

Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

November 2023

Over **63,000** **Cameroonian** **refugee** **men, women, and children** are registered in Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Enugu, and Taraba States in Nigeria.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and its partners **launched the 16-Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence** in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba States.

Some **1,000** **vulnerable refugees** received **cash assistance to purchase food** in Ikyogen and Ukende refugee settlements in Nigeria's Benue and Cross River States.



UNHCR, alongside its partners, unites for a solidarity walk in Ogoja, Cross River State, dedicated to eradicating gender-based violence against women and girls in forced displacement situations. ©UNHCR/Lucy Agiende.

Operational Highlights

- From 14th to 17th November, the Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare organised a meeting on the **National Strategy for Nutrition in Emergency Development**. UNHCR and other UN agencies and international organisations participated in the meeting. UNHCR was selected as a member of an expert committee tasked to review the first draft of the strategy, which aims to improve coordination and response to nutritional challenges during emergencies. **The inclusion of refugees in this nutrition strategy, as part of the government's commitment to the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), is a significant step that will enable more effective and targeted support for refugee populations.**
- On 25th November, UNHCR, the Ministry of Women Affairs, government officials and partners **launched the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba (ABCT) States. **Advocacy initiatives and awareness-raising sessions** were held in various locations to **promote the theme “UNITE! Invest to Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls.”** Information and communications materials on the prevention and response of GBV were distributed to refugees and locals throughout the campaign.
- On 30th November, a multi-stakeholder meeting was organised by the Taraba State Emergency Management Agency in Jalingo, **focusing on protection and solutions for refugees**. The event, attended by the governor of Taraba State and other senior government officials and community leaders, **highlighted progress, challenges, and the integration of refugees into state plans.**



PROTECTION

Protection Monitoring

- On 6th November, suspected a Non-State Armed Group (NSAG) attacked Egbekaw village in Mamfe, Southwest Region of Cameroon. The assailants reportedly set houses on fire and opened fire on residents, including children, before dawn, leading to at least 50 fatalities and several injuries. **Border monitors confirmed a significant increase in new arrivals into Nigeria, with UNHCR and partners recording about 100 new refugees** in Cross River State (CRS) between 6th and 9th November.
- **In Taraba State, some 600 new refugees arrived in Tunga Daniel, Sabongida, Tuga Zeke, and Amamanda communities in Kurmi local government area following another attack by a NSAG** on 13th November. The leader of the Assa community in the Northwest Region of Cameroon was killed, and scores were abducted when they resisted extortion. UNHCR and its partners **commenced registration of the new arrivals, providing them with identification documents** to help them move freely and access basic services.

Protection Response

- In Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba (ABCT) States, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons **registered and provided proof of documentation to some 1,700 Cameroonian refugees, including new**

arrivals and new births. A socio-economic survey was conducted alongside the registration exercise to inform and improve UNHCR's programming. **Access to basic social services**, family reunification opportunities, **financial inclusion**, protection from forced return, **freedom of movement and opportunities for livelihoods have been enhanced for refugees** through Identification documents issued upon registration.

- **Some 30 refugees, including GBV survivors, benefitted from legal services** provided by UNHCR and its partners Caritas, Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and the Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace (FJDP) in ABCT States. The service, including court and out-of-court representation, **promotes access to justice for refugees, particularly for the most vulnerable.**
- UNHCR **launched the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) network** in Benue State. The network comprising PSEA focal points from government officials and partners received PSEA protocols and standard operating procedures to facilitate their work in **minimising the risk of SEA, providing effective response, and creating awareness among refugees and locals.**
- **Some 500 refugee and host community children participated in arts and crafts, life skills and educational activities at the child-friendly spaces** in Taraba States. These activities have fundamentally improved refugee children and locals' cognitive development, psychosocial well-being, and social skills.
- **UNHCR and its partners identified and managed 22 child protection cases, including child labour, separated children, teenage pregnancy, physical and sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and neglect** in Benue and CRS. Essential support, including counselling and foster care, was provided to enhance the children's welfare, parental responsibility, prevention, and protection from harm/abuse.
- In ABCT states, **some 100 refugee children received birth certificates** issued by the National Population Commission with support from UNHCR and its partners. The document provides the first legal proof of identity to refugee children whose parents cannot afford it or face barriers to accessing registration services. **Access to essential programmes like health care, child protection and education that help secure their most fundamental rights has been enhanced through their documentation.**
- UNHCR and its partners have provided **comprehensive support to 38 survivors of gender-based violence (GBV)** in ABCT States. This assistance includes psychosocial counselling, legal aid, material support, and medical care, aiding in their recovery and coping process following their traumatic experiences. **The cases, comprising of physical assault, rape, sexual assault and denial of resources and opportunities,** were reported through the protection desk, self-referral, first point of contact, community structures, home visits and community leaders.
- **Eleven GBV survivors undertook income-generating activities such as tailoring, beads making** and knitting in the Ikyogen refugee settlement, Benue State. These skills/activities play a pivotal role in **improving their coping strategy and their self-reliance.**

HEALTH:

- UNHCR **completed the construction of one block of three-bedroom staff quarters for healthcare workers in the Primary Healthcare Centre (PHC) Oban in Akamkpa, CRS**, through its partner Rhema. **The quarters will enhance the adequate provision of 24-hour healthcare services to refugees and hosts.**
- The Cross River State (CRS) Commissioner for Health donated two wooden pallets and laboratory coats to PHC Ukende to improve laboratory services for refugees and locals.



FOOD SECURITY

- Some **1,000 vulnerable refugees received cash assistance to purchase food** in Benue and Cross River States. Through this support, **the food security of vulnerable refugees and the economy of the host communities have improved.**
- UNHCR conducted a **post-distribution monitoring exercise to evaluate the effectiveness of the Cash-Based Intervention (CBI) program for food provided to refugees** in the four refugee settlements in Benue and CRS. Trained enumerators conducted the survey through interviews and the administration of questionnaires to over 250 targeted households. The feedback on the outcomes and impacts of the CBI program on the refugees and the host communities will guide informed decisions in UNHCR programming.

Challenges

- Due to the increase in prices of food and other basic commodities, **most refugees in Nigeria can barely afford their basic needs, including food. Food insecurity remains a significant challenge for refugees, primarily** due to a lack of work opportunities and insufficient land for farming. As a result, the rate of malnutrition among refugee children has increased, and vulnerable refugees, especially those with disabilities, elderly individuals, and women who head households, face even greater challenges.



EDUCATION

- The wife of the CRS governor, Rev. Mrs Eyoanwan Bassey Otu, launched the Back-to-School project for Cameroonian refugees by donating **educational materials and food items** in Adagom 1 refugee settlement, Ogoja. **The items contained exercise books, writing materials, school bags, socks, shoes, rice, beans, corn, stoves, and mattresses.**
- UNHCR **provided scholastic materials to over 250 refugee and 100 host community pupils in** 10 UNHCR-supported schools in Benue and CRS. **Comprised of books, pens, pencils, rulers, erasers, sharpeners, uniforms, sportswear, and sandals, the items will enhance the quality of education and school attendance for refugee pupils and locals.**



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH):

- In Benue and CRS, community hygiene volunteers sensitised over **8,000 refugees in the four settlements on safe water chain, personal/environmental hygiene, and food hygiene.**

Refugees' personal and environmental hygiene has improved considerably through regular awareness sessions.



LIVELIHOODS

- As part of the measures to enhance the self-reliance of refugees and vulnerable locals, UNHCR **provided starter kits to some 25 individuals from four poultry cooperatives, one fish production and one soap-making cooperative** in Adagom 1 farm village and Boki community in CRS through its partner CUSO. **Fifty refugees commenced ICT training to improve their IT literacy skills, which is** beneficial in running their businesses in ABCT.
- In CRS, **forty-five refugees and hosts in cooperative groups received starter kits upon completion of their vocational training** in pig and poultry farming, aluminium fabrication/installation, barber shop, hairdressing, tailoring and leather works in Adagom 1 and 3 and Ukende refugee settlements. Additionally, **39 refugees in the small business enterprises category received startup kits to launch their businesses and improve their livelihoods and self-reliance**. UNHCR provided the kits in partnership with Mediatrix.



SETTLEMENT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS

- Some **50 refugee women and girls of reproductive age received dignity kits in the Ikyogen refugee settlement, including soap, body cream, wrappers, and petroleum jelly**. These essential items will help to promote their dignity and personal hygiene. **As a result of this intervention, harmful coping strategies have been mitigated among women and girls**.

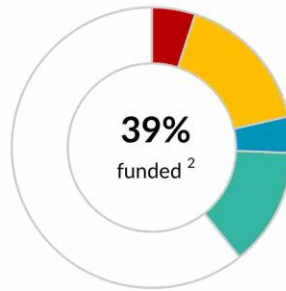
Working in partnership

Together with the Government of Nigeria, UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to Cameroonian refugees. The Agency holds regular coordination and consultative meetings at the State and Local Governments levels as well as with other humanitarian actors. The following partners implement specific sector activities: NCFRMI, SEMA, Save the Children International, CUSO International, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria, Catholic Diocese of Makurdi, FJDP, Mediatrix Development Foundation, Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre, Jesuit Refugee Service, and the Nigeria Red Cross Society.

Funding Situation

UNHCR extends its sincere gratitude for the unwavering financial support from global donors and those directly contributing to the Nigeria Operation. The comprehensive budget for the operation in 2023 is set at \$98.2 million. However, by 15th December 2023, we had only reached 39% of this target, underscoring the urgent need for increased support to meet our commitment to those in need.


FUNDING UPDATE | 2023
\$98.2 million

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2023 ¹

NIGERIA

as of 15 December 2023


CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	16,500,000	-	16,500,000
Germany	-	2,092,115	-	-	2,092,115
European Union	-	-	-	1,048,609	1,048,609
Spain	-	-	-	718,587	718,587
España con ACNUR	-	-	-	302,678	302,678
Private donors in Nigeria	-	-	43,139	159,858	202,997
Private donors in the United Arab Emirates	-	-	-	150,690	150,690
Denmark	-	64,399	-	-	64,399
Nigeria	-	-	-	33,019	33,019
Other private donors	-	-	-	828	828
Sub-total	-	2,156,514	16,543,139	2,483,929	21,183,582
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	13,376,532	1,966,390	(425,387)	2,448,533	17,366,068
Total	13,376,532	4,122,904	16,117,752	4,932,462	38,549,650

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Nigeria shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Sweden 69 million | Norway 63.1 million | Private donors Spain 61.9 million | United Kingdom 41 million | Private donors Japan 40.1 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | France 26.7 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 23.5 million | Germany 22.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Private donors Italy 13.7 million | Private donors Sweden 12 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million | Private donors USA 10.8 million

Algeria | Angola | Australia | Austria | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

- The financial requirements for Nigeria include requirements for the operation's regular programme and the Western and Central Mediterranean.
- The percentage funded (39%) and total funding amount (\$38,549,650) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$59,689,726 representing 61% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to Nigeria are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Nigeria. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
- Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

More Information

CONTACT US

Irene Omondii | Head of Sub-Office, Ogoja, Cross River State | omondii@unhcr.org | +234 901 066 0624

Lucy Agiende | Reporting Associate, Ogoja, Cross River State | agiende@unhcr.org | +2349010660627

Edward Ogolla | External Relations Officer, Abuja | ogolla@unhcr.org | +234 09 2916667