

# Annual Results Report

**2023**

**Nigeria**

## Acknowledgements

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# Section 1: Context and Overview

## 1.1 Changes to the Operational Context

By the end of 2023, Nigeria hosted 86,500 registered refugees and asylum seekers, and 2.3 million internally displaced people (IDPs). The protection environment remained favourable as Nigeria maintained its open-door policy, and no incident of refoulment was reported. The refugee temporary protection status Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Cameroonian refugees remains valid through June 2024.

In October 2023, UNHCR completed the refugee verification exercise, resulting in a drop in figures from 84,000 to 64,000, mainly due to no shows following ongoing population verifications. At year-end, 31 per cent of the refugees lived in four settlements and 69 per cent in host communities.

In December 2023, the government of Nigeria renewed its pledges to further implement the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) to support the inclusion of displaced persons in five of its key programme areas i.e., self-reliance, social protection, education, health, and Gender-Based violence (GBV).

The conflict in Cameroon's Far North Region has driven a continuous influx in Adamawa State, with over 14,000 asylum seekers registered.

The coup in Niger in July 2023, pushed over 2000 nationals from Niger to cross to Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe (BAY) States.

In the BAY States, the Non-State Armed Groups (NSAGs) threats restricted humanitarian access, with efforts mainly focused on liberated towns where IDPs are concentrated. Additionally, floods and droughts impact the overall humanitarian response, affecting over two million IDPs.

More than 342,000 Nigerians sought asylum in Cameroon, Chad, and Niger in recent years. Significant returns of over 27,000 Nigerian refugees to Northeast Nigeria occurred in 2023, marking a 50% per cent increase compared to 2022.

Benue State witnessed increased internal displacement, and the response remained with limited humanitarian presence and funding. In August 2023, the Nigerian Government, UNHCR, IOM, and other stakeholders, initiated a biometric registration exercise for the IDPs in Benue.

## 1.2. Progress Against the Desired Impact

### 1. Impact Area: Attaining Favorable Protection Environments

**1. By 2025, affected populations enjoy a favourable protection environment and access to basic human rights.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	85.75%
1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	85.77%

Nigeria provides prima facie recognition to over 63,000 Cameroonian refugees, and its out-of-camp policy ensures that refugees enjoy freedom of movement within Nigeria with no restrictions. Refugees continue to enjoy a favourable protection environment and access to fair procedures that safeguard against refoulement.

Northeast Nigeria is hosting 26,000 refugees and asylum seekers from hours Cameroon, Niger, and Chad, and a few from Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In 2023, only 15,000 asylum seekers from Cameroon were biometrically registered with ongoing arrivals of refugees and asylum seekers recorded in Adamawa, Borno, and Yobe States, given the sustained military operations against NSAGs, and the “Niger Coup”.

Out of the total 89,000 refugees and asylum seekers, only 86% who are biometrically registered are able to move freely within Nigeria.

The Humanitarian Response Plan, through an added refugee chapter, included refugees and asylum seekers in the coordination mechanism, ensuring refugees are given due consideration in the provision of assistance and protection. Through multisectoral response provided by UNHCR, partners, and government structures, the forcibly displaced persons are able to meet some of their basic needs.

The protection situation for nearly two million internally displaced persons (IDPs) has significantly improved due to agile protection monitoring and increased awareness. A unified protection monitoring tool was developed for the Northeast and was launched in 2023. With government support, protection and human rights standards have been mainstreamed in the operation. UNHCR and partners, through protection services, provided detention and human rights monitoring, free legal counselling and court representation to forcibly displaced people, enhancing access to justice and freedom of movement. This initiative imparted legal knowledge and ensured proper representation for the vulnerable, promoting human rights and social justice.

### 2. Impact Area: Realizing Rights in Safe Environments

**2. By 2025, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and returnees receive improved services and have improved quality of life**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41.65%	0.00%
2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	50.64%

The Nigerian Living Standard Survey (NLSS) revealed that only 5,600 individuals in 3,565 households (out of 54,851 individuals in 16,474 households) surveyed socio-economically, report expenditures above the established per capita National Poverty Line (NPL) 177USD per year. The remaining 49,000 individuals (90%) in 13,000 households report per capita expenditures below the NPL.

In ABCT States, UNHCR and its partners engaged in improving access to safe and affordable housing targeting the most vulnerable refugees. In the Northeast, 60 percent IDPs are living in host communities with rented/donated houses and 40 percent are living in camps and camp-like settings with 29 per cent living in habitable housing.

The Northeast Nigeria is host to over 2 million IDPs among whom 900,000 live in settlements (IOM DTM round 46) that lack basic services such as electricity, clean water, food, and shelter. Close to 26,000 refugees are living in out-of-camps settings with low level of access to services and significantly low quality of life.

In the South-South, UNHCR supported 37 PHCs in communities hosting refugees and coordinated referral care and supported the engagement of 160 health workers. Free consultation services were offered to both refugees and host community members including more than 1,000 referrals comprising of 200 cases with mental health clinical support.

The Nigerian Bureau for Statistics reports that 133 million (63 per cent) people in Nigeria, are considered multidimensionally poor in 2022, with the majority of them living in the northern part of the country.

The humanitarian community, including UNHCR, have been working to enhance conditions of the forcibly displaced people, including through the provision of protection safety nets and livelihood support. The support to five livelihood and vocational centres, strategically located in Maiduguri, Bama and Ngala, demonstrates the commitment to improving vocational training service provision.

### 3. Impact Area: Empowering Communities and Achieving Gender Equality

#### 3. By 2025, affected populations have improved capacity and livelihoods to achieve self-reliance.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%
3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	40.74%	36.05%
3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	31.18%	40.61%
3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41.09%	17.57%

The Federal Government of Nigeria has a conducive policy framework that allows all refugees the right to decent work, freedom of movement and access to refugee IDs to access services and pursue formal employment opportunities. UNHCR continued to advocate for inclusion of forcibly displaced persons in development programmes of the Government and development actors. During the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the Government of Nigeria pledged to include 25 per cent working-age refugees in the government and development partners' economic development programmes by 2027 which will increase access to self/wage employment and self-reliance opportunities for the displaced population and host communities.

While the plight of forcibly displaced people in Northeast Nigeria remains a significant concern, there are concerted efforts underway to improve their capacity and livelihoods, access to education, and safety, thereby fostering self-reliance to ensure their right to decent work and a safe living environment. The

provision of protection safety nets, including cash assistance has promoted social cohesion by reducing competition over limited resources in camp and out of camp settings. This has significantly contributed to community resilience and stability by reducing tensions related to limited resources and promoting peaceful coexistence between IDPs and host communities.

An increased access to and participation in higher levels of learning is evident with 36 per cent of children and young people enrolled in primary education, and 41 per cent enrolled in secondary education.

A safety audit report revealed that a concerning 18 per cent of asylum seekers reported “feeling safe” while walking alone in their neighborhood after dark underscoring a significant portion of the population living under a sense of insecurity in their local surroundings.

## 4. Impact Area: Securing Solutions

### 4. By 2025, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and returnees have better access to comprehensive durable solutions.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Actual (2023)
4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5	20
4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1	0
4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Unknown	5
4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	90,508	63,198

In 2023, Nigeria aimed to resettle 80 individuals which was a protection tool for vulnerable refugees such as children at risk, survivors of violence and torture survivors of GBV.

By the end of 2023, 90 individuals had been referred for processing to the UNHCR’s regional office for West and Central Africa and 56 individuals were submitted to the United States of America.

Through complementary education pathways, two Cameroonian refugees (a male and a female) received scholarships and traveled to Italy and Ireland to pursue university education.

Though the Cameroonian refugees demonstrated interest to return home, they indicated that they would return only if the ongoing conflict in Cameroon ceases, and the security situation improves. Hence voluntary repatriation is not considered as a feasible solution for refugees.

In Northeast Nigeria, as of December 2023, no asylum seeker has been granted refugee status. UNHCR has been at the forefront of advocating for refugee status to be granted to asylum seekers in Adamawa State, on par with those in the South-South Nigeria. This is a crucial step that precedes the acquisition of any residency status.

UNHCR, in collaboration with partners and other UN agencies, continues to actively involve in securing asylum seekers, and refugee status within the existing humanitarian structures in Adamawa State. Key players in the coordination of this humanitarian response include the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), and UNHCR. Their efforts are bolstered by the support from the Federal, State and Local Government Areas (LGAs) authorities.

UNHCR has supported the office of the Resident Coordinator in the implementation of the UN Secretary-General Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, by advancing durable solution pathways for 2,700 IDPs in Adamawa state that facilitated the transition from displacement to sustainable living by constructing shelters and other amenities. UNHCR further supported the Government to establish various coordination structures.

## 1.3 Challenges to Achieving Impacts

Limited footprint of UN agencies and other humanitarian and development actors continued to impact protection delivery to Cameroonian refugees and IDPs in Benue. Access to some refugees and locations remained challenging due to insecurity, difficult terrains, and limited resources.

While the protection environment is generally positive, the short validity of the Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Cameroonian refugees, expiring in June 2024, presents a challenge. Reissuing identity cards requires additional funds. Without valid documents, refugees face challenges in accessing essential services and freedom of movement.

The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the Civilian and Humanitarian Character of Asylum need to be fully operationalized, as their absence could lead to a compromised protection space, increased tensions within refugee settlements and host communities, and heightened security risks for both refugees and their hosts.

The naira floating policy and removal of the fuel subsidy caused inflation, reducing the purchasing power of displaced people and affecting project delivery. The shift to cashless transactions and the 2023 Naira redesign disrupted cash assistance distribution.

The “Niger Coup” has led to an influx of spontaneous refugee returns and asylum seekers to the BAY States. Influxes and continuous returns/spontaneous movements have exerted pressure on the existing humanitarian response capacities.

The Borno State Government's initiative to close IDP camps in Maiduguri and identify seventeen return locations continued. However, this move introduced challenges, particularly in hard to access areas due to insecurity, increasing IDPs' vulnerability to attacks, unresolved housing issues, and land mine contamination. Diminishing food aid and limited access to safe farming and livelihood options exacerbate protection risks and humanitarian needs. UNHCR and partners continued to advocate for the importance of ensuring safe and voluntary returns.

## 1.4 Collaboration and Partnerships

UNHCR engages with the Nigerian Government to ensure protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to forcibly displaced populations and host communities.

UNHCR is an active member of the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), assuming an advisory role in diverse humanitarian forums and financing boards. UNHCR was able to ensure that its programming complemented existing initiatives, demonstrating systematic alignment with government priorities outlined in the Nigeria Humanitarian Needs Overview for the North East. In addition, UNHCR fostered multi-sectoral synergies to ensure protection is mainstreamed across the humanitarian response.

In South Nigeria, UNHCR continued to align its partnership and coordination in line with the Protection and Solutions Strategy and advocated for the integration of refugees in national plans.

UNHCR continued to engage with government and partners to facilitate operationalization of GCR pledges. The government provided land in two refugee settlements, promoting agriculture and peaceful co-existence. Engagement with the Ministry of Education led to increased enrolment in primary and tertiary education.



The Ministry of Health contributed to include refugee children in the basic standard health systems (antenatal care/treatment and immunisations).

In Adamawa State, strengthened partnerships with local government leaders and ministries have led to significant advancements in a durable solutions pilot project, including the allocation of 15 hectares of land. This collaboration has facilitated project planning, environmental assessments, and town planning services. Engagements with community leaders have been pivotal in conflict resolution and enhancing social cohesion between IDPs and host communities. Additionally, advocacy efforts have successfully resulted in the establishment of a junior secondary school, with residents from the Labondo settlement, including locally integrated IDPs, participating as volunteers.

## Section 2: Results

### 2.1. Outcomes and Achievements

#### 1. Outcome Area: Access to Territory, Reg. and Documentation

1.3. By 2025, quality of data of forcibly displaced people is improved.

1.4. By 2025 access to territory and individual registration is improved

1.8. By 2025, institutions are able to issue civil documentation to forcibly displaced people.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	32.69%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	IDPs	10.00%	15.00%	24.35%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	44.31%	60.00%	29.71%
1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Returnees	47.04%	Unknown	42.79%
1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	IDPs	41.67%	54.00%	48.39%

#### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The Government of Nigeria has maintained an open-door policy and has continued to welcome Cameroonian refugees, creating a favourable protection environment, with no reported incidents of refoulement. Access to territory, registration and documentation of forcibly displaced persons, is ensured with the support of government entities such as NCFRMI, Nigeria Immigration Services (NIS), the National Population Commission (NPC) and the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC).

The total number of Cameroonian asylum-seekers and refugees in Nigeria stood at 64,000 as of December 2023. The majority are women and children, and they are located in four different states. Of these, 69 per cent live within the host communities and 31 per cent in the official designated settlements.

In October 2023, UNHCR concluded the comprehensive refugee verification and registration exercise, verifying 72 per cent of the targeted population. The exercise included a socio-economic component to enable a shift to targeted support. Due to no-shows for the verification exercise, over 20,000 records (25 per cent) were inactivated, decreasing the refugee figures to 64,000 compared to 86,000 by the end of December 2022.

In 2023, UNHCR and NCFRMI jointly registered new Cameroonian refugees. Through the verification exercise, over 17,000 identification documents were issued to refugees and 2,000 birth certificates to refugee children. The affidavits issued by the courts for lost documentation served as a mitigation measure against the risks of statelessness.

Over 2023, UNHCR registered close to 26,000 refugees and asylum seekers in North East Nigeria,

amongst whom approximately 14,500 have been biometrically registered.

In North East Nigeria, 56,000 individuals were issued legal documents, including indigene certificates (35,000) and birth certificates (21,000). More than 1,300 refugee returnees from Cameroon were issued birth certificates (787) and indigene certificates (1,319), while some 1,000 asylum seekers born in Nigeria received birth certificates.

UNHCR and IOM, begun the biometric registration for IDPs in Benue together with SEMA and NCFRMI and other humanitarian actors.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the protection partner and the NPC, issued birth certificates for 1,800 (52 per cent) children across five LGAs in Benue State.

Through continuous engagement with relevant line ministries, including NIMC and NPC, IDPs were sensitised to acquire other civil documentation, such as marriage and death certificates. During the registration exercise, it was observed that 83 per cent of IDPs were in possession of Permanent Voters Card and National Identity Cards.

## 2. Outcome Area: Status Determination

### 1.1. By 2025, the efficiency and quality of status determination processes is improved.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	120.00	90.00	120.00

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria continued to be recognized on a two-year temporary protection status ; therefore, no individual refugee status determination (RSD) interview was conducted prior to refugee recognition. Other asylum seekers, majority from Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger, Central Africa Republic, Cameroon, Syria, Turkey, Mali, and 34 other countries, undergo individual status determination.

Following the adoption of the new refugee law in February 2023, UNHCR facilitated the training of the newly inaugurated nine-member Eligibility Committee. In 2023, a few Cameroonian refugees, including a few students who required travel documents after receiving scholarships to study abroad, applied for Conventional Travel Documents (CTDs) to participate in international events and workshops. In the instances above, NCFRMI with UNHCR's support, expedited the RSD process.

Out of the individuals registered for the asylum procedures, 51 per cent had accessed legal advice through UNHCR legal aid support provided to rejected asylum seekers to prepare written submissions to the Refugee Appeal Board.

## 3. Outcome Area: Protection Policy and Law

### 1.10. By 2025, implementation of the National Action Plan for eradication of statelessness is improved.

#### 1.9. By 2025, policy framework is improved to enable better access to protection services

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Broadly aligned: $\geq$ 90 points	Broadly aligned: $\geq$ 90 points	Broadly aligned: $\geq$ 90 points
3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	Stateless Persons	Broadly aligned: $\geq$ 90 points	Broadly aligned: $\geq$ 90 points	Broadly aligned: $\geq$ 90 points

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

The new NCFRMI Act 2022 gave effect to the implementation of all refugee Conventions and Protocols and, for the first time, the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, providing a legal basis for the operationalisation of the SOPs for Statelessness Status Determination that was drafted in 2022.

The 2022 Bill, aiming to domesticate the IDP Kampala Convention, successfully received the concurrence of the National Assembly pending its signing into law, which will enable a renewed but fast-track domestication process in 2024. A repeal of the National Commission Refugee Act (NCFR) was signed into law in January 2023, reconstituting the profile and number of the Eligibility Committee on RSD from a three to a seven-member committee, which requires further capacity development and resource allocation for regular sitting. The Refugee Appeal Board (RAB) was also finally constituted, with additional members retaining observer status for UNHCR.

In commemoration of the #Ibelong Campaign, UNHCR conducted two workshops on the eradication of statelessness in the South-South and over 120 participants from the government and other stakeholders were sensitised on the National Action Plan to Eradicate Statelessness in Nigeria in the transition to the Global Alliance to Eradicate Statelessness.

Refugees and asylum seekers in North East Nigeria are integrated into the ongoing humanitarian response.

The Nigeria IDP policy signed in 2021 remains a reference point during negotiations and advocacy with the government and complemented by the Borno State Disability Law 2023 which helps enforce the protection and dignity of people living with disability in the State. It is consistent with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

UNHCR, in collaboration with IOM, the Government and NGOs, trained government officials and participated in the commemoration of World Day against Trafficking in Persons in the BAY States and through advocacy, awareness and training, thus enhancing the protection of forcibly displaced and stateless people.

In the South-South region, a UNHCR partner mainstreamed statelessness activities into their programs in Benue State, collaborating with government institutions. This effort was part of the #IBelong Campaign, which was rolled out across all Local Government Areas (LGAs). Key sensitisation messages were displayed, encouraging IDPs to access relevant line ministries for individual documentation, reaching out to some 8,000 individuals in the context of tracing family routes of children and / or family members in displacement. NIMC and NPC pledged to visit IDP camps for individual registration and collaborate with UNHCR and partners in future activities.

## 4. Outcome Area: Gender-based Violence

### 3.1. By 2025, gender-based violence response services are available and accessible to forcibly displaced people, and follow clear standard operating procedures.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	0.74%	2.00%	8.33%
4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21.95%	30.00%	53.70%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	IDPs	0.74%	2.00%	8.00%
4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	21.95%	25.00%	76.51%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	IDPs	100.00%	100.00%	66.67%
4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100.00%	100.00%	75.23%

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and its partners have taken a multifaceted approach across all locations to enhance prevention, risk mitigation, and response strategies.

The collaborative efforts involve a broad network of stakeholders, including Federal and State Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), UN Agencies, NGOs, CSOs, and Refugee-led Organizations. This partnership aims to create a cohesive and effective response to GBV through joint assessments, advocacy campaigns, and capacity building.

Nearly 44 per cent of the population benefitted from GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response activities in the ABCT states. Based on a survey, 8 per cent of the participants reported being aware of where to access available GBV services, which is a 40 per cent improvement compared to 2022. Some 77 per cent disagreed with statements that supported violence against women. Out of the reported GBV incidents, seven per cent were rape, 12 per cent sexual assault, 34 per cent physical assault, one per cent child/forced marriage, 24 per cent psychosocial abuse, and 21 per cent denial of resources, opportunities, and services. A majority, 88 percent, of individuals who utilized case management services reported satisfaction with the assistance they received. Referral pathways were updated for all locations, and GBV SOPs are in place.

One GBV safety audit was conducted in Cross River State in urban and rural settings across nine LGAs to assess safety and security measures in place, identify gaps and areas of improvement in addressing GBV.

UNHCR also coordinated with three refugee-led organizations to enhance effectiveness and impact of initiatives addressing GBV.

In the Middle Belt region, coordination was enhanced through the GBV Sub Sector Working Group, which resulted in the identification of three safe houses. An increase in GBV incidents was recorded due to multiple displacements and extreme poverty. To mitigate the risks, livelihood and empowerment training was conducted for 30 IDPs on income-generating activities and through partner funds, 500 IDPs were reached out through Psychosocial Support activities across all LGAs.

In North East Nigeria, interventions were able to reach 24,000 individuals with GBV prevention messages (including PSEA) and messages on promoting gender equality across Borno and Adamawa States. Some 1,200 survivors and women at risk were provided with case management support services, including psychosocial support. Additionally, improvements were made to case management procedures, including the development of feedback forms and SOPs for case management. UNHCR and its partners trained 1,000 women and girls on life skills. Dignity kits were provided to 1,500 women and girls of reproductive age to promote their protection, physical and psychological well-being, mobility, and hygiene. UNHCR

distributed fuel-efficient stoves to 2,000 Cameroonian refugees and asylum seekers households across Madagali, Michika, and Mubi LGAs.

## 5. Outcome Area: Child Protection

**1.6. By 2025, best interest determination processes and community-based child protection structures are improved and effective in line with national standards.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	IDPs	2.02%	4.00%	82.90%
5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	27.91%	30.00%	11.16%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	IDPs	29.90%	35.00%	82.90%
5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	23.90%	35.00%	23.53%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	IDPs	Unknown	50.00%	40.00%
5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41.04%	50.00%	8.65%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, Best Interest Procedures (BIP) were crucial for the welfare of Cameroonian refugee children, addressing the needs of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and mitigating risks like abuse and neglect while enabling foster care opportunities for seven per cent of unaccompanied children (UACs). Some 600 Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) and 25 Best Interest Determinations (BIDs) were carried out by the Child Protection Working Group providing support through psychosocial assistance, material assistance, and service referrals.

Over 21 per cent (7,000) of refugee children in the ABCT states participated in various Community-Based Child Protection Programmes (CBCPC), including commemoration of important dates and other joint child play activities.

In Benue, identification procedures were conducted for 48 children (30 females and 18 males) at risk of heightened protection and BIPs performed for 24 children (14 males and 10 females). Group counselling in the form of games, mostly football, was organized across different LGAs to ensure emotional well-being of the children. These activities were integrated into significant events such as the 16 Days of Activism and peaceful co-existence activities.

In the BAY States, UNHCR and partners' Child Protection programming included case management, psychosocial support for children and alternative care providers, material assistance to children at heightened risk and alternative care providers based on identified needs, and life skills training for youth and alternative care providers.

UNHCR and its partners implemented BIP for 853 children at heightened risk, initiating BIA or BID and facilitating appropriate referrals. Additionally, 89 UACs were provided with alternative care. Counselling interventions reached 4,561 children, while material assistance supported 735 children at risk and 58

alternative care providers in Borno and Adamawa states. Furthermore, UNHCR's sustained awareness efforts on child protection, children's rights, and positive parenting impacted around 50,000 individuals.

Furthermore, to strengthen the capacity of CBCPC and Alternative Care structures, UNHCR capacitated 268 CBCPC members to (among other things) identify and refer children with specific needs and conduct awareness raising in their communities. To engage youth and vulnerable care providers in making productive use of their time, UNHCR and partners trained 312 youth and vulnerable care providers on various life skills.

## 6. Outcome Area: Safety and Access to Justice

### 1.2. By 2025, access to legal assistance and legal remedies is improved

### 1.5. By 2025, forcibly displaced people have better access to justice and freedom from arbitrary arrests.

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR, partners and stakeholders enhanced their efforts to ensure forcibly displaced people have better access to justice and are free from arbitrary arrest. UNHCR, through its protection partners, conducted a total of 162 detention monitoring exercises at primary, secondary, and tertiary facilities in the ABCT States (125 in Benue and Akwa Ibom, 34 in Cross River, and 1 in Taraba). These monitoring exercises allowed UNHCR to assess detention conditions and ensure that refugees were not subject to arbitrary arrests.

Occasionally, a multi-functional team conducted joint border missions during which the Immigration Control Office, relevant host community leaders and refugees in border communities were visited to understand protection trends at the borders. A total of 174 monitoring visits were conducted to the border communities.

UNHCR, through protection partners, provided legal assistance to 86 refugees in Cross River, Akwa Ibom, and Benue States through legal representation in court. Additionally, 3,000 refugees were assisted through out-of-court processes, including alternative dispute resolution options in the ABCT states. Legal assistance was primarily provided to survivors of gender-based violence (GBV), and individuals involved in minor crimes such as theft.

In the BAY States, UNHCR and its partner, the Nigeria Human Rights Commission (NHCR), performed detention and human rights monitoring activities. Also, by providing support to the courts, legal service provision was increased, contributing to the release of minor offenders. In addition, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) enhanced police capacity.

UNHCR and partners were able to provide free legal counselling to forcibly displaced people and represented them in courts, significantly enhancing access to justice. This initiative did not only impart legal knowledge but also ensured proper representation for the vulnerable, promoting human rights and social justice. Through UNHCR and the Nigeria Institute of Chartered Arbitrators (NiCarb), 20 lawyers and judicial officers were trained and certified in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in Borno State. Leveraging the Borno Amicable Settlement Corridor, 100 cases in Borno State were successfully resolved through ADR. The collaboration contributes to enhancing the judicial infrastructure and ensuring a more accessible and responsive legal system in the State, further contributing to a more robust protection environment in North East Nigeria.

## 7. Outcome Area: Community Engagement and Women's Empowerment

### 3.2. By 2025, number of gender community structures is increased and their capacity improved



Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	IDPs	8.33%	70.00%	33.45%
7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.72%	45.00%	84.94%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	IDPs	40.63%	50.00%	43.13%
7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	35.71%	50.00%	40.89%
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	IDPs	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points
7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Returnees	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points	Extensive: $\geq 70$ points

## Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and partners, led by SEMA, enhanced engagement with refugees and host communities in the ABCT States through improved coordination and communication platforms. SEMA organized monthly meetings with refugee and traditional leaders, and bi-quarterly town hall meetings, to foster dialogue. Additionally, refugee leaders joined bi-monthly inter-agency coordination meetings with UNHCR and partners, contributing to operational management across sectors. To ensure accountability, robust communication and feedback mechanisms were established, enabling 60 per cent of refugees and host community members to have access to complaint and feedback channels.

UNHCR supported SEMA to conduct elections for refugee leaders in settlements and host communities in 2023, with some elected tenures expected in 2024 with 40 per cent female participation in leadership structures.

In the final quarter of 2023, UNHCR and partners implemented a group art project creating murals at several locations in Ogoja. This community initiative involved 72 children (44 per cent females) in producing artwork across seven sites, with themes including livelihoods, social cohesion, mental health, and the prevention of GBV.

In Benue, UNHCR and partners strengthened field presence and established protection desks for individual case management to record complaints and feedback mechanisms. Eleven complaint boxes were installed in IDP camps and strategic locations in host communities across five LGAs. Complaints recorded at the protection desks included 189 GBV-related cases, 113 CP cases, mostly health-related and 156 CBP cases enquiring about food and empowerment support. Women committees with teaching skills were supported to establish community informal schools in IDP camps. They also act as child and GBV committees, working hand in hand with protection volunteers in identifying and reporting cases of GBV and child protection.

With a view to expanding and empowering community-based networks, especially women groups – to support community participation at the grassroots level, UNHCR and partners in the BAY States established additional community-based networks and restructured their work model by introducing concepts of global commitments and national policies and framework on women's engagement, youth inclusion, and leadership.



Consequently, 1,074 members of CBP structures across 11 local government areas (LGAs) were capacitated on GBV prevention, positive gender norms, prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA), and Community-Based Complaint Mechanism (CBCM). As a result of these efforts, there was increased engagement and meaningful participation of the affected populations, social cohesion with host communities was strengthened, 48% of the GBV cases that underwent case management in 2023 were identified and referred by CBP structures, and access to feedback and response mechanisms was enhanced.

## 8. Outcome Area: Well-Being and Basic Needs

**1.11. By 2025, UNHCR engagement in mixed movements is strengthened.**

**2.5. By 2025, food security status of forcibly displaced people is improved.**

**2.6. By 2025, forcibly displaced people have improved living conditions.**

**4.2. By 2025, systems for coordination, leadership and governance are improved.**

**4.3. By 2025, systems for coordination, leadership and governance are improved.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	55.38%	50.00%	12.40%
8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	49.35%	50.00%	37.06%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

To restore the dignity of forcibly displaced people, cash assistance plays a pivotal role in increasing protection outcomes and facilitating inclusion and solutions, including social and economic development. It significantly contributes to improving well-being and resilience.

In collaboration with the Government of Nigeria and partners, UNHCR provided food assistance through Cash-Based Interventions (CBI) to 30,000 Cameroonian refugees in the ABCT States, representing 46 per cent of the total 65,000 refugees. This is a change compared to end 2022 when 58 per cent (50,000) were assisted out of the 86,000 refugees. Food assistance remained at NGN 2,600 (approximately \$3) per person per month, insufficient to cover 50 per cent of the needs.

To strengthen monitoring and accountability, UNHCR conducted a Post-Distribution Monitoring exercise, covering 820 households for the assistance delivered. In an effort to increase access to financial services, and align our interventions with the government's cashless policy, close to 2,600 verified households were also supported to independently open bank accounts, transitioning from cash-in-hand distribution to bank transfers.

Alongside the Verification exercise, a Socio-economic survey was conducted for 16,000 households with the aim of gathering data required for targeted interventions.

Nearly 4,000 Cameroonian refugees in ABCT States received core relief items (CRIs) prioritising new arrivals and vulnerable persons with specific needs, particularly women at risk, elderly persons, and persons with disabilities.

Considering the recorded high-risk cases and humanitarian needs of IDPs in Benue, response and

protection material assistance focused on heightened assessed cases while distributing CRIs, including mattresses, mosquito nets and plastic sheeting across the five LGAs.

To support the well-being of children and pregnant women, 200 individuals received in-kind lifesaving assistance in the form of food items. Essential supplies, including food items, sleeping mattresses, clothes, blankets, and toiletries, were distributed to 5,000 IDPs with various vulnerabilities. Furthermore, SEMA has been actively distributing food assistance to vulnerable IDPs throughout all affected communities in Benue.

In the BAY States, more than 11,000 individuals (17% of the identified persons) were supported with multipurpose cash grants, including IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers. Cash assistance provided forcibly displaced persons the flexibility to prioritise their own needs. This has enhanced the well-being of households through better housing conditions, as most of the beneficiaries were able to pay their rent. This has also contributed to the psychosocial well-being of the displaced populations.

## 9. Outcome Area: Sustainable Housing and Settlements

### 2.7. By 2025, forcibly displaced people can access habitable and affordable housing.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	IDPs	60.00%	66.00%	63.77%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.72%	40.00%	54.36%
9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Returnees	76.14%	100.00%	100.00%
9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	IDPs	3.33%	5.00%	4.25%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In the ABCT States, UNHCR and its partners continued to improve access to safe and affordable housing through shelter assistance to the most vulnerable refugees. Assistance included demarcation and allocation of plots, distribution of shelter materials, cash grants, and technical support. Beneficiaries were selected through a needs assessment conducted by a multi-functional team, including forcibly displaced community leaders. Some 1,000 vulnerable individuals were provided with shelters (83 durable shelters, 20 transitional shelters and 111 shelter repairs) across all four refugee settlements, of which 370 received cash grants for shelter repairs. Joint sensitisation meetings and monitoring were conducted periodically.

Some shelters were either vacant or overcrowded, posing a risk of GBV. To mitigate this risk, an SOP on shelter allocation was developed. In the last quarter of the year, the Global Distribution Tool (GDT) was introduced, biometrically verifying beneficiaries prior to distribution to ensure accountability and easy tracking of refugees who received assistance.

A two-day workshop was held in Abuja with other sectors and relevant stakeholders to develop a country-level shelter strategy.

To improve access to basic facilities and promote peaceful co-existence among affected communities, twelve projects were implemented in host communities, including renovation of Primary Health Centres (PHC), construction or renovation of PHCs staff quarters, perimeter fence at police posts, and children's playgrounds.

In the BAY States, shelter continues to be highlighted as a priority need by forcibly displaced people, alike

with assessment reports indicating that 60 per cent of IDPs are living in host communities or rented/donated houses, and 40 per cent are living in displacement sites in camps and camp-like settings.

In 2023, habitable and affordable housing was secured for 64 per cent of the internally displaced population targeted by UNHCR and partners. UNHCR advocated with the local authorities for more land for camp decongestion and the construction of transitional shelters to provide longer-lasting, semi-permanent shelter solutions in line with the government's strategy towards more sustainable shelter solutions in stabilised locations in Borno and Adamawa States.

In Borno State, IDPs living in camps were assisted with emergency shelters, while others in the host communities were targeted with more sustainable shelters in both Borno and Adamawa states. Refugee returnees benefitted from transitional shelters. UNHCR shelter interventions were conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Reconstruction, Rehabilitation and Resettlement (MRRR) and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), reaching a total of 5,000 households representing approximately 24,000 individuals. All shelter beneficiaries benefitted from solar lighting support obtained through core relief items distribution.

## 10. Outcome Area: Healthy Lives

**2.2. By 2025, refugees have improved access to health services.**

**2.3. By 2025, refugees to UNHCR enjoy minimum standards of nutrition**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	73.31%	80.00%	47.19%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR, together with the health partner (Nigerian Red Cross) and other stakeholders, engaged the services of seven doctors, 6 nutritionists, 6 mental health experts, and 6 pharmacists to support the strengthening of 37 PHCs in communities hosting refugees and coordinate referral care for cases beyond PHCs. The Drug Revolving Fund (DRF) in PHCs managed by village development committees (VDCs) supervised by the state health authorities, with UNHCR playing a catalytic role and providing equipment such as solar electricity infrastructure repair was implemented.

UNHCR supported the engagement of 160 health workers, including Nurses/Midwives, Pharmacy Technicians, Laboratory Technicians, and Data Assistants, to close gaps in human resources. With the improved health systems, UNHCR advocated for other stakeholders to support free services such as malaria, HIV, tuberculosis, family planning, and immunisation services. A UNHCR balanced score assessment revealed an average increase to 79 per cent, up from 73 per cent and 68 per cent in 2022 and 2021 respectively. A total of 971 out of 985 refugee births were attended by skilled health personnel, putting the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel at 98.5 per cent.

While 108,000 host nationals who had consultation paid for the non-gratis services such as DRF medications and laboratory services 70,000 refugees' consultations were offered free services paid by UNHCR. A total of 1032 referrals were offered, including 215 mental health clinical consultations in the UNHCR-supported mental health clinic in General Hospital Ogoja.

In 2023, a nutrition survey in Taraba state identified a prevalence of 15 per cent Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM). The proportion of children with measles immunisation was 77 percent compared to 73 per cent in 2022.

More than 1,500 children under five years were enrolled in Community Management of Acute Malnutrition and managed using cheaper alternative nutritious foods sourced from local materials produced by the

mother-to-mother support group.

Malaria was identified as the most common cause of healthcare visitation. UNHCR and the health partner had integrated mosquito net distribution into antenatal care and immunisation, thus improving demand. 926 nets were distributed. Two rounds of indoor residual spray (IRS) were carried out in the settlement, leading to a marginal drop in cases in 2023 compared to 2022. A few I/NGO partners expanded free malaria services and other support to 10 PHCs. UNFPA continued to support refugees with family planning products, while WHO supported immunization. HIV services and some critical support to key populations, particularly LGBTQ+ persons were provided by a few local NGOs, while UNHCR provided access to testing in hard-to-reach areas.

## 11. Outcome Area: Education

### 2.1. By 2025, access to primary and secondary national education systems is improved.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0.95%	1.00%	1.80%
11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36.85%	37.50%	44.90%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, there was a notable increase in education enrolment among Cameroonian refugees, with primary and secondary Gross Enrolment Rates at 55 per cent and 51 per cent, respectively, and Net Enrolment Rates at 33 per cent for primary and 32 per cent for secondary levels. Additionally, 53 per cent of refugee children were enrolled in national education systems across select states, though only 1.5 per cent of refugee youths accessed tertiary education, compared to 12% of their national peers. In the northeast, an estimated 16% of refugees and asylum seekers, children and young people were enrolled in the national education system in 2023.

These trends highlight the success of awareness and support initiatives by UNHCR and partners, alongside a critical need to improve tertiary education access for refugees. UNHCR, in collaboration with Save the Children International (SCI), facilitated the enrolment and covered educational fees for more than 3,500 Cameroonian refugee children (51% females) in government primary and secondary schools across Benue and Cross States, significantly contributing to a reduction in the out-of-school children rate from 61 per cent in 2022 to 53 per cent in 2023.

Additionally, UNHCR and partners sponsored examination fees for more than 1,000 refugee students (54% females) in three states, enabling them to participate in the Secondary Placement Examination and the West African Senior School Certificate.

They further supported more than 3,000 (51% female) pupils (refugees and nationals) with scholastic materials. Similarly, more than 1,000 students, comprising 96 per cent Cameroonian refugee students and four per cent host community students across 3 States (BCT), were supported with scholastic materials.

UNHCR partnered with the ProFuturo Foundation in 2023 to provide connected learning in five primary schools in Benue and Cross River States, providing digital learning to 3,000 refugee and host community pupils. The classrooms equipped with ProFuturo provided unique servers and tablets with the ProFuturo digital resource and platform, which improved children enrolment and school attendance. Over 90 teachers in Benue and Cross River in ProFuturo project schools were trained on the use of ProFuturo devices and platform, lesson planning, classroom management, observation and feedback, which aimed at enhancing the capacity of teachers to teach using technology.

To promote access to tertiary education, UNHCR supported 108 (46% females) refugees with DAFI scholarships, with an additional 40 (52% females) slots taken by Cameroonian refugees, making a total of

94 per cent of DAFI scholars in Nigeria.

On complementary pathways to education, through UNHCR's support with the dissemination of scholarship opportunities, application process, interviews, and Conventional Travel Document application, five (3M:2F) Cameroonian refugees were awarded scholarships for postgraduate and undergraduate studies outside Nigeria.

## 12. Outcome Area: Clean Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### 2.4. By 2025, refugees to UNHCR have access to improved WASH services.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.72%	40.00%	70.20%
12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	32.72%	40.00%	62.40%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, UNHCR continued its pursuit of adequate and sustainable WASH services delivery in refugee settlements and host communities in ABCT States. For effective and evidence-based planning, UNHCR supported a detailed WASH assessment in Akwa Ibom and Taraba states with a view to identifying the most vulnerable communities and existing WASH resources for improvement. Similarly, a detailed groundwater search in Ukende and Ikyogen settlements was conducted using Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) to address the lingering problem of inadequate water supply and quality, leading to the construction of five major solar borehole schemes with improved access to over 15,000 refugees and immediate host communities with significant improvement in access from 57 per cent to 70 per cent (Endline KAP Survey Report 2023).

UNHCR installed 46 Real Time Monitoring devices on 15 boreholes within the refugee settlements to support remote monitoring of facility functionality and usage. This has proven very effective in obtaining real-time information, feedback, and response time to cases of facility breakdown and has drastically reduced UNHCR's footprint in the field and associated costs. UNHCR supported the development and testing of 26 water samples from boreholes in four settlements of Ukende, Adagom I, III, and Ikyogen, and the boreholes were disinfected for high-quality supply. Water treatment tablets were distributed to support household-level water treatment and safe storage. All 15 boreholes within the settlements were installed with automatic chlorine doser equipment, and the taps and leakages were fixed to ensure quality water supply.

UNHCR supported the decommissioning and commissioning of 165 damaged bathrooms, 278 filled-up latrines across the four settlements, servicing 5,560 persons and improved access from 52 per cent to 62 per cent in 2023 (Endline KAP Survey Report 2023). Construction and rehabilitation of latrines and bathrooms reduced the spate of open defecation and related GBV risks.

To sustain gains of sanitation intervention, UNHCR supported the establishment of 79 community task group members in the four settlements to support sanitation monitoring; 12 schools were trained, and the coordinating teachers facilitated to establish school environmental Health clubs with menstrual Hygiene Management desks, and Health corners; while IEC materials and door-to-door campaigns were sustained in schools, PHCs, and settlements for behavioural change and reduced spread of disease. Over 18,000 persons received hygiene messages and basic training on good hygiene practices, including regular and effective handwashing. As part of the sustainability and ownership drive, 300 refugee heads of households were trained in the construction of tippy taps using local materials. This helped to improve handwashing behaviours at critical times.

## 13. Outcome Area: Self Reliance, Economic Inclusion and Livelihoods

### 3.3. By 2025, socioeconomic situation of forcibly displaced people is improved.

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	IDPs	0.17%	10.00%	0.34%
13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	10.88%	40.00%	28.10%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	IDPs	0.86%	5.00%	1.29%
13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	87.87%	5.00%	79.92%
13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77.75%	75.00%	25.00%

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR continued to provide Livelihood and Economic Inclusion (LEI) interventions to forcibly displaced persons and host communities in 2023. There was positive progress towards enhancing financial inclusion and alignment with the Government's cashless policy in delivering interventions, which contributed to an increase in the opening of bank accounts from 11 per cent in 2022 to 28 per cent in 2023. UNHCR facilitated opening of bank accounts for over 85% of the beneficiaries. However, the proportion of the people who self-reported positive changes in their incomes decreased by seven per cent, from 87 per cent in 2022 to 80 per cent in 2023, which is largely attributed to the high inflation rate in Nigeria, which rose to 29 per cent in 2023 (NBS,2023) which negatively affected the business activities and purchasing power.

In 2023, UNHCR provided livelihood support to more than 1,700 forcibly displaced households (including refugees and host communities in the South-South region and Lagos, and IDPs and host communities in the North-East), comprising 60 per cent female and 40 per cent male. Interventions included the provision of business and technical skills training and start-up kits/agricultural inputs or cash grants to start and grow their microenterprises, which resulted in improved self-reliance and peaceful coexistence.

In addition, UNHCR's advocacy for socio-economic inclusion resulted in the integration of refugees in the Government skills acquisition and employment promotion programs. About 330 refugee households (1,320 individuals) were included in the business development support implemented by Taraba State and the Lagos state government-funded vocational and skills training centre.



## 14. Outcome Area: Voluntary Return and Sustainable Reintegration

**4.1. By 2025, conditions in areas of origin allow for return in safety and dignity and UNHCR is supporting an increasing number of internally displaced people and refugees opting for voluntary return.**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR and the Government of Nigeria planned to voluntarily repatriate 5,096 individuals in safety and dignity as per the Tripartite Agreement (TA). The Tripartite Working Group (TWG) in Nigeria developed a detailed Action Plan for the purpose. In January 2023, 1,319 refugee returnees from Cameroon were received in Banki, adding to the 3,880 Nigerian refugees that returned to North East Nigeria in 2022, resulting in a performance of 102% as against the planned figures. UNHCR supported the returnees with multi-sectoral assistance, including NFIs, shelters and shelter repair kits, as well as protection services. The government provided cash assistance and contributed to repairing returnees’ shelters. However, it is worth noting that there are still 342,000 Nigerian refugees and asylum seekers in neighbouring countries, for whom voluntary repatriation is still pending.

UNHCR is focused on ensuring that the principle of freedom of movement and choice of residence is upheld in situations involving internally displaced persons (IDPs), in light of the government-led camp closure initiative. It is essential that the voluntary nature of returns is preserved, alongside the safety, dignity, and active participation of IDPs in decision-making. Involving humanitarian and development actors in government return plans is not only crucial for these aspects but also guarantees that returnees have access to the services available in their areas of return.

As a result of advocacy efforts in 2023 by UNHCR, the Protection Sector, and various humanitarian actors, there has been an improvement in the sharing of information regarding camp closures. This enhanced information flow enables the humanitarian community to effectively strategize and implement necessary interventions. These include sharing vital information with the community and devising strategies to ensure the continuity of services wherever feasible. It is estimated that approximately one-fifth (over 32,000 IDPs) of the 160,000 IDPs impacted by camp closures in MMC and Jere did not return to their habitual residences but instead decided to integrate locally in urban areas. To support local integration in urban areas, in 2023, UNHCR continued to provide services in four urban communities through its Urban Protection Outreach Program.

## 15. Outcome Area: Resettlement and Complementary Pathways

**1.7. By 2025, use of resettlement as a protection tool is strengthened.**

Indicators	Population Type	Strategy Baseline	Target (2023)	Actual (2023)
15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	1	30	89

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

In 2023, the UNHCR operation in Nigeria aimed to refer 80 individuals for resettlement to its Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa. Nigeria exceeded this target by referring 90 individuals, including 66 Cameroonian refugees. These refugees were specifically identified based on their protection vulnerabilities and fell under categories such as Women at Risk, Legal and Physical Protection Needs, and Survivors of Violence and Torture, as well as those lacking foreseeable alternative durable solutions.

Of the cases referred from the Cameroonian response, a total of 56 individuals were submitted to the

United States of America in 2023. Additionally, 82 individuals have been interviewed at various stages of the resettlement process and are slated for prioritized submission in 2024. Through UNHCR's complementary pathways for resettlement through education, two refugees departed for Italy and Ireland in 2023, while three other students were offered scholarships to Kenya (2) under the Mastercard Foundation and to Germany (1) under the DAAD scholarships and are expected to depart in 2024.

## 16. Outcome Area: Integration and other Local Solutions

**2.8. By 2025, resources are mobilized in line with needs and response priorities and results are appropriately communicated**

**4.4. By 2025, Forcibly displaced people to UNHCR are integrated in the national social protection system.**

**4.5. By 2025, implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees framework is improved**

### Progress Against the Desired Outcome

UNHCR's advocacy resulted in a social protection pledge by the Federal Government of Nigeria at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) in December 2023. The pledge commits the Government to include all poor and vulnerable refugees in the National Social Registry, which in turn will result in at least five per cent of refugees directly benefiting from National Social Investment Programmes by 2027.

In addition, the Government pledged to include refugees in social insurance schemes/public health programmes and ensure 100 per cent school enrollment of refugee children at the basic level with fee waivers and equal tertiary fees.

In 2023, UNHCR facilitated the Government in the formulation of specific and measurable GRF pledges. Going forward, the focus will be more on facilitating the operationalisation of the pledges and measurement of the extent to which the forcibly displaced population are integrated into the National social protection systems.

While Nigeria has established a legal framework for refugee status and citizenship acquisition, certain challenges that hinder the smooth acquisition of refugee status in North East Nigeria need to be addressed. This status is a crucial step toward eventual citizenship. Notably, UNHCR has not yet received any naturalisation requests from asylum seekers.

On a positive note, the open-door policy allows refugees, IDPs, and returnees to access land in various parts of the region for agricultural purposes. This access enables them to engage in livelihood activities and contribute to their communities.

## 2.2. Age, Gender and Diversity

The Age and Gender Diversity (AGD) Inclusive Programming yielded positive impacts ensuring a nuanced response that catered for the diverse needs of the forcibly displaced populations.

Ongoing efforts to increase women and girls participation in leadership and decision-making have led to an increase in their involvement in leadership roles—43 per cent in the North East and 35 per cent in the South



region.

The verification exercise for Cameroonian refugees enhanced UNHCR's programming with disaggregated data and updated information of persons with heightened protection vulnerabilities in all four hosting states.

Approximately 7,000 vulnerable individuals without bank accounts received multipurpose cash grants and critical relief items. Additionally, 90 exceptionally vulnerable refugees meeting the resettlement criteria were assessed for resettlement.

UNHCR facilitated town hall meetings with refugees and coordination meetings with leaders from both refugee and host communities for inclusive programming.

A mapping of refugee-led organizations (RLOs) led to the identification of 11 entities in the South region, enabling one RLO representative to participate in the GRF and also perform functions as a GCR Advisory Board member.

With enhanced advocacy and partnership with the Ministry of Women Affairs and UNFPA, UNHCR is supporting women in engaging with livelihood activities and receiving training.

In North East Nigeria, UNHCR successfully implemented tailored initiatives to address distinct needs and vulnerabilities, targeting interventions focused on improving access to essential services. Initiatives, including awareness campaigns and capacity-building efforts, have fostered a more inclusive and responsive approach. The focus on Protection monitoring, Child Protection, sexual and reproductive health, GBV prevention, and gender mainstreaming underscored a holistic approach.

## Section 3: Resources

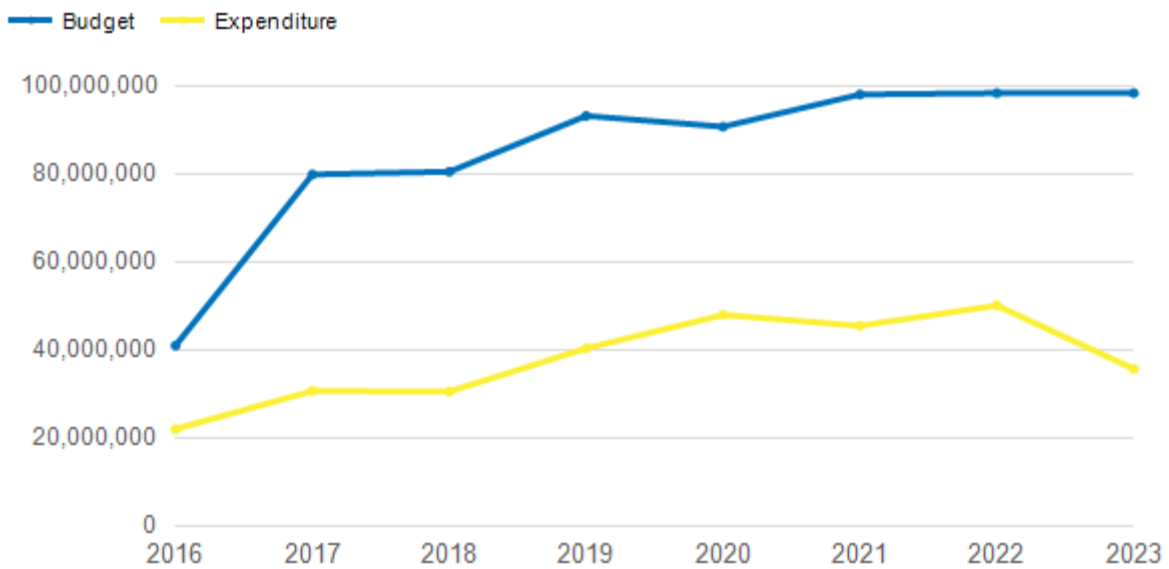
### 3.1 Financial Data

(Financial figures in USD)

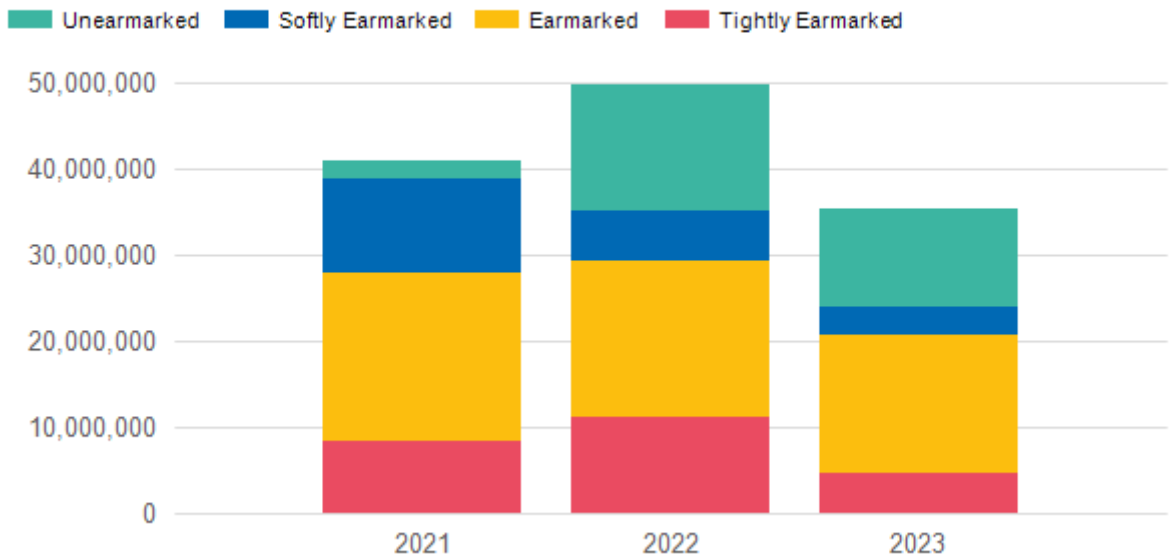
Impact Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
IA1: Protect	26,310,667	9,770,959	37.14%	9,770,959	100.00%
IA2: Assist	45,089,213	11,146,644	24.72%	11,146,644	100.00%
IA3: Empower	12,156,412	5,597,115	46.04%	5,597,115	100.00%
IA4: Solve	14,683,083	9,288,433	63.26%	9,086,938	97.83%
All Impact Areas		0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,239,376</b>	<b>35,803,151</b>	<b>36.44%</b>	<b>35,601,656</b>	<b>99.44%</b>

Outcome Area	Final Budget	Funds Available	Funds Available as % of Budget	Expenditure	Expenditure as % of Funds Available
OA1: Access/Doc	6,349,345	2,443,028	38.48%	2,443,028	100.00%
OA2: Status	2,725,854	1,291,028	47.36%	1,291,028	100.00%
OA3: Policy/Law	2,193,122	1,187,124	54.13%	1,187,124	100.00%
OA4: GBV	2,815,255	1,819,964	64.65%	1,819,964	100.00%
OA5: Children	4,101,053	1,239,022	30.21%	1,239,022	100.00%
OA6: Justice	10,650,730	3,376,226	31.70%	3,376,226	100.00%
OA7: Community	723,968	615,368	85.00%	413,873	67.26%
OA8: Well-being	24,627,011	9,704,987	39.41%	9,704,987	100.00%
OA9: Housing	10,695,122	1,755,992	16.42%	1,755,992	100.00%
OA10: Health	2,405,073	1,159,616	48.22%	1,159,616	100.00%
OA11: Education	1,452,862	498,212	34.29%	498,212	100.00%
OA12: WASH	2,067,920	553,972	26.79%	553,972	100.00%
OA13: Livelihood	8,617,189	3,363,279	39.03%	3,363,279	100.00%
OA14: Return	2,891,048	1,426,228	49.33%	1,426,228	100.00%
OA15: Resettle	170,281	89,433	52.52%	89,433	100.00%
OA16: Integrate	9,046,733	4,135,621	45.71%	4,135,621	100.00%
EA18: Support	6,706,808	1,144,051	17.06%	1,144,051	100.00%
All Outcome Areas		0			
<b>Total</b>	<b>98,239,376</b>	<b>35,803,151</b>	<b>36.44%</b>	<b>35,601,656</b>	<b>99.44%</b>

### Budget and Expenditure Trend



### Contributions Trend by Type



## 3.2. Resources Overview

In 2023, Nigeria operation was funded only 58%.

In the South refugee situation, attention shifted from livelihoods and food security as protection safety nets to prioritize the verification exercise for a comprehensive update of refugee data, essential for programming and targeting. Consequently, cash assistance for food was limited to six months, a reduction from the previous year's 12 months.

Interventions related to GBV and shelter, as well as other earmarked activities such as education, and WASH (solar borehole construction) also took precedence. UNHCR direct implementation was minimised,

except for dignity kits and fixed costs.

Despite high person-to-latrines ratios, latrine construction was limited. Health facility support, including rehabilitation, referrals, and drug coverage, faced constraints due to the devaluation of the Nigerian currency.

UNHCR remains actively engaged in advocating for resources through the international community and other UN agencies to address gaps in the Cameroon refugee response. The refugee program however remains under resourced as more humanitarian footprint of other UN agencies exist in the northeast.

In the North East, protection and assistance continued emphasizing on out of camp responses in line with the government camps closure position which constitutes a risk in the operation. Due to the localization, UNHCR significantly reduced funding from the country-based pool funds. With the government decision to close camps, UNHCR and partner dedicated more resources to durable solutions to ensure the government has the required capacities to better protect its people. Also, durable solutions projects (i.e., the Labondo Local Integration Pilot) have been implemented to ensure returns are durable. UNHCR has increased its engagement with UN sister agencies to secure UN country pool funding related to the implementation of durable solutions anticipating more projects to come into effect in 2024.

## Section 4: Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

### 4.1 Lessons Learned and Future Outlook

Enhancing asylum access requires strengthened partnerships between community-based and refugee-led groups in the South-South region. Community engagement, AAP, and core mandate areas, including GBV, registration, child protection, basic needs, livelihood, and protection should be strengthened through the AGD centred approach. Town hall meetings are recommended to improve outreach in hard-to-reach areas.

While UNHCR commends the efforts of the government of Nigeria to ensure the inclusion of refugees through the GCR, it further anticipates working towards localisation by working closely with other local stakeholders.

In the northeast, due to extreme poverty and lack of markets, the distribution of CRIs remains a crucial protection response. There is an increasing shift towards cash assistance provided by UNHCR, which complements the response of the broader humanitarian community. Cash assistance through bank transfers is advantageous as it reduces logistic costs, improves the number of persons reached, and is more dignifying as it allows targeted persons to decide how to use the cash they receive. Despite the positive effects of cash assistance, there are challenges to consider when implementing this approach, including the absence of documentation and financial institutions in some areas. The integration of refugees into existing coordination mechanisms (IDP cluster/sector coordination) has enabled their inclusion but requires strengthening.

Integrating IDP solutions into government frameworks can ensure sustainable, cost-effective interventions, enhancing ownership, taps into governmental expertise, and further strengthens whole-of-government leadership, leading to sustainability in line with the UN Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement.



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