

Cameroon Situation

November 2019

50,163 *Cameroonian refugees are registered* in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.

1,470 new refugees were registered in Nigeria during the month of November. **UNHCR seeks funding to provide them with food, livelihood, shelter and healthcare.**

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

KEY INDICATORS

50,163 | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria.

24,144 | Cameroonian refugees are hosted in the Adagom, Adagom 3, Ukende settlements in Cross River State and in the Ikyogen settlement in Benue State.

52% | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities.



UNHCR Protection staff in Adagom refugee settlement, responding to refugee queries at the Protection Desk, 25 November 2019, ©UNHCR/T. Aseh

Highlights

- UNHCR has established a Field Office in Gembu, Taraba State to coordinate response for some 8,081 Cameroonian refugees. Two new partners, the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) are providing protection, education and healthcare assistance to refugees in Taraba
- From 14 to 16 November, UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Antonio Canhandula, undertook a mission to Cross River and Benue where he met with the Honourable Speaker, Rt. Hon Eteng J. Williams and members of the Cross River State House of Assembly in Calabar
- UNHCR and its partner Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace (FJDP) paid a courtesy visit to Her Excellency, the First Lady of Benue State in Makurdi, to appreciate the Governor's contributions to the refugee response, including the provision of land for the establishment of the new refugee settlement in Ikyogen and the favourable refugee protection environment in Benue
- On 25 November, UNHCR, State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), UNFPA, UNICEF, and UNHCR partners CARITAS, FHI360, FJDP, JRS, Nigeria Red Cross, Save the Children, Rhema Care, and MEDIATRIX launched the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign in CRS, Benue and Taraba States. The global 16 Days Campaign runs each year from 25 November (International Day Against Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day)
- From 4 to 6 November, the Embassy of Ireland undertook a mission to assess the Cameroonian refugee situation in Cross River and Benue. The team met with UNHCR, SEMA and other partners in Ogoja, on 5 November. The mission committed to supporting the Cameroon refugee situation
- From 26 to 28 November, a team from Spain for UNHCR (Espana con ACNUR) undertook a mission to Cross River and Benue to assess the response to the Cameroonian refugee situation and gaps so as to continue to raise funds for the refugee response. The mission visited Anyake, Ikyogen and Adagom settlements and adjacent Primary Health Centres (PHC) and schools hosting refugee students. In 2019, Espana con ACNUR contributed funds towards health, water, sanitation and hygiene services for refugees in CRS and Benue.

Achievements



Protection:

- As of 30 November 2019, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) have registered a total of **50,163**, of which 40,701 are biometrically verified
- NCFRMI and UNHCR issued 2,000 ID cards to refugees aged 14 years and above in Benue, CR and Taraba to ensure freedom of movement and access to services for refugees including banking. To date, 17,000 refugees have been issued with ID cards
- On 12 November 2019, ahead of planned Participatory Assessment (PA), UNHCR organized training for government officials and partners in Ogoja, to equip them with PA skills, knowledge and capacity to effectively facilitate Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). In attendance were 60 participants representing Ogoja and Benue Local Government Authority, SEMA, NCFRMI, UNHCR partners (FHI360, Mediatrix, Caritas, SCI, CUSO, FJDP and Rhema Care)
- From 13 to 15 November, the PA exercise was conducted through approximately 64 FGDs with 1,920 individuals including boys, girls, women and men of different ages. FGDs were conducted to strengthen Community Based Protection through the Age, Gender and Diversity, Community-Based and Rights-Based approaches. Thematic groups encompassed Protection, Education, Health, WASH, Shelter, Health, Nutrition and Livelihood. A stakeholder's workshop was subsequently held with 54 participants to discuss the outcome of the PA and prioritize interventions for Cameroonian refugees in 2020
- The UNHCR Help-Desk in Adagom and Ukende settlements attended to 522 refugees during CBI distributions. Cases recorded included persons unable to report their absence before the cash distribution, a proxy unable to prove family link to beneficiary, minors and refugees with medical reports amongst others
- Some 557 women of reproductive age received sanitary napkins in Ikyogen settlement, to promote their dignity and personal hygiene. An additional seven households of persons with specific needs

received material support including mattresses, clothing and footwear. They included persons with medical conditions, persons with a disability, women at risk and children at risk

- UNHCR and its partners Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and Local Emergency Management Agency (LEMA) paid advocacy and familiarization visits to stakeholders in Taraba State to inform them about the presence of UNHCR and its partners. The team called for the protection of refugees as a collective responsibility as they met with the Caretaker Chairman of Sardauna Local Government, traditional rulers, the Nigerian Immigration Service, the Divisional Police Officer, Department of State Security (DSS), Director of School Services, Director of Education, Nigerian Prisons Service, Nigeria Customs Service, Nigerian Airforce and the Nigeria Army. These officials pledged to support and contribute to the protection of refugees
- The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), Nigeria Federal Fire Service (NFFS), Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), CARITAS, SEMA and UNHCR held a sensitization meeting with 85 refugees on Drug abuse, fire safety, road safety, migration and human rights in the Ukende settlement (CRS)
- Mattresses and rice were provided to three (1 Female, 2 Male) persons with specific needs including one medical condition and two women at risk
- 527 individuals in 93 households from the Adagom 1 settlement hangers were successfully relocated to Adagom 3 settlement (CRS). The Adagom 1 settlement is currently overcrowded and facilities are overwhelmed
- In Adagom and Ukende settlements, the inquiry desk at the reception area continued to provide referral support to spontaneous arrivals, while ensuring the availability of electricity at the reception areas, to improve the safety and security of refugees.

Detention:

- UNHCR is monitoring the case of a refugee awaiting trial in Makurdi medium prison, Benue State. The detainee has not yet been assigned a lawyer by the Ministry of Justice.

Border monitoring:

- Some 547 new refugee arrivals were recorded in **CRS** and **Benue** during the reporting month
- In **Benue**, border monitors visited a border crossing point in Benue State where two refugees were intercepted by the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) as they did not have any identification documentation. The team raised awareness among the NIS officials on refugees' rights to freedom from arbitrary detention and freedom of movement.

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV):

- UNHCR launched the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign on 25 November in the refugee settlements and host communities in **CRS**, **Benue** and **Taraba**. Refugees, community leaders, local government officials and partners were mobilized around campaign messages that emphasised respect for women's rights and reporting of SGBV cases through referral mechanisms in host and refugee communities.
- In **Benue**, UNHCR and FJDP conducted five SGBV sensitization sessions on the code of conduct, sexual abuse and exploitation, SGBV prevention and response from 1 to 6 November for refugees, host community members, youth representatives from various associations and security personnel. Also, refugees were sensitized on adherence to segregation of males from females within the communal hangers, in order to prevent potential cases of SGBV and child abuse
- A survivor of physical assault in Ikyogen settlement was provided with wrapper, disinfectant, soap, underwear, toothbrush, paste, flip wear, body lotion, powder, comb, toilet tissue and torchlight, and battery cell
- Awareness-raising was conducted among refugees and the community, religious leaders and school officials in Ikyogen on the fight against SGBV, response and referral pathways
- On 20 November, FJDP carried out a focus group discussion with refugees aged 12 to 18 years on SGBV prevention approaches and causes in Ikyogen - 15 girls participated in the discussions.

Child protection:

- Two unaccompanied and separated children in **Calabar** were linked to a foster family
- In Adagom and Ukende, Cross River, birth certificates were issued for 42 new born babies

- In Ikyogen, **Benue**, three **child protection** cases were reported including refusal to attend school and physical assault by family members. The children and family members received counselling and necessary support
- Some 93 refugee children (53 Girls; 40 Boys) aged two to four participated in recreational activities to promote children's welfare organized in Ikyogen
- Seven Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were successfully conducted for separated children in Ikyogen. Six of the children were placed with caregivers and five were assisted with school enrolment. Also, a separated child was successfully reunified with her biological mother in Ikyogen
- From 16 to 23 November, some 555 refugee children (269B; 286G) aged 9 months to 5 years were vaccinated against measles at the Ikyogen settlement with World Health Organization (WHO) support
- A disabled 14-year-old refugee in Ikyogen was provided with a wheelchair.

Challenges

- Due to a lack of livelihoods, new-arriving refugees engage in negative coping mechanisms. Consequently, teenage pregnancy is high among refugees
- Refugee children in Ikyogen settlement need a child-friendly space to improve their wellbeing. Some 563 refugee children live in Ikyogen.



Education:

- In **Benue**, UNHCR has completed three blocks of 10 classrooms in three primary and secondary schools, to increase the learning space for refugees and host community pupils and students. Meanwhile, one block of four classrooms and office has been roofed, floored and plastered at St. Francis Xavier Secondary School, Ikyogen
- On 12 November, a training was organized for 20 enumerators on education data collection with tablets and smartphones to facilitate data collection for profiling of refugee students aged three to 28 years. Following the training, on 14 November, data collection was undertaken in Ogoja, CRS, and subsequently in **Gembu, Taraba State**
- In Ogoja, CRS, some 2,282 refugee students were enrolled into primary and secondary schools, for the new school year 2019/2020. Meanwhile, 912 students received supplies including school bags, shoes, writing materials, mathematical set, uniforms and socks. Tuition fees are paid directly to the school authorities. Furthermore, 137 school bags were distributed to refugee students in four schools in Akamkpa and Bakassi (CRS)
- In **Benue**, some 1,216 school-aged refugee children in Ikyogen were enrolled in primary and secondary schools (1,005 in primary and 211 in lower and upper secondary school). So far, 1,229 students have been enrolled. Furthermore, 418 students (207B; 211G) received school bags
- Three sensitization sessions were carried out in Ikyogen to create awareness among parents/caregivers on the need and benefits of enrolling their children in schools. Also, daily monitoring of enrolled refugee school-age children at their various schools was conducted, to ascertain the attendance of children and their conduct in school. The attendance and conduct reports were good.

Challenges

- New arriving refugee children need assistance to have access to primary education. Facilities in the schools cannot accommodate refugee pupils. Furthermore, following the resumption of schools in September, there is an urgent need for additional structures to accommodate newly enrolled students in schools hosting refugee students. Some classrooms are currently accommodating over 200 children in St Peter's Primary School-2, Adagom
- Due to lack of school furniture, most refugee students receive classes on the floor at St Peter's Primary School-2, St. Eugene's and Government Technology College (GTC) Ogoja. Moreover, WASH facilities are lacking or inadequate in the schools
- Refugee children in Ikyogen settlement need school supplies including, uniforms, sandals, socks and writing materials.



Health:

- In **Benue State**, rehabilitation of the Primary Health Centre was completed. It will improve the healthcare provided to refugees and host community. Meanwhile, rehabilitation of the staff quarters (one block of three rooms and two toilets) is ongoing
- In Ikyogen settlement, 885 (M-409, F-416) children between 9 months to 5 years were also immunized. In addition, 10 pregnant women and 50 children were given routine immunization, with support from WHO and the department of health, Ogoja and Kwande LGA's (CR and Benue States)
- In **Cross River**, a total of 384 (63% coverage) and 229 (100% coverage) children were vaccinated against measles in Adagom and Ukende settlements
- The Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria (OSN) carried out a second phase of the eye care project in refugee host communities – Ajassor in Etung LGA and in Ikom LGA. A total of 35 free cataract and 10 pterygiums were carried out at Holy Family Joint hospital, Ikom. UNHCR, the Nigeria Red Cross supported the effort
- UNHCR began anthropometric assessments in Adagom settlement/host community and in Ukende settlement, to assess the nutritional needs of refugee and host community children. Preliminary analysis of data of 120 children 6-59 months in Ukende shows the prevalence of chronic malnutrition, stunting is 60% (72/120) of which 25% moderately stunted and 35% severely stunted. Underweight: 29.2% (35/120) with 13.3% (16/120) moderate and 15.8% (19/120) severe. Weight-for-height Z score shows moderate acute malnutrition at 6.8% and severe acute at 9.3%
- Some 2,157 refugees (1,056F; 1,101M) received healthcare at the various health centres in Cross River and Benue States. Malaria remains the prevalent cause of illness
- 849 (602F; 247M) refugees in **CRS** and **Benue** were reached with reproductive health and HIV services. A total of six persons living with HIV (4F; 2M) were identified and linked to care and treatment
- Health commodities including drugs, sanitary pads, cotton wool, spirit and disinfectants were supplied to 10 Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in Adagom, Ogboja, Ukende, Utanga, Ajassor, Agbokim, Bashua, Big Qua, Ilang and Ikyogen to improve medical care offered to both refugees and host community members in **CRS** and **Benue**
- 499 refugees (301F; 198M) received logistics and referral support to access health care in the primary secondary and tertiary health care centres in **CRS** and **Benue**
- 50 healthcare workers were provided on-site mentoring on quality primary healthcare services including reproductive health, HIV and Malaria, across the supported facilities delivering medical care to refugees in CRS and Benue. Similarly, 114 community volunteers were provided on-site mentoring and training on community mobilization and health awareness creation
- Infant and Young Child feeding training was conducted on-site at the PHCs for 50 Healthcare workers and 78 community volunteers in **CRS** and **Benue**
- In **Taraba State**, the Nigeria Red Cross (NRC) conducted assessments at the Primary Health Centres in Gembu and Takum (Sardauna and Takum LGAs). The identified PHC closest to the refugees was assessed and needs renovation, staffing and medical supplies.

Challenges:

- New refugee arrivals especially those residing in the border/host communities have limited access to primary health services. This has left many of them who have no alternative helpless.



Food and Non-Food Items:

- Food and Non-food items were distributed to 340 spontaneous arrivals (119 households) at the Ikyogen settlement. Also, 751 women of reproductive age received sanitary napkins. Some 21 persons with a disability were supported with mattresses (11 women, 8 men, 1 girl and 1 boy), while seven individuals (1 man, 1 woman, 2 boys and 2 girls) were given assistance in form of clothing, following a needs assessment
- The retroactive distribution of Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) for the months of August and September at Adagom and Ukende settlements was completed. A total of 21,507 refugees (6,420 households) received their cash assistance for food and basic needs

- November and December 2019 CBI for food and basic needs distribution at Ikyogen settlement commenced on 29 November, for 6,052 refugees (1,521 HH) and is scheduled to conclude on 10 December. So far, 645 individuals (140 HH) have received CBI.

Challenges

- A total of 527 refugees have been relocated to Adagom-3 settlement, CRS. Their urgent needs include food and non-food items including mosquito nets, mattresses, kitchen utensils and cooking fuel.



WASH:

- During the reporting period, routine potable water treatment and supply was provided in all four refugee settlements (Adagom, Adagom-3, Ukende, Ikyogen). However, water supply is inadequate due to the increasing refugee population. More than 3,600 refugee and host community households were supplied with potable water through the hybrid borehole system
- Two additional boreholes were drilled in Adagom and Ikyogen settlements to meet the expected 15-20 litres/person/day post-emergency water distribution standard and to improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene
- Additionally, one hand pump was installed in the Ntol Comprehensive Secondary School Ogoja; six water stands with five taps each and reticulation of pipes were installed in Adagom settlement. Meanwhile, the construction of four rainwater harvesting points in Adagom and Ukende is ongoing
- To improve access to sanitation facilities, 42 additional gender-separated latrines were constructed in Ikyogen (25), Adagom-3 (15) and Ukende (2). Also, 10 bathing shelters were completed in Adagom. Construction of 70 family shared latrines is ongoing in Ikyogen and Adagom
- Seven Urine-Diverting Dry Toilets (UDDT) were installed in the settlements. So far, 30 UDDT latrines have been installed in all four settlements. UDDT latrines are ecological latrines designed to overcome the problem of pit excavation in high water table areas. Moreover, 74 latrines were decommissioned in the former settlement of Anyake. 15 slabs were constructed by the slab making club
- A total of 631 WASH items buckets, jerry cans, soap were distributed to refugees in the Ikyogen settlement, with priority placed on pregnant and lactating mothers. In addition, 545 women of reproductive age received dignity kits with soap, underwear, sanitary pads, pegs and buckets, to promote personal hygiene
- Hygiene sensitization sessions against open defecation, environmental/personal sanitation and hygiene was conducted in Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen settlements, reaching 2,639 individuals (1,044 persons in Adagom, 1,083 persons in Ukende and 512 in Ikyogen). Meanwhile, some 100 households were trained on water treatment, to improve water quality and promote healthy living. So far 650 households have been trained in the four settlements
- Three sanitation committees with 42 members were established and trained in the settlements. The 10 sanitation clubs established thus far promote and ensure environmental sanitation and hygiene among refugees in the settlements
- Water scheme sustainability training was conducted for 30 Water Sanitation and Hygiene Committee (WASHCOs) members in Adagom settlement. The members ensure that all water points and sources are maintained.



Shelter:

- In Ikyogen settlement, **Benue** State, construction of 105 transitional shelters was completed and occupied by refugees at the Ikyogen settlement. Some 228 shelters are under construction. 107 households received CBI for construction of transitional shelters, while a total of 30 additional emergency shelters were constructed
- Erection of a triple box culvert across the stream linking two communities was completed in Ikyogen settlement

- In **Cross River** (CRS), 91 households received CBI for construction of transitional shelters in Adagom-3 settlement. Moreover, 156 shelters are under construction.



Community empowerment/Self Reliance:

- On 15 November, the Office signed a memorandum of understanding with the Deeper Life Bible Church (DLBC) in Ikom, **CRS**, to jointly implement Integrated poultry and fish farming activities for Cameroonian refugees. The joint livelihood project will empower some 300 refugees and host community beneficiaries (60 households). Vulnerable households were selected based on the beneficiary selection criteria including female-headed households, elderly persons and households with larger family sizes
- From 11 to 25 November, UNHCR and DLBC conducted two weeks of intensive technical training on poultry and fish farming production for 60 refugees and host community members in Ikom. Upon completion of the training, start-up materials for the first production will be provided
- A two-month entrepreneurship training was organized for 42 persons on skilled or semi-skilled income-generating activities in **CRS**. The trainings included hairdressing, tailoring, catering, piggery, poultry and automobile. Thus far, all 121 beneficiaries have completed their training. Trainers have expressed willingness to further engage some of the refugees as apprentices with paid wages
- From 6 to 8 November, UNHCR and its partner FAO facilitated a training workshop on resilience and livelihoods in Ogoja, **CRS**. Some 60 participants were in attendance including refugees, host community members and agricultural development programme representatives, Cross River State Ministry of Agriculture, State Forestry Commission and Local/International NGOs. The trained looked into sustainable management of forestry and land resources, safe access to fuel and energy and business development plans
- In Calabar and Ikom, a training on Village Savings Loan Association (VSLA) Kits (share passbook, cash bowl, stamp and inepad, money bags and record ledger) was organized for 21 community volunteers. Furthermore, 30 VSLAs were registered as cooperatives with the Ministry of Cooperative and Social Welfare registration. This registration will strengthen and provide financial security for the VSLAs' funds
- From 8 to 9 November, a 2-day training was organized on weed control for refugees in the farmers field school category in **CRS** and **Benue**, to equip them with requisite skills and knowledge on improved ways of handling farm produce (Cassava and Bambara nut) after harvest. This will greatly reduce post-harvest losses as a result of deterioration. Also, beneficiaries gained knowledge on improved methods of storage and best practices in processing commodities, to help increase the value/marketability of farm produce
- Two VSLAs in **Akamkpa, CRS**, have commenced loan disbursement to their members. Golden Togetherness group has disbursed a loan of Naira 100,000 to ten members totaling (N10k each), at an interest rate of 5%. Meanwhile, the Amazing Unity loan group disbursed Naira 90,000 to nine VSLA members
- A Peer Mentorship and Life Skills training was conducted by Mediatrix for 48 refugees and host community members between the ages of 14 to 22 years in Ikyogen settlement, **Benue**. They were trained on building good relationships, healthy living, hygiene promotion, reproductive health, Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, child rights and responsibilities and volunteerism. Refugee (14G, 12B) and host community children (5G, 17B) were trained from 25 to 29 November 2019.



Settlement coordination and management

- In **CRS** and **Benue**, the State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMA) managed the settlements to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities and address concerns and queries by refugees.

Working in partnership

- In collaboration with the Nigerian Government, UNHCR ensures 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, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria (CCFN); Catholic Diocese of Makurdi Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP); MEDATRIX Development Foundation, Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre, Jesuit Refugee service (JRS), Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Operational partners include ICRC, MSF, UNFPA and WHO.

Financial Information

On 26 March, UNHCR launched a Supplementary Appeal for the Cameroon situation for USD27.3 Million in new requirements for refugees in Nigeria, while reiterating already established overall requirements totalling USD44.6M for the response in 2019. [As of 03 Decembe 2019, funding of the budget for the Cameroon refugee situation stood at 56%.](#)

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CONTACTS

Mulugeta Zewdie, Head of Sub Office, Ogoja – Nigeria.

zewdiemu@unhcr.org, Cell + 234 809 016 0757

Tony Aseh, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Sub Office, Ogoja – Nigeria.

aseh@unhcr.org, Cell + 234 809 016 057 8

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