

# Cameroon Situation

April 2019

Some **35,700** **Cameroonian refugees are registered and verified** in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in the southern region of Nigeria.

Two refugee settlements in Cross River State are overpopulated. **UNHCR is seeking new settlement sites and funding for refugees without shelter.**

UNHCR launched a **Supplementary Appeal of \$27.3 M** in new requirements to provide food, shelter and basic needs to Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria.

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## KEY INDICATORS

**35,700** | Cameroonian refugees are registered and verified in Nigeria

**18,000** | Cameroonian refugees are registered in the Adagom, Okende settlements in Cross River and in the Anyake settlement in Benue

**50%** | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities

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Refugee and host community children celebrate a donation of Bournvita beverage at the Saint Peter's Primary School Adagom, Cross River State, Nigeria. UNHCR/Lucy Agiende. 12 April 2019.

## Operational Context

During the month of April, some 1,224 refugees from the Cameroon Anglophone regions were registered in Benue, Cross River and Taraba States. The steady influx of refugees into the country is putting more pressure on the refugee settlements that are now beyond capacity. UNHCR and the Government of Nigeria are working to develop more sites to decongest the settlements and relieve communities hosting refugees. Critical needs remain food, basic/domestic items and shelter.

UNHCR and the Government of Nigeria continue registration of Cameroonian refugees. A total of 35,700 Cameroonian refugees have been registered in Nigeria including 26,984 in Cross River State; 4,757 in Benue State, 3,360 in Taraba State and 506 in Akwa Ibom State. Meanwhile, 30,936 refugees have been verified through individual registration. UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons continued registration and issuance of ID cards to Cameroonian refugees in Calabar, Anyake and Okende. Over 10,000 refugees were issued with ID cards.

## Achievements



### Protection:

- In **Akwa Ibom State**, UNHCR carried out protection and border monitoring visits to Oron and Uyo LGAs. Refugees are exposed to protection risks including exploitation and abuse by landlords and employers due to their vulnerability. As a result, some refugees often risk their lives by returning to their farmlands in Cameroon in search of food. The protection team also noted urgent need for food, non-food items, shelter, medical care and education.
- From 17-18 April, UNHCR organised a two-day training on Refugee Protection for 68 Police and Immigration officers in Akwa Ibom State. The training focused on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, refugees' rights and confidentiality.
- In **Benue State**, UNHCR, FJDP, CUSO and SEMA conducted border monitoring visits to Abande and Ugugu communities where some 200 refugees are hosted. The team assessed needs and undertook profiling for livelihoods assistance. Urgent needs identified include food, non-food items particularly cooking fuel, access to healthcare, education and livelihoods.
- In **Cross River State** (CRS), UNHCR (Rhema Care) set up an Help Desk in Adagom and Okende to foster accountability to affected population and to identify and respond to protection, shelter and food/non-food needs. The Help Desk identified 300 vulnerable persons including, pregnant and breastfeeding women, elderly and disabled persons with specific needs. They will be referred to the appropriate stakeholders for services. The Help Desk is documenting individuals who have not benefitted from cash for food assistance.
- UNHCR and partners have established a sub-working group to coordinate SGBV and child protection interventions. The sub-working group is established under the Ministry of Women's Affairs in charge of SGBV and Child Protection at the State level. Also, from 10-11 April, UNHCR and Ministry of Women's Affairs organized a two-day training on Refugee Protection for 67 Police and Prison Officers

serving in Boki, Ikom, Obubra and Etung LGAs. The training focused on Child Protection, refugee's rights, confidentiality and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- **SGBV:** Six cases of SGBV including domestic violence, rape and attempted rape were recorded at the Anyake and Adagom settlements. Survivors were referred for medical examination and provided with psychosocial counselling. Additionally, sensitization sessions on SGBV prevention, referral pathways and reporting mechanisms were carried out in the 21 communities in Anyake.
- On 25 April, the SGBV committee in Okende and Adagom met to identify and address SGBV complaints. Committee members recorded incidences of domestic violence and sexual violence/harassment in the settlements due to lack of livelihoods activities, Cash based assistance and insufficient water supply. The committee has embarked on sensitization against SGBV and has strengthened the monitoring system in order to curb the situation.
- **Child Protection:** UNHCR and FJDP identified 78 unaccompanied children during screening of spontaneous arrivals in Anyake and placed them in foster care. The child protection committee in the Anyake regularly monitors the children in foster care to ensure their wellbeing. Food and NFIs were distributed to the children.
- Caritas undertook monitoring visits with 36 households fostering unaccompanied and separated children in Adagom to assess their needs and coping mechanisms. The monitoring visits found that some non-registered children do not have access to cash for food, health care and education and addressed the issue.
- In Adagom, Caritas organized educational and leisure activities for 161 children between 5 to 13 years at the child friendly space. Activities included colouring, arts, dancing and reading. Also, Caritas distributed 10 bales of clothing to 1, 841 children between 0 to 14 years. Furthermore, 12 refugee members of the Child Protection committee (6 male and 6 female) received yams, cassava flour and clothes as a reward for their hard work.
- The Office provided psychosocial counselling to 21 SGBV survivors of rape, attempted rape, sexual harassment and domestic violence received. They also received yams, cassava flour and soap.
- In Adagom and Okende, the National Population Commission registered 79 refugee children from 0 to 3 years and issued them with birth certificates. Meanwhile, Caritas identified five unaccompanied Cameroonian refugee children aged 3 to 7 years in Obanliku LGA.
- In Adagom, Caritas held a support group meeting with 18 adolescent boys to identify and discuss their concerns and needs. The adolescents expressed the need for recreational activities to enable them develop important life skills and reduce chances of them engaging in risky behaviour.
- Refugee and host community women and girls in Anyake held a belated commemoration of the 8 March International Women's day with a football game and cultural dance. The celebration aimed to foster peaceful coexistence among refugees and host community.

- In Okende, refugees have completed the construction of 1.05 km of a 1.33 km road in the settlement. Meanwhile, construction of a culvert and foot bridge is ongoing in Adagom to improve transportation and supply of relief materials.
- In **Benue State**, UNHCR, FJDP, FHI 360 and SEMA undertook sensitization of some 25 host community members in Ikyogen where the Office plans to relocate refugees. The sensitization aimed to foster peaceful co-existence and protection of refugees upon their arrival in the community.

 **Education:**

- In **Cross River**, UNHCR and Caritas, enrolled 104 eligible refugee pupils at the Saint Peter's Primary School-Adagom and the Saint Eugene Primary School-Okende into the common entrance examination. The entrance examination is a requirement for admittance into government secondary schools and for obtaining the First School Leaving Certificate.
- In **Benue**, UNHCR paid tuition fees for 328 refugee students (188 girls and 140 boys) from the Anyake settlement, attending two secondary and one primary school in Adagi community.
- In **Taraba State**, the Universal Basic Education (UBE) Board in Sardauna LGA has granted free education to out-of-school refugee children. Following the approval, there is an urgent need to support refugee children with the required learning materials and uniforms. It is also necessary to provide additional school infrastructure and furniture to accommodate refugee pupils. Furthermore, in Takum LGA, the Office is in talks with the UBE Board for free education for refugees.

 **Health:**

- In **Cross River**, UNHCR partner, Mediatrix, commenced construction of one block of four rooms at the Adagom Health Centre to improve health care delivery to refugees and the host community. The structure will include a consulting room, laboratory, pharmacy and changing room.
- Some 35 refugee children from 0 to 1 year were vaccinated in Adagom and Okende by the State Primary Health Care officers.
- The **Nigeria Red Cross** donated medical supplies including, weighing scales, stethoscopes, sphygmomanometer, galipot, kidney dish, forceps and drugs to the Okende Primary Health Care Centre. The donation aims to improve health care services to refugees and host communities.
- In **Taraba State**, BINTA Medical Outreach provided health services to 1,497 refugees including, health education and sensitization on prevention of hypertension and malaria. Identified health care needs include delivery kits, mosquito nets, AntiRetroViral Therapy for refugees living with HIV/AIDS and sanitary pads. Also, over 500 refugees in the Bissolla border community urgently need to be registered so they have access to health and educational assistance. Additionally, 125 students at the Mbanga Secondary School, Sardauna LGA, were dewormed and sensitized on food and hygiene.

- Malaria is widespread in the regions in Nigeria hosting Cameroonian refugees. Health assessments indicate the need for the distribution of mosquito nets to refugees.



### Food:

- Some 625 refugees spontaneously arrived at the Anyake settlement and were assisted with food and non-food items including beans, rice, cassava flour, salt, oil, sugar, mats, blankets, buckets, soap and detergent.
- The **Universal Reformed Christian Church** donated 4,800 tubers of yams, 103 bags of millets, 103 bags of cassava flour, 30 cartons of soaps, five cartons of seasoning cubes, three bags of foot wears, 104 buckets, 43 bowls and 30 cups. These items and more were distributed to 21 refugee communities in Anyake.
- UNHCR and Caritas distributed a **Cadbury Nigeria Plc** donation of 600 units of Cadbury Bournvita beverage to support school feeding of refugee and host community pupils at Saint Peter's Primary School-Adagom to over 400 pupils. Meanwhile, Caritas donated 1,000 disposable cups to support the distribution of the hot beverage.



### WASH:

- During the month of April, Save the Children International supplied potable water to refugees in Anyake, Okende and Adagom. On average, in Anyake, refugees received 21L/person/day of potable water from a motorized borehole. In Adagom, 18L/person/day was trucked to refugees. In Okende, an average of 13L/person/day was provided by borehole and trucking. Given the increasing number of refugees in the Adagom and Okende settlements, water collection points, sanitation facilities and water supply are inadequate.
- Sanitation material including, wheelbarrows, hoes, shovels, rakes and diggers were distributed to refugees in Anyake and Okende for the decommissioning of toilets. Solid waste was evacuated from Okende with the support of the Urban Development Authority. Note that the Waste Authority faces inadequate trucks and manpower to meet the increasing demand for solid waste disposal and as a result it is gradually becoming a challenge in the three settlements.
- Meanwhile sensitization on personal and environmental hygiene - menstrual hygiene, safe faeces disposal, hand washing and safe-keeping of food and drinking water - continued in the refugee settlements.



### Shelter:

- UNHCR and the Benue State Ministry of Lands have drafted a plan for the development of the proposed new refugee settlement site in Ikyogen. The site has an area of 67.8 hectares and can accommodate about 2,175 refugees. There is need to rehabilitate 5 km of the access road to the settlement including construction of three new culverts and 7.34 km of internal settlement roads to allow for transportation and delivery of supplies.
- Construction of permanent shelters continued in Adagom and Okende. In Adagom, 832 permanent shelters were completed and 37 are under construction. In Okende, 225 out of 234 permanent shelters were completed. As of April, 1,205 permanent shelters have been completed in Adagom, Anyake and Okende.



### Community empowerment/Self Reliance:

- On 9 April, Mediatrix started a five-day entrepreneurship training in **Okende** for 214 refugees. At the end of the training refugees will chose a vocational sector for specialization including fish farming, vegetable farming, fashion designing, catering, pastry making and cosmetology. Successful trainees will be provided with start-up kits to start small businesses. Meanwhile, in **Anyake**, on 16 April, Mediatrix started a five-day entrepreneurship training for 160 refugees (110 women and 50 men).
- Mediatrix undertook post distribution monitoring of 39 refugees in Anyake that received cash grants for livelihood activities in 2018. The monitoring team assessed their business performance and provided technical support. The monitoring found that some refugees had relocated to other refugee settlements as a result of insecurity caused by hostile host community members. Refugees also requested soft loans to permit business expansion.
- UNHCR partner CUSO International, carried out sensitization sessions for 624 refugees and host community members in Obanliku, Boki, Calabar, Ikom, Akampa and Etung LGAs on entrepreneurship and vocational training, sectoral cash grant, life skills and access to agricultural production.

## Working in partnership

- UNHCR and the Government of Nigeria ensure the international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to Cameroonian refugees. The Office has established a monthly coordination meeting in Ogoja, CRS, to foster collaboration with UN agencies and humanitarian actors. The following partners implement specific sector activities in the response to the Cameroon refugee situation: Family Health International (FHI 360), Save the Children International, CUSO International, Binta Medical Outreach Africa, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria (CCFN); Catholic Diocese of Makurdi Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP); MEDATRIX Development Foundation and Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre. Operational partners include FAO, ICRC, MSF, UNFPA and WHO.

## Financial Information

On 26 March, UNHCR launched a USD27.3 Million Supplementary Appeal for the Cameroon situation to cover new requirements for refugees in Nigeria, while reiterating already established overall requirements totalling USD44.6M for the response in 2019.

*UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds including:*

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