

Cameroonian refugee situation, Nigeria

1 - 15 July 2018

1,115 Cameroonian refugees received their ID Cards.

231 Cameroonian refugees were enrolled in **professional training** in Calabar and Ikom, Cross River state.

51 refugee households **successfully completed** the construction of their **permanent shelter** in Anyake settlement, Benue state.

KEY INDICATORS

21,291

Cameroonian refugees registered with Level 1 registration
[October 2017 – March 2018]

4,393

Cameroonian refugees registered with biometrics
[as of 15 July 2018]

1,701

Cameroonian refugees living in Anyake settlement, Benue State [as of 15 July 2018]



Cameroonian refugees receiving their ID Cards in Ikom, Cross River State © UNHCR / A. Dipanda

Update On Achievements

- **Livelihoods** – UNHCR signed a new partnership with local NGO MEDIATRIX Development Foundation, to provide livelihood opportunities for refugees in urban areas (Calabar and Ikom). This is a small-scale intervention (as it is the first in the sector) and targets a restricted number of beneficiaries (231 refugees - 122 women and 109 men), for the period from July to December 2018. Vulnerable refugees (women head of household, refugees fostering unaccompanied children) were prioritized. The project includes following phases: two days of entrepreneurship training for all beneficiaries; four weeks of specialized training (fashion design/tailoring, petty trading, pastry-making with catering, hair dressing/barber shop and poultry); provision of start-up business capital over a six-month period through a microfinance institution and integration of trained refugees into existing market systems and community structures. The training program started on 10th July.
- **Protection** – UNHCR, in collaboration with Nigerian Government, started distribution of Individual Identification (ID) cards to verified Cameroonian refugees aged from 14 years and above. During the reporting period, 1,115 ID Cards were distributed. The ID cards allow refugees to fully enjoy their rights, including freedom of movement, access to livelihoods (i.e. obtaining papers to drive bicycles for commercial purposes) and to services including banking.

- **Relocation** – On 5th July, 333 Cameroonian refugees were relocated from the border locality of Abande to Anyake settlement (Adikpo, Benue State). With this last convoy, a total of 1,346 have been supported by UNHCR and its partners to relocate to the settlement. Moreover, 29 spontaneous arrivals were recorded during the reporting period, including eight teenage girls who were reunified with their families. Counting in all the spontaneous arrivals, the total number of refugees living in Anyake is 1,701 as of 15th July 2018.
- **Registration** – UNHCR and National Commission for Refugees (NCFRMI) continued verification and registration of refugees with biometrics (including new arrivals) in the localities of Bashua and Biajua, Boki Local Government Area, Cross River state.
- As of 15th July 2018, 5,369 refugees were verified using ProGres database, among whom 2,684 were new arrivals (including new-born babies, new arrivals and people living in remote locations not attended by level 1 registration). Among those verified, 4,393 had their biometric data captured.



Completed shelters in Anyake Settlement, Benue State
 © UNHCR / I. Mutevu

- **Shelter** – During the reporting period, 51 households from Anyake settlement (Adikpo, Benue state), completed the construction of their permanent shelter. An inauguration ceremony was held to mark this important achievement. Refugees received the certificate of completion and the final cash grant that will allow them to put finishing touches to their shelter.

- Distribution of shelter kit materials (including bricks, bag of cement, nails, corrugated iron sheets, timber) and cash grant for labourers continued as well for other 93 refugee households. The project, funded by EU Humanitarian Aid, will support the construction of permanent shelters for 4,000 Cameroonian refugees.

- **Food and non-food items** – From 9th to 12th July, 601 refugee households (1,306 individuals) from Calabar and Ikom urban areas (Cross River state) received food (rice, beans, oil, sugar and salt) and non-food items (soap, detergent, sanitary pads, solar lantern, mat, blanket, kitchen set, jerry can, bucket and mosquito net). Moreover, the same distribution was carried out in Anyake settlement for 436 refugee households (1,545 individuals).



Cameroonian refugees received food and non- food items in Calabar, Cross River State © UNHCR/ L. Agiende

- **Healthcare** – 145 pregnant and breastfeeding women living in Anyake settlement (Adikpo, Benue state) took part in an awareness-raising session about the benefits of exclusive breastfeeding of new-borns conducted by UNHCR healthcare partner Health Initiative for Safety and Stability in Africa (HIFASS). The session was a precious occasion to debunk some misconceptions around breastfeeding.
- **Access to energy** – On 13th July, a two-week ration of firewood for cooking was distributed by UNHCR partner BENGONET in Anyake settlement to 496 refugee households.

Critical needs and priorities

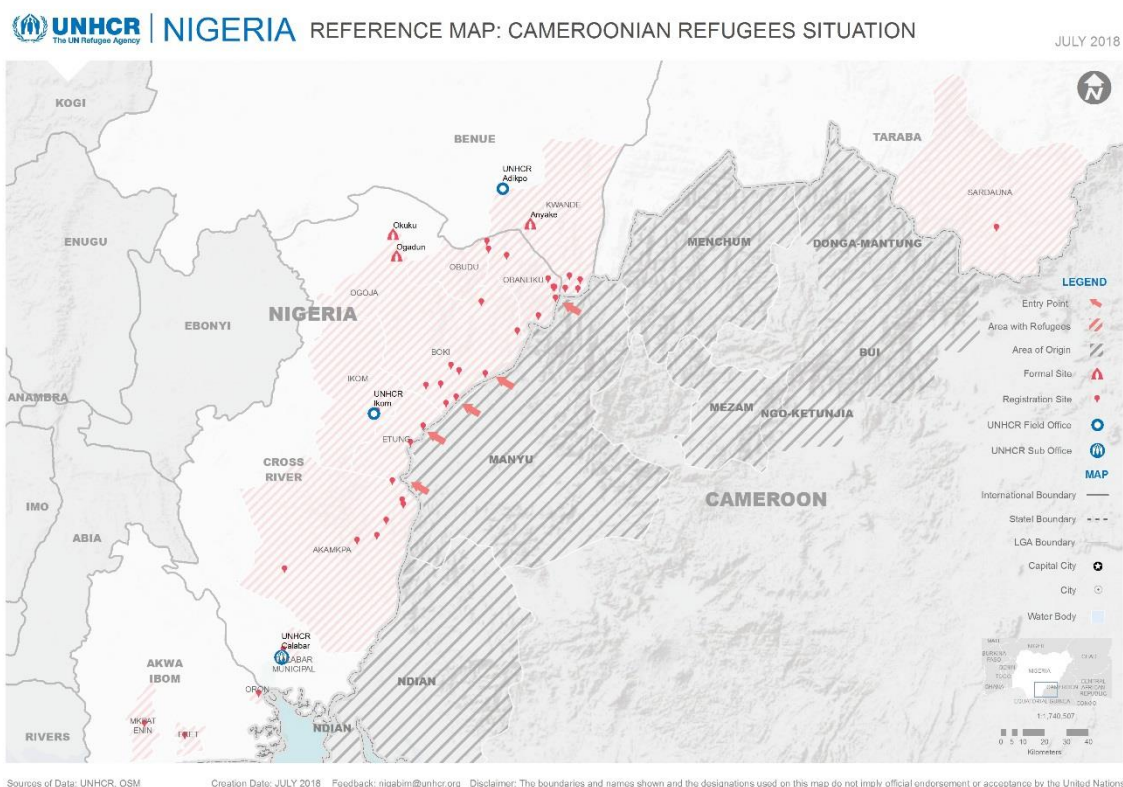
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** – WASH assessments were conducted on 12th and 13th July in Etung (Etung Local Government Area, Cross River state) and Biajua villages (Boki Local Government Area, Cross River state). These were among the most congested refugee spontaneous sites. In Etung, 595

refugees lived in an abandoned lodge, while in Biajua there were 488 refugees, among whom 120 lived in a health centre. In both places the space was limited with no privacy. Refugees and host communities depended on unprotected springs for potable water that were open to contamination (namely because of lack of latrines and waste management systems), and water systems were not functioning. Many refugee children bore ringworm marks on their heads and skin diseases were widespread. Drill of boreholes equipped with hand pumps or solar-powered pumps as well as latrine blocks need to be urgently constructed. Refugees need to be provided with hygiene items, namely buckets, jerry-cans and chlorine sachets for collection and safe water storage. Also, the primary schools nearby refugee settlements had no access to water or the system was not functioning.

- UNHCR plans to relocate refugees from congested border areas in safer settlements far from the border, starting from Agadon settlement (Ogoja Local Government Area, Cross River state) who can welcome up to 3,000 refugees. UNHCR WASH partners (Health Initiative for Safety and Stability in Africa – HIFASS and Norwegian Church Aid – NCA) were also mobilized to speed up WASH activities in and out of site but more funding is needed for adequate response.

Working in partnership

- Together with the Nigerian Government, through the National Commission for Refugees (NCFRMI), and State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to the Cameroonian refugees and has established a monthly coordination meeting in Calabar to foster closer collaboration with other UN agencies and humanitarian actors. The following partners implement specific sector activities in this situation: Benue State NGO Network - BENGONET, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria – CCFN, Catholic Diocese of Makurdi – Foundation for Justice Development and Peace – FJDP, Health Initiative for Safety and Stability in Africa – HIFASS, MEDATRIX Development Foundation, National Commission for Refugees – NCFRMI and RHEMACARE. Other partners also deliver services to the Cameroonian refugees with their own resources such as ADRA, Save the Children and NCA.



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