, conducted in close collaboration with the UNHCR Protection team, was aimed at relieving the congestion in the transit center in order to make room for increasing numbers of new arrivals.



Introduction

A transit center is a space that has been refitted in order to receive newly arrived refugees to allow them to go through the screening and registration process before their eventual transfer to the refugee camp. The role of the Zamay transit center is to facilitate the identification of newly arrived refugees, mostly from Nigeria, who have not been registered yet.

The Zamay transit center has a hosting capacity of an average of 200 people per day for a period of 48 hours, and was built after the two terrorist attacks took place in the city of Maroua in July 2015. The objective of this center is to implement a strategy of screening and registration of all the new refugees within 48 hours of their arrival, in order to reduce security risks in the Far North region of Cameroon. These transfers aim at evacuating the transit center to the camp of Minawao, making room for other Nigerian asylum seekers fleeing the attacks of Boko Haram (also called Islamic State in West Africa). Once they arrive at their destination, IEDA Relief's camp management and community service teams further assist these populations.

IEDA Relief is in charge of the camp management and community services in the Minawao camp as well as the maintenance and promotion of hygiene and sanitation at the Zamay transit center. The latter includes raising awareness on the different rules of hygiene that need to be respected, such as well washing before the distribution of cold meals the conservation of drinking water. Refugees are also trained on waste management, specifically in throwing away house waste and emptying waste containers in the right ditches for this purpose outside of the camp. For a proper management of the environment, refugees participate in the sanitation of the site during sanitation days but also in the weeding and digging of channels for the evacuation of used waters and the cleaning of latrines. IEDA Relief has made rubbish bins and cleaning supplies available at the transit site for this purpose.

The relocation

In September 2015, IEDA Relief was also responsible for the relocation of refugees from the transit center to Minawao after they had completed the screening and registration process with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). On the 1st of September, 137 people (or 36 households) were transferred from the transit center of Zamay to the refugee camp of Minawao, followed by a second transfer on the 28th of September of 206 refugees (or 62 households).

The IEDA Relief team first proceeded to check in the registered people before allowing them to board the buses. This was done in order to ensure that only those that were registered would be relocated. Following this, IEDA Relief loaded the luggage according to the order of people on the manifest. After arriving in the camp of Minawao, these refugees were received by the IEDA Relief Community Service team and given a hot meal by the partner organization Public Concern. Then, the Community Service team delivered awareness raising sessions on the role of the different partners that operate in the camp and the rights and duties of refugees in the camp. Finally, refugees were transferred to community shelters by the IEDA Relief team in charge of Camp Management. The team worked with the support of the committee in charge of shelter. Each refugee relocation operation lasted one day.

After this, refugees will wait to be relocated into family shelters. The Minawao camp currently hosts 46,082 refugees, in spite of its real hosting capacity of 20,000 people. There is a continuing need for support in terms of water, hygiene and sanitation and other basic services.

Photos of the event





IEDA Relief explains the role and responsibilities of refugees and the organizations working in the camp.



The staff of IEDA Relief sanitizes the transit camp of Zamay.