

Cameroon Situation

01-31 March 2019

Some **30,936** *Cameroonian refugees are registered and verified* in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in the southern region of Nigeria.

Two refugee settlements in Cross River State are overpopulated. **UNHCR seeks new settlement sites and funding for refugees without shelter.**

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

KEY INDICATORS

32,602 | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria of which a total of **30,936** are verified

11,545 | Cameroonian refugees are registered in the Adagom, Okende settlements in Cross River State and in the Anyake settlement in Benue

61% | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities



Ms. Mercy, a Cameroonian refugee, will share her shelter once completed with her husband, four children and her in-law at the Okende refugee settlement, Cross River State, Nigeria. UNHCR/Tony Aseh. 21 March 2019.

Operational Context

During the month of March, UNHCR deactivated the declaration of Level 2 emergency for Nigeria in response to the influx of Cameroonian refugees. However, some 1,794 refugees from the Cameroon Anglophone regions were registered in Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in March. These refugees fled fighting in their towns/villages as a result of the ongoing crack down on separatist groups by government forces. The new arrivals are in urgent need of food, basic/domestic items and shelter. Majority of them are women and children. UNHCR and the Government of Nigeria continue registration of refugees - 32,601 Cameroonian refugees have been registered in Nigeria, of which 30,936 are verified.

Achievements



Protection:

- From 05-06 March, UNHCR Sub-Office Ogoja, Cross River State (CRS), held a two-day Country Operation Plan (COP) meeting. UNHCR and partners, government and UN agencies discussed planning for 2019/2020 for the Cameroonian Refugee Response. Furthermore, on 24 March, the Office held the monthly situation response coordination meeting with operational and implementing partners.
- UNHCR, and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons conducted a two-day training on refugee protection for its partners including, the Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), 40 security officers including the Police, Civil Defense Corp, Immigration and the Nigeria Prison Service in Makurdi, Benue State. The training builds the capacity of national authorities on protection principles and contributes to improving assistance to refugees.
- Some 133 refugee children were registered by the National Population Commission and issued with birth certificates in Adagom and Okende refugee settlements, Cross River State (CRS). In the Adagom settlement, one separated child in foster care was successfully reunited with his mother by UNHCR partner - Caritas. Meanwhile, 102 separated children (58 girls and 45 boys) and one unaccompanied child, were identified by FJDP at the Anyake settlement, Benue. Among those identified, 59 separated children were successfully placed in foster care.
- The Adagom community donated a 61 hectare site (Adagom-3) where refugees will be settled. UNHCR commenced rehabilitation of the access road to the new site to facilitate transportation of construction material and relocation of refugees. The improvement of the access road will also ease the daily movement of the host community. The site was demarcated into 16 communities of 198 blocks and 594 plots/households. Additionally, plots were demarcated for the construction of a reception centre, a police post, a non-food items rub hall, accommodation hangars, a kitchen and a market centre.

- In Ikyogen, Benue, UNHCR and the Ministry of Lands undertook the assessment of a 50 hectare land site for the planned relocation of refugees from the Anyake settlement. The Office will undertake land survey and expedite the development of the site.
- UNHCR, the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency, Rhema Care, Obanliku Local Government officials and members of the Buya community, assessed a site donated to UNHCR by the Buya community, Obanliku Local Government Area (LGA), CRS, for the establishment of a refugee settlement. The site is about 50 km from Ogoja and has an area of 88 hectares and a capacity to host a minimum of 3,000 individuals. It has a nearby river, boreholes and hand-dug wells. There is need to rehabilitate the access road and conduct a hydrogeological survey for potable water.

 **Education:**

- In **Cross River**, UNHCR partner, Mediatrix, began rehabilitation work on the dilapidated St. Peter's Primary School building in Adagom. The rehabilitated building will increase learning space and improve learning conditions of both refugee and host community children that are presently in overcrowded classrooms. UNHCR has built three new classrooms, yet there is need to build additional classrooms to accommodate some 700 refugee and 100 host community children.
- UNHCR and Caritas undertook payment of the common entrance examination fees for 84 refugee pupils from St Peter's Primary School, Adagom. The entrance examination is a prerequisite for admission into government secondary schools. UNHCR and Rhema Care commenced construction of two blocks of seven classrooms at St. Eugene Primary School Okende (Ogoja LGA) to increase learning space to accommodate about 500 refugee school-age children that recently relocated to the Okende settlement.
- The Office provided assistance to two refugees in Anyake (Benue) and Adagom (CRS) settlements for their registration for the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board exam (JAMB). The JAMB exam is a prerequisite for admission into university.
- In **Benue**, UNHCR and Benue State Ministry of Education assessed three primary and secondary school structures in Adagi community (Kwande LGA), where refugees from Anyake settlement attend school. Also, three schools in the vicinity of the future refugee settlement in Ikyogen Cattle Ranch, were also assessed. The assessments in the six schools found that classrooms, furniture, staff and school structures were inadequate to accommodate the growing population of refugee students.
- In **Taraba**, UNHCR and partner Binta Medical Outreach enrolled a total of 200 out of school refugee children into primary schools in the Takum and Gembu LGAs. The pupils were provided with writing materials and text books. However, these refugee pupils are in need of school fees, school uniforms, text books, bags and shoes.

**Health:**

- A total of 148 refugees in Anyake and Adagom were referred to health centres for medical care. Most of the refugees were diagnosed with malaria. Family members of some refugees (mainly children) that were absent during Health Insurance registration in Adagom settlement could not access health

care services. UNHCR is working to ensure that the affected children are enrolled. Meanwhile some 209 refugees in Adagom and Anyake received medical care from designated health centres.



Food:

- For the month of February and March 2019, UNHCR distributed cash for food assistance in the Adagom, Anyake and Okende settlements benefitting 13,371 individuals (3,723 households). The refugees received cash distributions of USD20 each.



WASH:

- UNHCR completed the installation of seven additional latrine blocks in Adagom and Okende, four bathing units in Okende, and one water collection point that will serve at least 240 refugees in Adagom. These installations will increase refugees' access to water and sanitation facilities. An average of 15 litres of safe water was provided to refugees in Adagom, while in Okende refugees received 20 litres per person per day. The UNHCR post-emergency phase standard for water supply is 20 litres per person per day.
- Hygiene promotion and sensitization sessions were conducted for some 3,993 refugees in Adagom and Okende settlements on hand washing, water storage, open defecation and menstrual hygiene. Also, solid waste disposal was carried out in both settlements to improve environmental sanitation and hygiene.



Shelter:

- Construction of permanent shelters for Cameroonian refugees continued in the Adagom and Okende settlements. In Okende, 113 permanent shelters were completed and 114 shelters are under construction. Meanwhile, 798 permanent shelters were completed in Adagom and 71 are under construction. The Adagom settlement was initially planned for 793 shelters, but as a result of the demand, the Office has accommodated an additional 76 shelters on the site. As of 31 March, 1,059 permanent shelters were completed in the Adagom, Anyake and Okende settlements, of which 800 were funded by EU Humanitarian Aid.



Community empowerment/Self Reliance:

- Some 430 refugees took a five-day entrepreneurship training in the Adagom settlement to build their business management skills. At the end of the training, refugees select a vocational training of their choice including fish farming, vegetable farming, fashion designing, catering, pastry making and cosmetology. Successful trainees will be provided with small business start-up kits.

Working in partnership

- Together with the Nigerian Government, UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to Cameroonian refugees. The Office has established a monthly coordination meeting in Ogoja, CRS, to foster collaboration with UN agencies and humanitarian actors. The following partners implement specific sector activities in the response to the Cameroon refugee situation: Family Health International (FHI 360), Save the Children International, CUSO International, Binta Medical Outreach Africa, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria (CCFN); Catholic Diocese of Makurdi Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP); MEDATRIX Development Foundation and Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre. Operational partners include ICRC, MSF, UNFPA and WHO.

Financial Information

On 26 March, UNHCR launched a Supplementary Appeal for the Cameroon situation for USD27.3 Million in new requirements for refugees in Nigeria, while reiterating already established overall requirements totalling USD44.6M for the response in 2019.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds including:

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