

Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

August 2022

Over **82,000 Cameroonian refugee men, women, and children** are registered in Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Enugu, and Taraba States.

UNHCR and partners commenced **comprehensive registration and verification of Cameroonian refugees** in Nigeria.

About **30 Cameroonian refugees** received **starter kits** to establish various **business ventures** in Cross River State.



Cameroonian refugees and locals receive starter kits provided to improve their livelihoods in Adagom refugee settlement, Cross River State. © UNHCR/ Lucy Agiende.

Operational Highlights

- From 10 to 12 August, UNHCR **trained 70 government officials** and partners on **protection principles** and specific needs identification in preparation for the 2022 **comprehensive registration** and **verification of Cameroonian refugees** in Nigeria. Officials from the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), and Caritas in Benue, Cross River, and Taraba States participated in the training held in Ogoja, Cross River State (CRS). The exercise has **incorporated a socio-economic profiling component** that will enable UNHCR to **improve its protection and assistance response** by targeting the **most vulnerable** persons and prioritizing them for support. All **eligible persons** will also be **issued refugee identity cards**.
- On 15 August, UNHCR **commenced a comprehensive registration** and **verification of Cameroonian refugees**, together with partners NCFRMI, SEMA, Caritas, Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), and NIS in CRS. The verification exercise included the **registration of new arrivals and the issuance of refugee ID cards** to individuals above 14 years old. **Biometric verification** is being conducted for all (5 years and above), including previously registered refugees without biometric identity. The exercise will continue through the end of the year.
- On 19 August, UNHCR commemorated International Humanitarian Day in collaboration with UN Agencies, the government, partners, NGOs, and refugees. This year's commemoration with the theme "**ItTakesAVillage**" aimed to **advocate for the survival, well-being, and dignity of people affected by crises and for the safety and security of aid workers**. Events during the commemoration included a stakeholder's workshop, sports activities, and a solidarity walk. The workshop held in Calabar, CRS, was attended by UN Agencies and government officials. Participants shared experiences and highlighted the need to promote the welfare and security of humanitarian workers and persons of concern.
- In response to a request made by UNHCR and SEMA in Taraba State, the Chairperson of Kurmi Local Government Area (LGA) has **provided 250,000 Square meters of agricultural land to refugees** residing around Baissa, the LGA capital town, to support agricultural activities for the semi-urban refugees living in the area. To formalize this transaction, UNHCR, in collaboration with SEMA, will conduct a land survey so that no changes would be made in the decision should new political leaders be elected to Office during the upcoming election. Cultural leaders in many other locations have pledged land, and this is being followed up to its realization.



PROTECTION

Protection Monitoring

- In Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba (ABCT) States, UNHCR collaborated with 12 government and NGO partners to **provide protection and assistance** to Cameroonian refugees. Over **60 detention, border monitoring, and advocacy visits** were conducted

to police stations, immigration checkpoints, and correctional centres, as well as to the Offices of Humanities and Social Welfare, National Identity Management Commission, and Nigeria Security & Civil Defence, to advocate for refugees' **freedom of movement, access to justice and prevention of human trafficking.**

Protection Response

- **Over 3,500 additional Cameroonian refugees, mostly women, and children,** were **registered** and issued **documents**, including **ID cards** by UNHCR and NCFRMI in Benue, Cross River States. They fled from Cameroon's Northwest and Southwest regions due to the protracted conflict by separatist fighters.
- UNHCR and partners provided **multisectoral assistance** to **50 Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors** of psychological/emotional abuse, **sexual and physical assault, denial of resources, rape, and** child/forced marriage leading to teenage pregnancy in ABCT States. **Survivors received** healthcare, material, psychosocial/mental health support, and legal services to support their rights, safety and wellbeing.
- Supported by UNHCR and partners, the National Population Commission **issued birth certificates** to **330 refugee and IDP children** in ABCT States.
- In Benue State, **42 case workers** and **protection volunteers** were **trained on best interest procedures** and interviewing skills by UNHCR and partner Foundation for Justice, Development, and Peace.
- Over **200 refugee and host community women/girls** of reproductive age, including GBV survivors and **new arrivals, received dignity kits** (wrappers, towel, soap, toothpaste, shaving blade, buckets, and sanitary pad) in the Akamkpa and Abande communities of Benue and CRS.
- In CRS, UNHCR **installed seven complaints boxes** at the Primary Health Centers to **strengthen the reporting and feedback** mechanisms for refugees, in Akampa, Bakassi, and Calabar Local Government Areas (LGA), through NRCS.
- UNHCR **trained 30 government/security officials** and partners on **GBV** and **Prevention against Sexual Exploitation, Abuse,** and Harassment in Sardauna, Ussa, and Takum Local Government Areas, Taraba State.
- The Strengthening Community Response for Refugees project supported by Malteser International was commissioned in Takum, Taraba State, to **complement UNHCR's interventions in child protection, GBV, and WASH** and implemented by UNHCR partner Rhema care.
- In ABCT States, UNHCR and partners conducted over **20 awareness** sessions on **PSEA, GBV, child protection, birth registration, legal rights,** referral pathways, and reporting channels, reaching over **3,000 refugees** and locals in the ABCT States.
- In Taraba State, **two child-friendly space** facilities organized various **recreational and educational activities** for over **900 refugee** and **host community children** in Gembu and Takum. The activities included soccer, art therapy, dance, beading, knitting, and psychoeducation on self-confidence & discipline.
- The protection desks at the verification center in CRS **addressed and managed over 300 concerns and needs of refugees,** including children at risk of not attending school,

separated or unaccompanied children, severe medical conditions, individuals with disabilities, teenage pregnancies, and female-headed households who lost their spouses during the crisis in Cameroon.

- More than **20 refugees received legal interventions**, including court representations in Benue and CRS.



HEALTH:

- In ABCT States, UNHCR supports national health systems to improve access and quality of health care services to refugees and locals in over 30 primary and tertiary healthcare facilities through the provision of equipment, health personnel, rehabilitation/construction laboratories, wards, and WASH facilities. More than **6,000 refugees received healthcare services**, including **mental health services antenatal/post-natal**, **nutrition**, and **vaccinations**.

- Some **2,800 refugee and host community children** were assessed for **malnutrition by** UNHCR partner NRCS. Over **50 children with severe** and moderate acute malnutrition received locally produced **supplementary food** rich in nutrients to promote their growth and wellbeing in the ABCT States.
- Some **30 refugees** and locals, mainly **pregnant women, children** under five years, and the elderly, received **mosquito nets** to help prevent malaria, and 34 **refugee and host community women** received **delivery kits** for **childbirth** at the UNHCR-supported health facilities in ABCT States.
- In Benue and CRS, UNHCR commenced an **integrated indoor residual spraying of about 2,000 refugee homes to prevent malaria and other diseases** across the four refugee settlements (Adagom 1&3, Ukende, and Ikyogen), with support from Probitas Foundation. UNHCR and partner NRCS **trained 45 individuals**, including local government health department officials, to facilitate the exercise.



FOOD SECURITY

- UNHCR conducted a Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM)R **to collect and understand refugees' feedback on the quality, sufficiency, utilization, and effectiveness** of the **cash assistance for food** provided by UNHCR in Adagom 1 & 3 and Ukende settlements, CRS. Feedback from the focus group discussion held with refugees, including persons with disabilities, indicates that refugees encountered a recent increase in the prices of most food items due to inflation, while the **low amount of food assistance together with inadequate livelihood opportunities exposes refugees to negative coping mechanisms** and inability to fully meet basic household needs such as food and clothing. The European Union Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid supported the PDM exercise.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

- UNHCR and partner Save the Children (SCI) chlorinated, distributed, and monitored the supply of 9,693,400 litres of potable water to the four refugee settlements in Benue and CRS.
- **Routine maintenance and repairs of WASH facilities** were undertaken in the four refugee settlements to **increase access to potable water supply** for refugees. This included replacing 13 damaged tap heads, reinstalling broken water storage tanks, and washing four storage bladders. This accounted for a 13% increase in water supplied to refugees this month.

- UNHCR **completed the drilling and test pumping of a borehole** and installation of automatic chlorine dosing pumps to improve potable water supply for refugees and locals in Nyaje community, Akamkpa LGA (CRS), and in Ikyogen settlements water treatment plant (Benue State), through SCI.
- To help refugee communities maintain good sanitation and open defecation-free status, **56 filled latrines** were decommissioned, and **27 gender-segregated bathing shelters** were completed in the four settlements in Benue and CRS.
- Door-to-door **sensitization** on **COVID-19 prevention** and **personal/environmental hygiene** by hygiene volunteers reached over **1,500 refugees** to **promote good hygiene practices** among refugees in Benue and CRS.



LIVELIHOODS

- In CRS, **28 additional refugees trained in small business** enterprises by UNHCR through Cuso International **received starter kits** to establish their business ventures in Ogoja, Ikom, Etung, Boki, and Obanliku LGAs. A PDM exercise was conducted for 86 refugees who received kits to monitor the effective utilization of the starter kits in Calabar and Ogoja.
- A host community chief of the Bakoko community in Calabar, CRS, **donated five hectares of farmland, a two-room apartment** to serve as a reception center for new refugees, and **a fish pond to refugees** to help improve their livelihoods.

Challenges

- Inadequate livelihood opportunities and vocational training for refugees remain a major concern, as this makes them highly dependent on humanitarian assistance provided by UNHCR.
- Limited humanitarian sector actors, putting the burden almost entirely on UNHCR.
- Agriculture is the main livelihood activity for most of the refugees. However, agricultural land is not easily accessible by refugees as some private landlords charge high rental fees.



EDUCATION

- UNHCR and partner Jesuit Refugee Service **trained 21 local government education secretaries and school administrators** on school supervision, monitoring, and record keeping, to improve the quality of education for refugee and host community students in Taraba State.



SETTLEMENT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS

- Some **150 newly registered refugees received non-food items**, including mosquito nets, kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, buckets, solar lanterns, and jerrycans in Benue State.
- In CRS, UNHCR **provided cash** for the **construction of transitional shelters to 28 vulnerable refugee families to pay for skilled labour** through its partner Rhema Care in Adagom 3 and Ukende refugee settlements. The **refugee households** also **received shelter kits**, including bricks, sand, gravel, roofing sheets, and timber nails. Ten refugee families completed the construction of their transitional shelters in the Adagom 3 settlement.

Challenges

- Insufficient transitional shelter constitutes a major challenge for individuals with specific needs in the Ikyogen refugee settlement. Many of them live in emergency shelters that are in deplorable conditions, especially during heavy rainfall.
- In Taraba, the living space provided by host communities to refugees is inadequate. Some refugees who rent private houses have difficulty paying due to limited cash flows.

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 meetings at the State and Local Governments levels as well as with 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, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Nigeria Red Cross.

External/Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the flexible financial support provided by donors globally and those who have contributed directly to the Nigeria Operation. The operation's comprehensive budgetary needs for 2022 stand at 98.2 million. At the end of the reporting period, it was only 36 percent funded.

Direct contributions to UNHCR in Nigeria: United States of America | Country-Based Pooled Funds (UN) | Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Global Initiatives | European Union | Germany | Spain | Muslim World League | France | Profuturo | Foundation Probitas | Nigeria | Private donors Nigeria | Other private donors

Unearmarked contributions: Sweden 99.3 million | Norway 72.5 million | Private donors Spain 45 million | United Kingdom 40.1 million | Netherlands 37.2 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Private donors Japan 31.7 million | Germany 27 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 22.6 million | Japan 21.7 million | Private donors USA 19.5 million | France 18.5 million | Switzerland 18.4 million | Private donors Italy 12.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.8 million | Private donors Canada 10.5 million | Italy 10 million
Algeria | Armenia | Australia | Azerbaijan | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Kuwait | Liechtenstein | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Portugal | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors.

Softly earmarked contributions: United States of America 28.8 million | Canada 7.8 million | Private donors Australia 7.4 million | Private donors USA 6.2 million | Private donors Germany 3.4 million | Japan | Norway | Private donors

More Information



CONTACT US

Tesfaye Bekele | Head of Sub-Office, Ogoja, Cross River State | bekelet@unhcr.org | + 234 901 066 0624

Lucy Ajiende | Reporting Associate, Ogoja, Cross River State | ajiende@unhcr.org | +2349010660627

Edward Ogolla | External Relations Officer, Abuja | ogolla@unhcr.org | +234 901 066 0511