

Cameroonian refugee situation, Nigeria

16 - 30 June 2018

UNHCR, in collaboration with Nigerian Government, started the **printing of ID Cards** for verified Cameroonian refugees, after the decision to grant them Temporary Protection Status.

On 26th June, UNHCR was officially granted by Buya community (Obanliku Local Government Area, Cross River state) **88 hectares of land to host Cameroonian refugees**.

As of 30th June, a total of 81 refugee households benefited from shelter kits, **to build their own permanent shelter** in Anyake settlement (Benue state).

KEY INDICATORS

21,291

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

3,267

Cameroonian refugees registered with biometrics
[as of 30 June 2018]

1,235

Cameroonian refugees relocated to Anyake settlement,
Benue State [26 June 2018]



Refugees and host community members march together in solidarity with refugees around the world © UNHCR/ C. Cavalcanti

Update On Achievements

- **World Refugee Day** – the 20th June, on the occasion of World Refugee Day, several activities were carried out in Ikom (Cross River state) and Anyake settlement (Benue state), with the participation of refugees, UNHCR, Government officials, partners and host communities. Participants of all ages engaged themselves in sport competitions (soccer), dances, singing, drama and a march in solidarity with refugees around the world.
- **Protection** – UNHCR, in collaboration with Nigerian Government, started issuing ID Cards to verified Cameroonian refugees aged from 14 years and above. This is in line with the Section 11 of the National Commission For Refugees Act which states that “Every person who has been granted refugee status under this Act, and members of his/her family, shall be issued with an Identity Card”. The ID cards will allow refugees to fully enjoy their rights, including freedom of movement, access to livelihoods (i.e. obtention of the papers to drive bicycles) and to services including banking.
- UNHCR and its partners Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria (CCFN) and Rhema Care conducted protection monitoring visits in ten communities hosting Cameroonian refugees Cross River state. During the visits, UNHCR and partners sensitized the communities about the option of relocating to refugee settlements, while refugees shared their concerns about access to healthcare, food and non-food items.

- **Relocation** – On 26th June, UNHCR was officially granted by Buya community (Obanliku Local Government Area, Cross River state) 88 hectares of land to host Cameroonian refugees.
- During the reporting period, 100 refugees arrived spontaneously to Anyake settlement (Benue state) from the locality of Amana (Cross River state).
- **Registration** – UNHCR and National Commission for Refugees (NCFRMI) continued verification and registration of refugees with biometrics including new arrivals.
- As of 30th June 2018, 4,087 refugees were verified using ProGRES database in five Local Government Areas of Cross River and Benue states (Calabar Municipal Ikom, Etung, Kwande and Boki), out of 12 currently hosting refugees. Among the verified population, 2,037 refugees were newly registered (including newborn babies, new arrivals and people living in remote locations not attended by level 1 registration). Moreover, 3,267 of those verified had their biometric data captured.
- In order to prevent cases of fraud, an awareness campaign was being carried out by UNHCR and NCFRMI with the support of local and refugee leaders about the implications and requirements for verification and registration in the Local Government Areas interested by the registration exercise.

- **Shelter** – Distribution of shelter kit materials (including bricks, bag of cement, nails, corrugated iron sheets, timber) and cash grant for labourers continued. Distribution is done in three phases, following construction steps 1) Foundation and walls 2) Roof, windows and door 3) Certificate of completion and finishing touches like floors. Material and cash for the consequent phase is given only upon successful completion of the previous phase. UNHCR and its partner *Benue state NGO Network (BENGONET)* provide support to the refugees in all the phases



Cameroonian Refugees building their shelter in Anyake Settlement, Benue State © UNHCR / I. Mutevu

of construction. During the reporting period, 54 households received the kit and the cash for phase I and II and 95% completed the works up to roof level. Phase I distribution started for other 24 households. As of 30th June, a total of 81 households benefited from shelter kits. The project, funded by EU Humanitarian Aid, will support the construction of 4,000 permanent shelters for Cameroonian refugees.

- **Food and non-food items** – From 18th to 26th June, UNHCR partner Rhema Care distributed food (rice, beans, oil, sugar and salt) and non-food items



Tricycle ambulances delivered to HIFASS for transportation of patients in Anyake settlement and surrounding area © HIFASS

(soap, detergent, sanitary pads, solar lantern, mat, blanket, kitchen set, jerry can, bucket and mosquito net) to 814 refugee households (1,538 individuals) in 12 localities of Akamkpa Local Government Area of Cross River State. Distribution was planned to continue in Akamkpa urban area.

- **Healthcare** – UNHCR healthcare partner HIFASS was equipped with two tricycle ambulances for transportation of patients in need of urgent care living in Anyake settlement and surrounding area (Benue state).

Critical needs and priorities

- **Education** – A rapid assessment on access of refugee children to schools was conducted in Ikom (Cross River State), with following results: 70% of refugee children of school age (5 to 18 years) are out of school. Additional support is needed to grant access to existing school, paying school fees and provide of school material.
- **Registration** – Difficult access to remote areas where many refugees are staying remained a challenge. In order to increase the chances of all refugees to be registered, registration centre were multiplied, but some refugees still need to pay a 3,000 NGN bike ride (around 8.00 USD) to reach the closest registration centre, which represent an important expense for them.

Working in partnership

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

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