

# Cameroon Situation

August 2019

**42,610** *Cameroonian refugees are registered* in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.

1,464 new refugees were registered in Nigeria during the month of August. **UNHCR seeks funding to provide them with assistance and protection.**

For 2019, UNHCR financial requirements for the response to the Cameroon refugee situation is USD44.6 million. **This budget has been funded at 55% as of August.**

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## KEY INDICATORS

**42,610** | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria.

**21,808** | Cameroonian refugees are registered in the Adagom, Okende settlements in Cross River State and in the Anyake settlement in Benue State.

**51%** | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities.

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The Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria offered free services including, eye screening, reading glasses and surgery to over 400 refugees and local community persons in CRS and Benue State in August. © UNHCR/Tony Aseh

## Highlights

- The Ndok community offered 100 hectares agricultural land to refugees in **Ogoja** (CRS). From 27 to 28 August, the Head of Local Government Administration-Ogoja, Ms Margaret Bassey, and the Director General of the Cross River State Emergency Management Agency (CR-SEMA), Mr Princewill Ayim met with the Ndok chief and community, to discuss the offer and subsequently gazette the land. Similarly, the team met at UNHCR Sub Office Ogoja, to officially discuss the handover of the land to SEMA, on 29 August. UNHCR is committed to making sure that the Ndok community receive 30% of all agriculture assistance that will be provided to the refugees
- In **Benue State**, UNHCR is planning to move refugees from the present site, Anyake, to a new site, Ikyogen, by end of September. However, the new site has enough space to only accommodate 2,175 of the total 5,690 refugees in Anyake. Thus, some 3,370 refugees will be accommodated in temporary shelters within the settlement until a new site is developed. Thus, UNHCR is seeking an estimated USD2.4 million to develop and cover compensatory costs on additional land provided by the Government of Nigeria in Ikoyogen Ranch.
- On 8 August, UNHCR participated in the 2019 Delivery as One and United Nations Sustainable Development Partnership Framework (UNSDPF) Mid-Year review meeting, in Calabar, Cross River State (CRS)
- During the month of August, according to reports, Federal Government of Nigeria **closed** its **borders** with Cameroon to prevent Cameroonian combatants entering Nigeria and posing as refugees. The legal borders closed and being monitored by the Nigeria Immigration Service include, Agbokim, Amana, Bakassi and Ekang. However, refugees are using illegal borders to enter Nigeria reportedly. Meanwhile, UNHCR is reviewing its contingency plan in anticipation of more flows of refugees given reports of continuing unrest in Cameroon
- The Office held its routine monthly meeting with implementing partners on 29 August in Ogoja, CRS. Some 40 participants took part in the meeting.

## Achievements



### Protection:

- In August 2019, UNHCR partners, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in CRS and Benue State, Caritas and the Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP), reported the arrival of about 600 new Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria from the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. Most of them were women and children in need of food, non-food items, shelter and healthcare
- Some 212 individuals with specific needs were identified during home visits and monitoring in the Okende, Adagom, Anyake settlements, and among the host communities in CRS and Benue State, by FJDP and Caritas. The individuals were referred to appropriate service providers for assistance
- On 26 August, a presidential border Multi-Functional Team from Abuja including the Nigerian Immigration Service, Customs, Department of State Security, Army and Police, visited Adikpo and the Anyake settlement (Benue State) to conduct a border monitoring assessment, including inspection of the entry of illegal weapons, and identification of entry points/means of transportation by refugees, following recent reported incidents of people fleeing Cameroon. The team also visited the registration point to ascertain refugees' identities
- From 20 to 21 August, UNHCR facilitated a protection training, in collaboration with SEMA, for the newly elected refugee leaders at the Adagom settlement, with the aim to enhance Community Based

Protection. A total of 36 refugee leaders were equipped with knowledge on roles and responsibilities, UNHCR code of conduct, Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), leadership and organization management, refugee rights and obligations, conflict resolution skills, and monitoring/evaluation. Participants drafted an action plan and a refugee leadership guideline, to guide their daily activities in the settlement.

- With support from UNHCR, FJDP conducted a two-day protection training for 45 staff and border monitors in Adikpo, on SGBV, Child Protection, PSEA and UNHCR code of conduct.

#### **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV):**

- Some 29 SGBV incidents were recorded in the Anyake, Adagom and Okende settlements, and host communities in CRS and Benue States by FJDP and Caritas. Survivors were provided with psychosocial counselling and medical assistance, while 21 received material assistance. Furthermore, SGBV support group meetings were held in the three settlements, to promote and strengthen their coping mechanism.
- Legal assistance was provided to four survivors of SGBV in CR and Benue States, with support from Caritas and FJDP. The suspects who were arrested and charged to court, are awaiting trial.

#### **Child protection:**

- FJDP and Caritas recorded 123 child protection cases including child neglect, child abuse and child rape in the settlements and host communities in CRS and Benue State. Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were conducted for two separated children in Anyake and is underway for other children at risk to ensure their well-being.
- Sensitization sessions and awareness raising campaigns on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) and Child Protection, were conducted in CRS and Benue State to facilitate identification, reporting, response and prevention. Also, a meeting with 41 child caregivers/foster parents accommodating unaccompanied and separated children was held in the Anyake settlement, to discuss and address challenges encountered by the caregivers/foster parents.
- Ten refugee children were issued with National Population birth certificates in Adagom and Okende settlements.



#### **Education:**

- Identification and registration of new primary one refugee pupils and former students is on-going in CRS and Benue State by UNHCR to facilitate arrangements for the new school year that will commence in September 2019.
- Pre-selection exercise of prospective refugee university students that expressed interest in the National Open University of Nigeria, Calabar study Centre, is ongoing by UNHCR. A total of 74 candidates (20 women and 54 men) were screened to apply for the certificate, diploma, undergraduate and graduate programmes. Among them, 50 applicants received their unique Identification Numbers and remittal codes.

#### **Gaps and challenges:**

- The learning environment is noticeably poor at the St. Eugene Primary School in Okende, most of the younger pupils in the Early Childhood Care and Development section do not have desks and there are no WASH facilities. Moreover, the student to teacher ratio is as high as 1:150 in some of the schools within the settlements' catchment area. UNHCR plans to provide desks for newly rehabilitated schools for the next scholastic year.



## Health:

- UNHCR partner FHI360 conducted a five-day training from 5 to 9 August, for 50 healthcare workers in Benue and CRS. The integrated health workers training focused on health in emergency situations including infection prevention and control, maternal and child care, SBBV and WASH. The training facilitators included professionals from UNHCR, University Teaching Hospitals, Ministry of Health and the Primary Health Care Development Agencies in Benue and CRS
- FHI360 restocked four Primary Healthcare Centres (PHC's) in CRS and Benue State with essential medication. The quality of health care services provided to refugees and host community at PHCs in CRS and Benue State remains substandard, as staffing and medical supplies are inadequate
- In August, over 2,000 refugees and host community persons received medical care at various health centres in CRS and Benue. Among them, some 346 individuals received family planning and HIV services. FHI360 referred patients for care and treatment
- On 27 August, surgery was successfully conducted for a one-year old refugee child diagnosed with hydrocephalus, at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, CRS. The child has been admitted since March 2019 and is in recovery
- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) donated family planning kits for refugees and members of the host communities in CRS. The kits included 5,000 female condoms and 21,600 male condoms. Additionally, Save the Children distributed mosquito nets to 198 refugee households in Adagom settlement to reduce the prevalence of Malaria
- A total of 150 mother-to-mother support groups (MTMSG) have been set up in Adagom and Okende settlements to promote information sharing, learning of new skills, and discussion of issues concerning infant and young child nutrition, among others
- Some 8,548 refugees were enrolled into the Health Insurance Scheme by the Health Management Organization, Integrated Health Care Limited in CRS and Benue States. This brings the total number of enrolled refugees to 18,548. The enrolment entails issuing health insurance cards to permit refugees access designated health facilities for healthcare
- From 28 to 31 August, the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria (OSN) with support from UNHCR and partners including, Nigeria Red Cross, Sight Savers Nigeria, Cross River State government, See International, Vision Spring, Keyhelt Pharma, Dortemag and Honourable Joe Eweh, offered free eye screening, reading glasses and surgery to over 400 refugees and other residents of Ogoja. Ahead of the celebration of its 50th anniversary, OSN heeded to the invitation of UNHCR to extend its ophthalmological outreach to refugees in CRS and Benue State.



## Food and Non-Food Items:

- UNHCR and its partner FJDP distributed food and non-food items to 416 spontaneous arrivals in the Anyake settlement. Items distributed included rice, cassava flour, sugar, salt vegetable oil, soaps, buckets, jerry cans, blankets, lamps, kitchen sets, sanitary pads and mosquito nets. In addition, nine individuals with specific needs were supported with cooking pots and clothes
- Some 3,086 refugees in the Anyake settlement received non-food items donated by NCFRMI. Items distributed included, Jerry cans, buckets with lids, cups, spoons and plates
- UNHCR and partners commenced the distribution of CBI for food assistance for the month of July on 15 August, after slight delays due to funding constraints. A total 13, 732 received cash for food equivalent of USD20 per individual in the Adagom and Anyake settlements

- The Catholic Community of St. Ann Adikpo, Benue State, donated food and non-food items including rice, cake, biscuits, clothes and shoes to refugees at the Anyake settlement.



### WASH:

- Routine supply of potable water and treatment from boreholes continued in the three settlements hosting some 21, 000 refugees. The current water situation at the settlements is gradually stabilizing, with increasing rainfall
- Over time, the high water table in the Adagom and Okende settlements has impacted negatively on the effectiveness of pit latrines. In order to overcome this challenge, urine-diverting dry toilets (UDDT) are currently being piloted in both settlements. Eight have been completed thus far in Okende, while installation of six is ongoing in Adagom by UNHCR partner, Save the Children International
- Sensitization sessions of refugee communities on personal and environmental hygiene, menstrual hygiene, safe water chain and waste management, were conducted by Save the Children in all the settlements
- Some 216 women in reproductive age received sanitary pads donated by the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced (NCFRMI), in the Anyake settlement. Additionally, 290 households in the Adagom and Okende settlements received hygiene kits and non-food items including mats, buckets and jerry cans
- Save the Children completed installation of the following at the new refugee settlements in CR and Benue States; one borehole, 10 blocks of two compartment family shared latrines, 15 communally shared bathing showers and two water collection points at Ikyogen (Benue State). 18 family shared latrines, five water collection points, 32 bathing shelters with soak away pits and excavation of 61 family shared latrines in Adagom-3 (CRS).



### Shelter:

- UNHCR assess that about 9,572 refugees are in urgent need of permanent shelters in the Adagom and Okende settlements. Among these, 4,603 refugees live in temporary shelters while 4,969 refugees are without any shelter. Shelter construction was suspended temporarily at the settlements due to unavailability of funds and space for additional shelters. So far, 1,251 permanent shelters for Cameroon refugees were completed in Adagom, Okende and Anyake settlements
- In the new refugee settlement, Ikyogen, construction and development of various facilities are underway including pilot shelters, three box culverts, clearing and grading of intra-settlement access roads. Meanwhile in Adagom-3, five reception hangers were installed, and the land was cleared for fumigation.



### Community empowerment/Self Reliance:

- UNHCR partner CUSO international distributed farming tools to 15 refugees, who are living in the host community, in Ikyogen to facilitate crop farming activities. The farming kits included raincoats, cutlasses, iron file, knapsack sprayer, hoe, herbicides and Bambara nut seeds
- CUSO completed setting up of the farmer schools in five locations in CRS and Benue State for a total of 142 members (53M and 89W). Cumulatively, 204 trainees (82M and 122W) took the farmers field school training program and were empowered to start farming activities

- In CRS and Benue State, some 123 refugees were enrolled in technical and vocational trainings, to enhance their competencies in poultry value chain, catering, hairdressing/barber shop, fisheries, automobile, Piggery, cosmetology, photography, and tailoring, with support from CUSO. Upon completion, beneficiaries will be supported with start-up kits to enable them set up their own businesses.



### Settlement coordination and management

- On 22 August, SEMA allocated office space at the security post constructed by UNHCR, to the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) and the Nigerian Police (NP), to enhance the security situation in the Adagom settlement. SEMA will allocate more office spaces to the NIS and NP in other settlements, once construction of facilities are completed.

## Working in partnership

- In collaboration 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, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria (CCFN); Catholic Diocese of Makurdi Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP); MEDATRIX Development Foundation, Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). 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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