

# Offia Oji, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

## September 2017



1200 FAMILIES, 5000 CHILDREN DISPLACED BY  
VIOLENT COMMUNAL CONFLICT

URGENT NEED FOR MEDICAL CARE AND FOOD AID

RECONSTRUCTION OF DESTROYED CLINIC AND  
HUNDREDS OF HOMES.



# Background

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## **1996**

When Ebonyi State was created in 1996, a number of Igbo speaking villages found themselves on the Cross River side of the new state borders that were drawn. The communities have lived together peacefully, with the Igbo villages maintaining their connection with Ebonyi State in spite of technically living in Cross River State.

## **January 2017**

In January 2017 a Cross River man was killed and decapitated at Azu-offia Edda, allegedly for ritualistic reasons. The incident brought reprisal from Cross River and since then, tit-for-tat violence has been escalating. Both sides have launched raids on villages of the other side and dozens of lives have been lost on both sides.

## **May 2017**

On 8<sup>th</sup> May, the violence spread to the Offia Oji area. A noon time attack killed a number of unsuspecting peaceful farmers who were in the wrong place at the wrong time. Four days of violence followed, with more than 50 men from Offia Oji area sustained bullet wounds and 11 died.

Since May the tensions have remained high, with alternating attacks from both sides. The government sent police and army, but they have been unable to prevent continuing violence.

## **August 2017**

On 15 August, at 12:45 in the afternoon, for the first time a group of Cross River men reached the Offia Oji health center and set it on fire. Army personnel was present during the attack.

The violence continues.

# AMURT Interventions

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**Offia Oji Health Center** – since opening in 2010, the Offia Oji Health Center has become perhaps the most functional primary healthcare center in Ebonyi state. Since 2014, Offia Oji has averaged 43 deliveries per month, a figure that is higher than general hospitals and even some mission hospitals in Ebonyi State. Since violence spread to the area in May, it has been difficult to maintain the service. Without security arrangements it has been difficult for AMURT staff to visit. Local staff has worked with a lot of dedication and courage in a temporary location at Egwuagu Secondary School. In June and into July, we were able to move back to the health center for some weeks, until the tensions again rose, and we returned to Egwuagu in late July. After the attack of 15 August, the Egwuagu location closed. Preparations has started to start again at Egwuagu very soon.

**Ephuenyim Health Center** – also opened in 2010 and has been functioning at the same level as Offia Oji. It is located about six kilometers from Offia Oji, in the same community of Okpuitumo Ndeagu. Ephuenyim has been able to attend to many cases, including deliveries from Offia Oji area. It played an important role at the height of the violence in May, and many lives were saved at Ephuenyim. All were treated free of charge.

**Ambulance Services and support for casualties**– During the violence in May AMURT put two ambulances in service. About 55 victims of gunshot wounds have been carried to Federal Teaching Hospital in Abakaliki. In the first day of the conflict AMURT assisted the gunshot victims at FETHA.

**Assistance for widows** – AMURT started a cooperatively managed revolving credit group for widows who lost their husbands in the fighting in May. They have now been able to start their own businesses to support themselves and their children.

# Survey of IDPs in Offia Oji and Ephuenyim Project Areas

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## METHOD OF SURVEY:

The survey was conducted from 14<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> August. It was carried out by 12 local health workers from Offia Oji and Ephuenyim Health Centers. All the villages in Okpuitumo Ndeagu were visited. The survey was overseen by AMURT medical and M&E staff.

The survey used one form for each household. It contains names and ages of all children in the displaced families.

The forms were brought to AMURT office in Abakaliki where they were compiled.

## KEY FINDINGS OF SURVEY

**Total IDPS 8366 documented.** Over 7700 come from Izzi villages located on the Cross River side of the State. The remaining come from Edda and Enyigba communities in Abakaliki LGA. The Enyigba IDPs fled from the conflict between Izzi and Ikwo.

We documented **4484 displaced children aged 0-12**. That is 54 % of the IDPs.

40 % of the displaced families claim that their **original homes have been burnt or demolished** in the conflict. The security situation does not yet allow us to verify this figure.

The displaced families reported **22 conflict related deaths of adults and 7 deaths of children** from illness since May.

Asked about most urgent needs, 36.4 % of the households put house/shelter first, 32.3 % said food was their most pressing need, and 30.8 % said money was most important. And 0.5 % mentioned school for the children as their priority need.

94.9 % of the households stated **farming as their main source of income**.

# Internally Displaced People Host villages

The fleeing families have moved to safer areas inside Ebonyi State in Okpuitumo Ndeagu Community. They are now squatting with family and friends in cramped and squalid conditions. Over 90 percent are farmers. We are now seeing a deepening food crisis as the families' food reserves are used up. Without access to their farms they run out of cassava, the staple food in the area, from which they prepare akpu and garri to eat and sell.

## DETAILS OF IDPS SORTED BY HOST VILLAGE AND AREA

OFFIA OJI AREA	Households	Women	Total Children	Children 0-1	Children 1-5	Children 6-12	Children 0-12	Children 13-18	
Eguezi	12	13	52	3	18	21	42	10	
Egwuagu	192	226	830	35	368	344	747	83	
Ndiechi	67	67	296	11	105	108	224	72	
Odeligbo	77	97	312	16	120	133	269	43	
Ohatekwe	186	205	668	39	278	192	509	159	
Okweferike	201	273	956	40	327	401	768	188	
<b>Total IDPs Offia Oji Area</b>	<b>4730</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>881</b>	<b>3114</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>1216</b>	<b>1199</b>	<b>2559</b>	<b>555</b>
<b>EPHUENYIM EAST</b>									
Ameji	22	35	125	6	42	60	108	17	
Azuabe Agundu	9	13	27	2	9	9	20	7	
Azungel Ovuoba	17	22	84	7	40	30	77	7	
Ephuenyim	22	29	116	3	42	45	90	26	
Ephuenyim Ndem Side	37	60	177	6	76	54	136	41	
Ndialo	38	70	192	15	59	69	143	49	
Okpanku	31	41	160	13	67	50	130	30	
Oma Efugbo	56	73	281	20	104	100	224	57	
Omego Efugbo	51	62	218	9	75	88	172	46	
Ovuoba	14	16	65	7	25	21	53	12	
Uwalakande	43	52	159	7	57	70	134	25	
<b>Total IDPs Ephuenyim East</b>	<b>2417</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>1604</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>1287</b>	<b>317</b>
<b>EPHUENYIM WEST</b>									
Alaoma Ndiegu	21	33	92	4	31	37	72	20	
Igediagu	19	23	118	1	40	48	89	29	
Ime Ndiaja	8	11	36	3	19	11	33	3	
Ndigboke	15	21	72	3	22	32	57	15	
Ndioke	15	22	103	2	36	45	83	20	
Ogbueze Offia Ndiegu	12	21	50	5	14	19	38	12	
Oma Egwuagu	28	38	130	7	41	49	97	33	
Oma Ndiaja	35	42	184	5	68	68	141	43	
Oma Ndiegu	8	9	41	3	16	10	29	12	
<b>Total IDPs Ephuenyim West</b>	<b>1207</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>187</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>8354</b>	<b>1236</b>	<b>1574</b>	<b>5544</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>2099</b>	<b>2114</b>	<b>4485</b>	<b>1059</b>

# Internally Displaced People

## Original villages

More than 1000 families in the border areas have been forced to leave their homes and farms due to the deteriorating security situation over the last months. Hundreds of houses and farms have been burnt and destroyed. Many have been hit by gunshot fire when attempting to visit their farms.

### WHERE DO THEY COME FROM ?

#### DETAILS OF IDPS SORTED BY ORIGINAL VILLAGE

Village	Total IDPS	House holds	Women	Children Total	Children 0-1	Children 1-5	Children 6-12	Children 0-12	Children 13-18	House Demolish	House Burnt	Houses Destroyed
Azu-Oji	460	61	87	312	12	112	125	249	63	14	20	34
Egu-vuru	41	8	9	24	1	10	8	19	4	5	2	7
Egu-eze	8	1	2	5		2	3	5				0
Egwuagu	51	6	10	35	1	17	14	32	6		1	1
Enyadilogu	1319	188	275	856	34	331	307	672	184	38	31	69
Isophumini	499	79	94	326	24	118	122	264	62	12	43	55
Mkpulachi	66	9	12	45	3	21	10	34	10	2		2
Ndiechi	553	84	108	361	24	146	129	299	60	7	5	12
Obeguigwe	312	54	63	195	9	77	76	162	33	5	33	38
Odeligbo	19	3	3	13	1	4	4	9	5			0
Ofutu	1654	243	294	1117	43	424	431	898	217	28	62	90
Ohatekwe	3	1	1	1	1			1				0
Okwefurike	16	2	4	10		7	2	9	1			0
Okwerike	1531	228	289	1014	55	351	409	815	194	23	35	58
Onuenyim	1160	164	220	776	29	315	306	650	121	95	25	120
Other	52	8	9	35	2	15	11	28	7			0
From Offia												
Oji Total	7744	1139	1480	5125	239	1950	1957	4146	967	229	257	486

#### IDPS COMING FROM OUTSIDE OFFIA

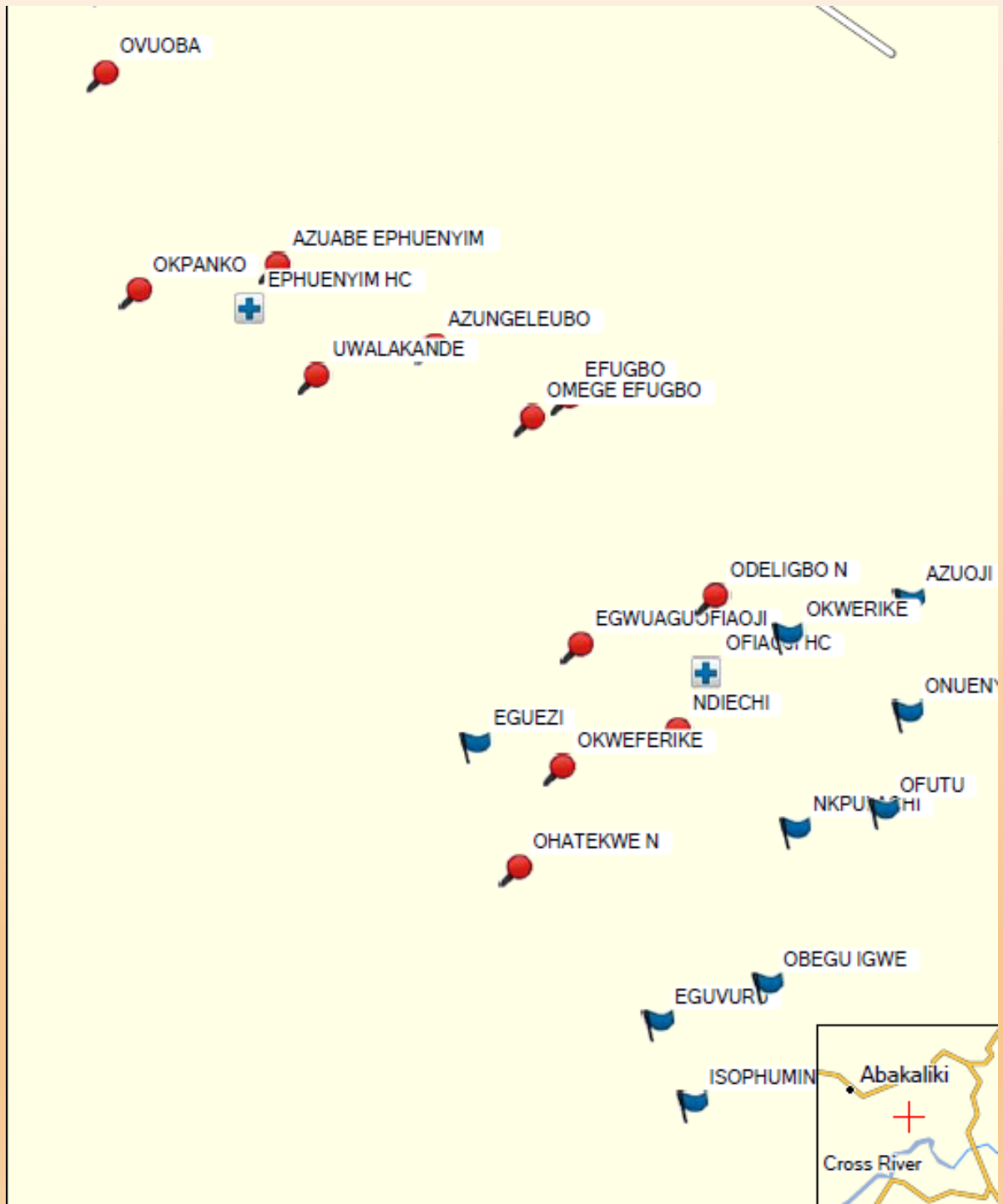
##### OJI PROJECT AREA

EDDA	250	41	46	164	13	63	61	137	27	10		10
ENYIGBA	378	54	69	256	10	86	95	191	65	5		5
total	628	95	115	420	23	149	156	328	92	15	0	15

# Map of villages in Offia Oji & Ephuenyim East

Blue flag – villages IDPS originate from

Red peg – villages hosting IDPS





# Offia Oji Health Center Temporary location

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Health workers posted at Offia Oji Health Center are currently running a temporary clinic in classrooms at Egwuagu Secondary School, about two kilometers from Nworie market.

The same location was used when the tensions were high in May, and again in late July and the first half of August. During this period more than 30 deliveries was conducted in this temporary location and hundreds of children treated.

With the help of free drugs from SMOH and AMURT contributions, children are now being treated for free. Maternal health services are also available free of charge.





# Offia Oji Health Center Reconstruction budget

As soon as the security situation improves, it's crucial that the damages caused by the fire at Offia Oji Health Center be repair and that the health center reopens. The Governor has instructed Abakaliki LGA to pay for the repairs.

QTY	UNIT	ITEMS	UNIT PRICE	AMOUNT
5	Bundles	Roofing sheets	20,000	100,000
10	pcs	Upper ridges	700	7,000
5	pcs	Trimming	500	2,500
5	pcs	Aluminium facing board	700	3,500
30	Bundles	Ceilings	5,500	165,000
2	Bundles	Bartins - for edges of ceilin	12,000	24,000
29	pcs	Sliding windows	18,000	522,000
15	pcs	Clips for ceiling	300	4,500
3	pcs	Washing sinks	7,000	21,000
6	Bundles	Roofing sheets for clading	20,000	120,000
150	pcs	Rafter 2x4	650	97,500
200	pcs	Purline 2x3	400	80,000
200	pcs	Purline 2x2	350	70,000
5	pcs	Facial board	1,000	5,000
5	pcs	Wall plate	1,500	7,500
3	pcs	Doors	12,000	36,000
8	pcs	Padlocks	1,000	8,000
1		Wiring and fittings	550,000	550,000
1		Electrician	200,000	200,000
1	bag	3" nail	9,000	9,000
1	bag	4" nail	9,000	9,000
3	cartons	Cuper nails	4,500	13,500
10	buckets	Emulsion paint -Yellow	3,000	30,000
6	buckets	Emulsion paint -Red	3,000	18,000
15	gallons	Oil paints	2,500	37,500
1		Painter	60,000	60,000
1	Total	Roofing and ceiling labour	250,000	250,000
1	general	Transportation	100,000	100,000
1	general	Miscellaneous	50,000	50,000
				2,600,500

# Food aid

Due to large number of displaced children, it is necessary to identify children at risk and prioritize the most needy children to receive food assistance. AMURT has already started providing food assistance for malnourished children that present at Offia Oji and Ephuenyim Health Centers. Due to the current situation, it is necessary to extend outreach visits to the villages where the IDPs currently reside to make sure that at risk children are identified and receive the assistance they need. The plan for food aid will be flexible. It will change based on resources available and changes in the food situation among the IDPs.

	Target Age Group	Category 1 – Children 0 – 59 months Category 2 – Children 5 – 12 years
	Definition of RISK. Sick children - Admissions Sick and malnourished Malnutrition	<p>Using anthropometry data (HA, WH and WA WHO <u>Z Score tool</u>) and semi structured questionnaire for malnutrition. The tool will be able to define cases as either: Underweight (Marasmus, Kwashiorkor, Marasmus-Kwashiorkor).</p> <p>Underweight measured by weight-for-age, and defined as weight-for-age <u>Z Score</u> (WAZ) &lt; -2, stunting measured by height-for-age, and defined as height-for-age Z score (HAZ) &lt; -2; and wasting measured by weight-for-height, and defined as weight-for-height <u>Z Score</u> (WHZ) &lt; -2.</p> <p>There is need to develop another tool to assess the family or house hold that will need special food support.</p>
	Method of Identification	<p>Sick children presenting in the health center will be assessed by health workers using the <u>Z Score</u> tool and classified accordingly.</p> <p>Routine Village visits – with Village maternal health promoters, In-charge health worker, Village head targeting displaced children within the two categories. Data collection using the <u>Z Score tool</u> and classification will be the goal.</p> <p>There is need for follow up visit for every enrolled child and house hold.</p> <p>There is need to develop another tool to assess the family or house hold that will need special food support.</p>
	Levels of Intervention Free Medical Care at the health center. Malnourished Children House Hold support	<p>Health Education: Behavioral interventions focus on the adjustment of personal practices and habits. WASH (Water, Hygiene and Sanitation), EBF (Exclusive Breast Feeding) for Infants, Malaria Prevention, etc.</p> <p><u>Free Medical treatment</u> for sick and very sick children from displaced families.</p> <p>Food – Energy rich local food and fortified nutritional supplements (Complan, Nan, Peak 123, soybean powder, crayfish, pap (local porridge), beans, rice. etc).</p> <p>House Hold Food Support – a one-time local food package supply.</p>

# Hunger

The internally displaced families have either had their farms destroyed or have no access to their farms due to lack of security because of the violence in the communal conflict. Many families' food reserve is running out, and without money, hunger has set in. These two photos of severely malnourished children from Ephuenyim Health Center were taken 6 September. They are both on admission and receive food aid.

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