

# Niger Delta Weekly: Responding to the Humanitarian Needs of Refugees in Cross River State

September 26 - October 02, 2021

## Description

This special edition of the weekly update spotlights forced displacement in the Niger Delta with a focus on the humanitarian challenges of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Cross River State. According to data (see map below), more than 130 persons were reportedly displaced by violent conflict in Cross River State between January 2018 and June 2021. Also, according to the 'Cameroon Refugee Operational Update' of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), about 67,000 Cameroonian refugees, including men, women and children, were registered in Nigeria as at June 2021, particularly in Cross River, Akwa Ibom and Taraba States. More recently, on September 14, 2021, the Cross River State Migration Control Agency, reported that the State has recorded about 200,000 IDPs and refugees from neighboring countries in the last four years, as a result of incessant communal clashes in the State as well as the Anglophone separatist crisis in neighboring Cameroon. The growing number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees have resulted in a serious humanitarian crisis in the State.

## Why it Matters

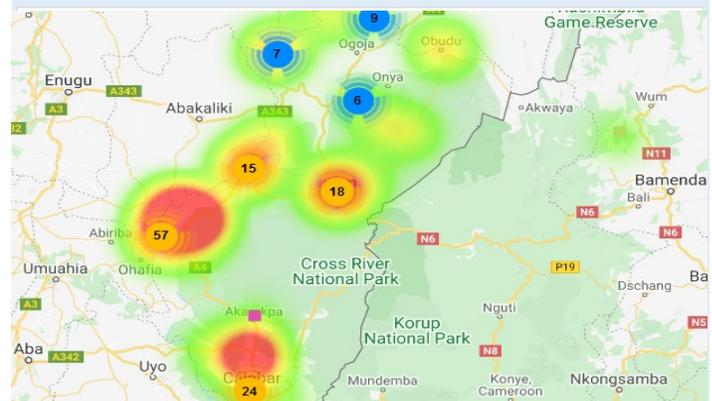
Cross River State is becoming increasingly susceptible to forced displacement as a result of incessant communal clashes, influx of displaced persons from the Bakassi peninsula that was ceded to Cameroon in 2002, as well as the 'Ambazonia' secessionist crisis in Cameroon. If the growing number of refugees and IDPs continue unabated, it could cause a major humanitarian and security crisis which could have significant socio-economic and political implications in the State.

**Social:** Forced displacement of persons could have serious psycho-social, health and security impact on individuals and host communities. Refugees and IDPs are often faced with challenges of lack of shelter, food and other basic services. Their presence could cause population increase and outbreak of diseases. This could put enormous strain on public services and infrastructure which could cause social strife in the host communities. Displaced persons could also face security and human rights challenges including sexual exploitation.

**Economic:** Refugees and IDPs could impose huge economic burdens on host communities and government. Influx of displaced persons could intensify competition over scarce resources which could cause labor market displacement. This could also create negative wage impact that could undermine the economic wellbeing of residents.

**Political:** Forced displacement is not only a humanitarian issue, but also a human rights, security and political challenge. The growing prevalence of refugees and IDPs could engender local resentment which could undermine governance and cause political instability.

## Incidents Heat Map of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and Refugees in Cross River State, Nigeria



Heat Map shows concentration of reported internally displaced persons and refugees in Cross River State from January 2018 - June 2021. Sources: All data sources formatted on the P4P Peace Map [www.p4p-nigerdelta.org](http://www.p4p-nigerdelta.org)

## Prognosis

The growing number of refugees and IDPs has the potential to cause a major humanitarian crisis that could negatively impact the peace and conflict dynamics in the State. Peace and development actors should collaborate with the Cross River State Migration Control Agency, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons, the UN Refugee Agency, and other stakeholders to provide multi-sectoral assistance to address the security and humanitarian needs of refugees and IDPs in the State.

## Contact Us

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## Report Incidents: IPDU Early Warning System

Please report any verified incident of conflict to the IPDU SMS early warning system: Text report to **080 9936 2222**

**Incident Details:** Kindly include the State, LGA, Town, Date, and Brief Incident Description.



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