

The Digniti Project, Cameroon

- *It starts with a coin*

NRC Cameroon seeks to engage Cameroonian citizens in the humanitarian response to the Lake Chad crisis affecting the Far North Cameroon by enabling them to do cash transfers to the most affected Cameroonians who forcibly fled their homes due to violence in the region.

Imagine being forced to leave your home in the seek for safety. If you are lucky you have just the time to pack a bag. If not, you simply drop everything and flee. You finally find yourself in a new place in your own country without anything and have to start from scratch. You need access to food, to water, to a roof to cover your head, to a doctor, to a school were to register your children, etc. Left without any means, you rely on humanitarian assistance to stay alive. This is the suffering of internal displaced people, those who were forced to flee their homes due to violence. In the Far North Cameroon, nearly 240,000 people are in this situation and in need of humanitarian assistance due to the lake Chad crisis.

NRC is working in Cameroon to provide humanitarian assistance to the most vulnerable people affected by Boko Haram attacks in the Far North region of Cameroon. Our teams distribute non-food items for households, hygiene kits, construct shelter, repair broken boreholes and construct new ones, construct family latrines, support in food production and income generating activities, provide cash transfer for food, legal assistance in civil documentation, etc. Other humanitarian actors are also providing assistance to the affected populations. However, this crisis is underfunded leaving many vulnerable people out of assistance.

The overall objective is to design an application called “Digniti App or website” that will enable an estimate of 10.7 million+ working Cameroonians willing to support the displaced people via an existing local mobile cash transfer system from telecommunication operator available all over the country including in the project area:

- Citizens use their personal mobile money wallet to transfer cash to an NRC account
- NRC collect and identify the most vulnerable for cash distribution
- The beneficiary receives an SMS over the transfer on his/her mobile phone, withdraws the money at a local mobile money point and buys what he/she wants
- The beneficiary provides feedback on the use of donated cash to the NRC's monitoring staff who sends it to the donor citizen via the Digniti app

Through the App, more affected people will receive humanitarian assistance. The beneficiaries have freedom of choice in prioritizing their needs, thus dignity through multipurpose and unconditional cash. this will also improve the living conditions of the displacement affected populations.