

Cameroon Situation

May-June 2019

39,602 *Cameroonian refugees are registered* in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.

3,500 new refugees were registered in Nigeria during the months of May and June. **UNHCR seeks lands and funding for new refugee settlements.**

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

39,602 | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria

18,923 | Cameroonian refugees are registered in the Adagom, Okende settlements in Cross River State and in the Anyake settlement in Benue State.

53% | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities



UNHCR Representative to Nigeria, Antonio Canhandula, leads a focused group discussion with Cameroonian refugees in Adagom, Cross River State, Nigeria. UNHCR/Tony Aseh. 21 May 2019.

Highlights

- BPRM Regional Coordinator for West Africa and a Team from the US Consulate, Lagos, were on mission to CRS to meet with UNHCR, refugees, implementing and operational partners, to get a sense of the needs and impact of the unfolding refugee situation. During the mission BPRM announced that it would make a funding contribution to the Cameroon situation.
- On 30 May, the Canadian High Commission undertook a day mission to Benue and CRS, to assess the Cameroonian refugee situation. The mission held focused group discussions with refugees in Anyake and Okende settlements and visited St Eugene's Primary School Okende (CRS), one of the schools hosting refugees. Concerns on water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), Cash Based Interventions (CBI), health, education, food/non-food items and livelihood, were highlighted as major challenges by refugees.
- From 15 to 20 June, UNHCR, Government officials, local communities, refugees and other stakeholders in Benue, Cross River, and Taraba States celebrated the World Refugee Day in Nigeria. The cities of Ogoja and Calabar signed the cities #withrefugees campaign, meanwhile, hundreds of sympathizers joined in the #stepwithrefugees campaign around the country.

Achievements



Protection:

- **New arrivals:** In May and June, over 3,500 new arrivals from the South-West and North-West regions of Cameroon were recorded by UNHCR and its partners Caritas, Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace (FJDP), Binta Medics and State Emergency Agency in Cross River State (CRS), Benue and Taraba States. The majority were women and children. Their most urgent needs are food, shelter and medical assistance.
- In order to facilitate the Cash for Food distribution in the three settlements of Adagom, Okende, Cross River State, (CRS) and Anyake, Benue State, UNHCR and its partners Caritas and Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP) carried out verification of refugee identity, payment monitoring, crowd control, established a complaint and feedback desk, and prioritization of vulnerable persons at the point of distribution. Additionally, hospitalized individuals were verified by UNHCR through visits to health facilities and home visits within the settlement, while cash-based assistance was distributed.
- Over 1,500 refugees living in the host communities continued to self-relocate to Adagom and Okende settlements, due to limited access to registration, medical care, livelihoods, shelter, education, food, and non-food items. Consequently, temporary shelters in the settlements are overcrowded. Most of the spontaneous arrivals particularly children and the elderly, are in urgent need of non-food items such as blankets, mats, and mattresses, to reduce the risk of contracting diseases associated with cold given the rainy season.
- An assessment of renewable energy was conducted by a private company in the Adagom and Okende communities. A total of 313 respondents from the refugee and host communities were interviewed, to identify available sources of power, cost of power and internet accessibility. UNHCR is considering providing alternative energy for the refugee settlements, given the limited availability

of electrical grid supply particularly to cater for more than 1,300 university students who could potentially be absorbed by a distance learning program with the availability of electricity and internet connection.

- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence:** 73 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) incidents were reported in Calabar, Bakassi, Boki, Obanliku, and the settlements of Adagom and Anyake (CRS and Benue State), by Caritas and FJDP. Survivors received psychosocial counseling, while individuals who were assessed to be in need of safety, received the necessary support. However, SGBV survivors sometimes refrain from getting legal assistance for fear of stigmatization, lack of resources to cover legal fees and lastly, the probability that the perpetrators maybe released remains a serious challenge for survivors of SGBV.
- In Anyake settlement (**Benue State**), the FJDP SGBV team held a focused group discussion with refugee leaders, to provide them with a clear understanding of sexual and gender-based violence and preventive measures, in order to mitigate its occurrence.
- **Child Protection:** Caritas supported the issuance of birth certificates to 51 refugee children in Calabar, Adagom and Okende settlements (CRS) by the National Population Commission. The issuance of birth certificates to refugee children in the host communities remains a serious challenge, as officials of the Commission do not have a presence in some localities. Also, 169 children received immunization vaccines at the Anyake settlement.
- At the child-friendly space in Adagom settlement, over 1,500 children between 9 to 15 years participated in various educational and leisure activities including spellings, writing and games, as well as health sensitization sessions on HIV/AIDS, with support from Caritas.
- Caritas and FJDP identified 59 unaccompanied and separated children at the border towns of Akamkpa, Obanliku, Etung, Ikom, and in Anyake, Adagom and Okende, settlements. The children were placed under foster care/caregivers, while continuous monitoring/follow up will be conducted, to ensure their safety.
- UNHCR commenced linking of minors who were registered as separate households to their families, or assigned foster caregivers. So far, 88 minor households have been linked on the UNHCR data base, at the Adagom settlement.
- Save the Children International (SCI) distributed non-food items kits including buckets, cups, plates, blankets, water guard, soap, mosquito nets, Jerricans, spoons, potties, sweaters, slippers, mats, frying pan, cooking pots and bleach to 84 households fostering unaccompanied and separated children in Anyake settlement. A total of 120 children received the kits.
- From 27 to 29 May, over 2,000 children from the refugee and host communities of Okende and Adagom, participated in various activities to commemorate the Children's day and week of the child. On 27 May, the grand event was organized by UNHCR partner Caritas, with UNHCR, SEMA, teachers, partners and members of the host community in attendance. The event was marked by activities including a tug-of-war, drama, debate, carrier display, cultural dance, sack race, egg race and dance competition. Winners of the various competitions were presented with gifts/trophies.

- **Protection Training:** UNHCR facilitated training for staff and partners, FJDP and Caritas, on SGBV/Child Protection case management and Best Interests Determination in Adikpo and Ogoja (CRS and Benue State). During the four-day training, the draft zero of the respective Standard Operating procedures (SOPs) for the two States were developed.
- On 7 May, UNHCR and the Cross River State Ministry of Women Affairs, facilitated a training on international protection for 68 officers of the Nigerian Army in Calabar. The training equipped participants with knowledge and skills on prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, Child Protection, refugee rights and responsibilities and confidentiality.
- UNHCR partner CUSO International, facilitated a two-day training of trainers for 22 community volunteers, from border areas in CRS and Benue State. The training which took place in Calabar and Ikom (CRS), was aimed at furnishing participants with skills and knowledge on best agronomic practices for agricultural commodities (including maize, cassava and cocoa production), Village Savings and Loans Associations and business development. The volunteers will provide the necessary support to beneficiaries of the livelihood programme, to ensure quality and effective program implementation.
- On 28 June, Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Nigerian Police, Immigration, Fire Service and Road Safety, organized an awareness-raising workshop for refugees at the Adagom settlement. The training focused on security, conduct and behavior. Over 80 individuals including community leaders, were sensitized on fire prevention and general safety, drug trafficking and penalties, road safety rules, regulations and penalties, as well as the right conduct in line with the Nigerian laws.

Education:

- There are 4,621 refugee students enrolled in primary and secondary schools in Cross River, Benue and Taraba States. The Office has constructed 12 new classrooms, rehabilitated seven classrooms and provided 280 school desks and chairs at the St Peter's and St Eugene primary schools hosting refugees in Ogoja, and also at the Government Technical Secondary School Ogoja. Despite the support, there is need to enroll more students and provide additional classrooms, WASH facilities, furniture and teaching aid, to accommodate some 11,031 registered refugee students in Adagom, Anyake and Okende settlements.
- In Benue State, eight students in the Anyake settlement were provided with uniforms and transportation assistance, to facilitate their participation in the ongoing Junior Secondary School Certificate Examination (JSSCE). The primary and secondary schools where refugees attend school remain in a deplorable state. Teaching/learning aids and furniture are lacking, school buildings are dilapidated and require renovation/construction of new structures, to improve the learning environment for refugee and host community pupils.

- On June 22, 2019, the National Business and Technical Examinations Board (NABTEB) commenced examination for students in Junior Technical College 3, at the Government Technical College Ogoja. 84 refugee students took part in the examination, with support from UNHCR.
- The application exercise for the 2019 DAFI scholarship for undergraduates has begun and is open to all refugees within the jurisdiction of the Nigerian Government. The Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative Fund (DAFI), is a global scholarship programme, helping refugees' access to higher education. A total of 25 slots were allocated to Cameroonian refugees. Successful applicants will commence studies in September 2019.
- UNHCR distributed pencils to 472 school-age refugee children and 52 host community pupils in Benue State. In Cross River, UNHCR distributed 1,310 school bags to pupils of St. Peter's Primary School Adagom and St. Eugene Primary School Okende.



Health:

- In May and June, 4,655 refugees and host community received medical care, health education and sensitizations on family planning, immunization, nutrition, good hygiene practices, HIV testing/counseling in CRS, Taraba and Benue, with support from UNHCR partners FHI 360 and Binta Medical Outreach. Malaria and respiratory infections were the most prevalent diseases recorded. Urgent needs identified among refugees included examination couch, delivery kits and sanitary pads. Moreover, to ensure coverage for secondary care including surgeries, health insurance for refugees at the Anyake settlement moved from primary health centre (PHC) Igyom, to St Monica Hospital Adikpo (Benue State), by the Integrated Health Care Limited.
- In May, UNHCR reopened the abandoned health post in Okende community and commenced construction of three rooms to serve as pharmacy, laboratory and consulting room, to improve health care services provided to refugees and host community. In June, UNHCR completed the construction of two blocks of seven rooms at the Adagom and Okende Primary Health Care centres. The blocks will comprise of two pharmacies, two consulting rooms, two laboratories and a nurse room.
- Medical supplies (including weighing scale, patient screen, mattress, drip stand), and tables, chairs/benches, were donated by Mediatix, to facilitate the commencement of health care services at the Okende Health Post. Moreover, MSF provides free medical outreach services to refugees and host in the health post, once a week.
- FHI360 in collaboration with Marie Stopes International and Clinical Care/Clinical Research of Nigeria (CCCRN), conducted family planning and HIV screening services outreach at the Anyake settlement.
- A local NGO, One Gold Foundation with focus on menstrual hygiene, supplied 960 sanitary pads, which was shared to refugees in Taraba, Cross River and Benue States. The strategy is aimed at encouraging HIV voluntary counseling and testing for reproductive age women, using the pads as a reward system. More sanitary pads are still needed, to drive this strategy.

- The Health/Nutrition/WASH coordination meetings were held in Ogoja and Kwande Local Government Areas, (Cross River and Benue State). Thus, UNHCR is supporting the respective line departments to improve activities and coordination in the entire LGA's. Participants included UNHCR, FHI360, Mediatrix, Heartland Alliance, One Gold Foundation, WHO, Roll Back Malaria, Local Immunization officers, diseases surveillance officers and the environmental units of the Local Government Areas.



Food:

- The National Commission for Refugees Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), donated food and non-food items to refugees at the Anyake settlement, through SEMA. The items included: mattresses, sanitary pads, salt, rice, footwears, blankets, mosquito nets, cups, stoves, jerry cans, buckets, pots, soap, seasoning cubes, tomato paste, oil, plates, detergents, children's clothes and wrappers for women.
- A total of 20,073 individuals in 5,636 households received cash for food assistance equivalent to \$20 per individual, for the month of April and May in the three settlements of Anyake, Adagom and Okende. Moreover, for the month of June, 15,671 individuals in 4,431 households were served so far, in Adagom and Anyake settlements.
- Family Care without Borders Foundation (FCWB) a local NGO, donated non-food items comprising of baby care kits (napkins, body lotion, bathing soap, detergents, combs, tissue and plastic toilet bowls), for newborn babies. Also, sanitary pads, clothes and shoes were distributed to refugees in Okende and Adagom settlements.
- Food and non-food items (including rice, beans, salt, cassava flour and vegetable oil, mats, buckets, blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, solar lamps, kitchen sets, blankets, sanitary napkins and soap), were distributed to 982 individuals in 317 households, who spontaneously arrived at the Anyake settlement by UNHCR, with support from FJDP. On 20 June, the local NGO Archangel and Africa Now Foundations, donated T-shirts and mattresses to refugees on the occasion of the World Refugee Day.
- The World Food Programme (WFP), conducted a workshop on Market Assessment and Monitoring for key UNHCR and implementing partners' staff, in Ogoja. Furthermore, a rapid market assessment in Adagom and Okende settlements was carried out, with support from UNHCR. Key findings highlighted by refugees as challenges included: lack of mattresses, electricity, mosquito nets and cooking fuel.



WASH:

- About 4,800 refugees are benefitting from the expanded reticulation of the newly completed borehole at the Adagom settlement, with support from UNHCR partner, Save the Children International. As a result, water trucking was reduced from 240m³ to 80m³ daily, in Adagom and Okende settlements. Meanwhile, installation of water towers and pumps is ongoing at the second borehole at Adagom settlement, to facilitate water distribution within the settlement, schools, and host community. A

minimum of 15L of drinking water/person per day was supplied through boreholes and water trucking to refugees in the three settlements. Despite the construction of additional WASH facilities including latrines and boreholes in the settlements, the facilities are inadequate. In order to facilitate the maintenance of water collection points, 53 water facility caretakers were established and trained in Adagom, Okende and Anyake settlements. Also, 44 hygiene volunteers were trained on domestic and personal hygiene, dangers of open defecation, menstrual hygiene, safe water chain, environmental hygiene, water quality test and safe construction modalities.

- 250 households were reached with hygiene kits and non-food items at the Okende settlement, by Save the Children. The items included: slippers, water guards, toothpaste & brush, buckets and jerry cans, while 435 households received dignity kits in Adagom and Okende settlements. A total of 1,401 individuals benefitted from the distributions. In June, 774 households including female-headed households from the refugee and host community, received hygiene and menstrual kits at the border areas in Obanliku LGA (Cross River state), and in Adagom and Anyake settlements.
- Two slab-making clubs were established at the Anyake and Okende settlements, with a total of 39 persons trained on slab production. So far, a total of 74 members of the slab-making club have been trained in the three settlements. This was to facilitate latrine construction by refugee households, and gradually shift from communal shared to household latrines. The training have expedited the decommissioning of 34 filled latrines in the three settlements.
- Keeping It Real with Adeola Foundation (KIRWA) a local NGO, constructed a borehole and water collection point with 12 taps, and one block of 10 public water system toilets at Adagom settlement, to increase refugee's access to WASH facilities.



Shelter:

- Two culverts were completed in Adagom settlement, to facilitate movement and transportation of relief supplies.
- At the proposed new refugee settlement in Ikyogen (Benue State), crop compensation and site clearing of 59 hectares of land were successfully completed, in preparation for the relocation of refugees from the Anyake settlement. Furthermore, at the prospective refugee settlement of Adagom-3 (Cross River State) the following have been undertaken; demarcation of blocks, alignment of roads, installation of one rub-hall, building of four bathrooms, five gender-separated latrines, production of precast slabs for 10 latrines and pump testing in the newly drilled borehole.
- Site clearing and construction of WASH facilities commenced at the potential refugee settlement of Adagom-3 (Ogoja LGA, Cross River state), by UNHCR partners Rhema Care and Save the Children. So far, installation of one borehole, raiser pipes from the borehole to the elevated PVC tanks, construction of tank base for the water collection point, 5 reception hangers and 5 latrine pits, were completed in the new site.
- Construction of permanent shelters continued in Adagom and Okende. In Adagom, 862 permanent shelters were completed and five are under construction. In Okende, 234 permanent shelters are

completed. As of June, 1,244 permanent shelters have been completed in Adagom, Anyake and Okende.



Community empowerment/Self Reliance:

- On 20 May, vocational training for 365 beneficiaries started at the Adagom settlement by Mediatrix. On 3 June, vocational training for 182 refugees commenced at the Okende settlement, by UNHCR partner Mediatrix. Refugees are being trained on the vocational skills of their choice including vegetable farming, poultry, fish farming, tailoring, hairdressing/barber shop, catering/pastry making and cosmetology. The eight weeks of intensive training is aimed at empowering the beneficiaries with skills for self-reliance and income generation. Upon completion, refugees will receive start-up kits to set up their own businesses. In 2019, 547 refugees in Adagom and Okende settlements have benefitted from skills training. UNHCR is seeking more financial resources to empower more refugees in both settlements and in the host communities.
- The second batch of life skills training for 196 individuals among refugees and host communities, was conducted by UNHCR partner CUSO International, in seven border communities in Cross River and Benue States. With the conclusion of the life skills training, the Farmers Field School (FFS) program will be set up for refugees, who have indicated interest in farming.
- From 30 to 31 May, a two-day life skill training was conducted for 188 refugees and host community members in Calabar, Akamkpa and Bakassi Local Government Areas, CRS, by CUSO International, with the aim to empower them with entrepreneurship skills including communication skills, negotiation skills, stress and time management skills.
- Monitoring and mentorship of the 2018 livelihood beneficiaries at the Adagom, Okende and Anyake settlements were carried out by Mediatrix, in order to provide technical support and promote their businesses. During monitoring, beneficiaries stated access to a loan to facilitate the expansion of their businesses, as a major concern.
- On 29 June, UNHCR and partners organized refugee leadership elections for the Adagom settlement, which hosts over 9,000 refugees. Refugees in the settlement were previously managed by adhoc refugee leaders. The elected leadership will make a difference and ensure better organization of the settlement and most of all, ensure better coverage of refugees' needs.

Working in partnership

- Together 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, 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 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.

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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