UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency | Nigeria

Displacement Overview

1 December 2024

Refugees & Asylum-seekers in Nigeria

Nigeria hosts asylum-seekers and refugees from 47 nationalities, maintaining an open-door policy on asylum. As a party to key international and regional refugee and human rights instruments, Nigeria upholds its obligations to protect refugees without reservations, ensuring safety and access to essential services.

Most refugees in Nigeria are from Cameroon, arriving since 2017 to escape violence and instability. They primarily live in host communities across the South-South, North-Central, and North-East regions, with new arrivals continuing. Urban centers like Lagos, Abuja, and Kano also host refugees from diverse nationalities, some of whom have been in Nigeria for over a decade. The government and UNHCR work together to register and protect these populations

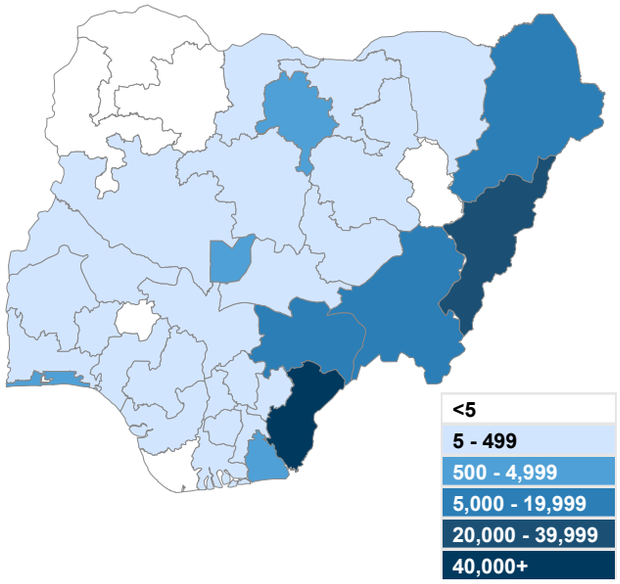
122,310

All Refugees & Asylum-seekers in Nigeria

78,852
Registered Refugees

25,124
Registered Asylum-seekers

18,334
Unregistered Population

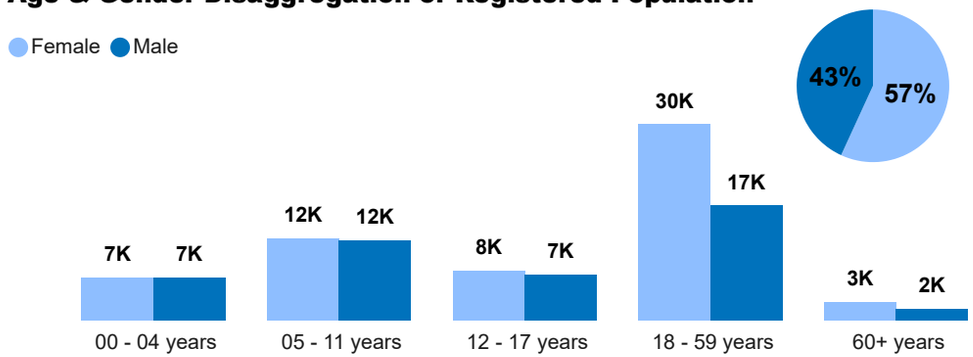


32,606
WOMEN

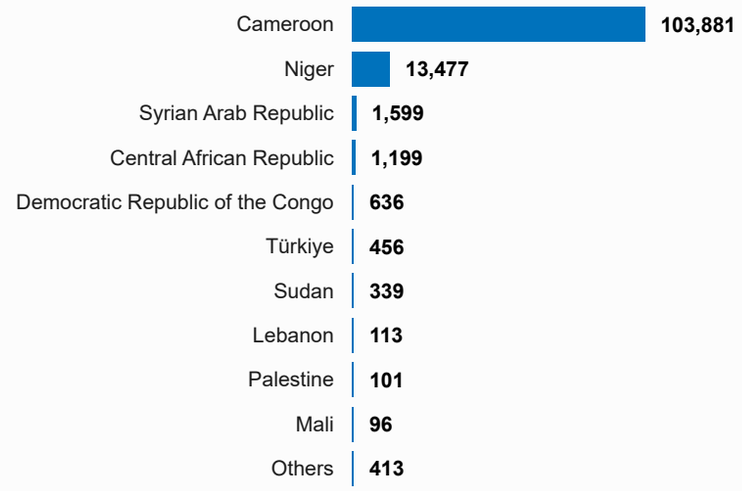
52,187
CHILDREN

19,183
MEN

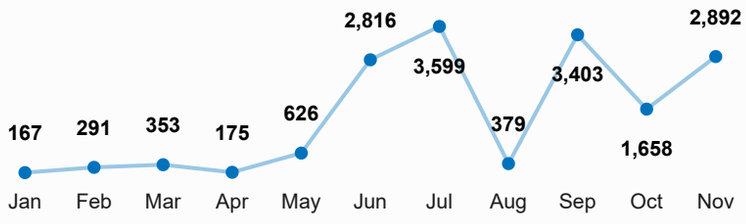
Age & Gender Disaggregation of Registered Population



Countries of Origin



2024 Registration Trend



Reception & Registration

NCFRMI, the National Commission For Refugees, Migrants, and Internally receives, registers, issues attestations and where necessary schedule RSD interview to Asylum seekers with the Technical Support of UNHCR.

Refugee Status Determination (RSD)

The RSD procedures meet minimum standards, but there are gaps, including delays in adjudication leading to a backlog of applications and the need to align procedures with RSD standard operating procedures. opportunities for integration and economic inclusion.

Out-of-Camp Approach

Nigeria practices an out-of-camp approach, which enables asylum seekers and refugees to assimilate more easily into host communities and enhances opportunities for integration and economic inclusion.

Unregistered Population

As of 1 December 2024, over 23,000 individuals residing in border communities in Adamawa state from the recent influx of Cameroonian refugees have been registered by NCFRMI and UNHCR.

Additionally, there is an estimated 12,000 individuals from Niger Republic, who have been granted Prima Facie refugee status, residing in Damasak, Borno State awaiting registration.

The pending registration, is estimated at approximately **18,334** individuals. ***Age and gender disaggregation for the unregistered population is yet to be determined***

Published: December 2024 **Source:** UNHCR, HDX, Government **Feedback:** nigabim@unhcr.org **Website:** unhcr.org/ng

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Displacement Overview

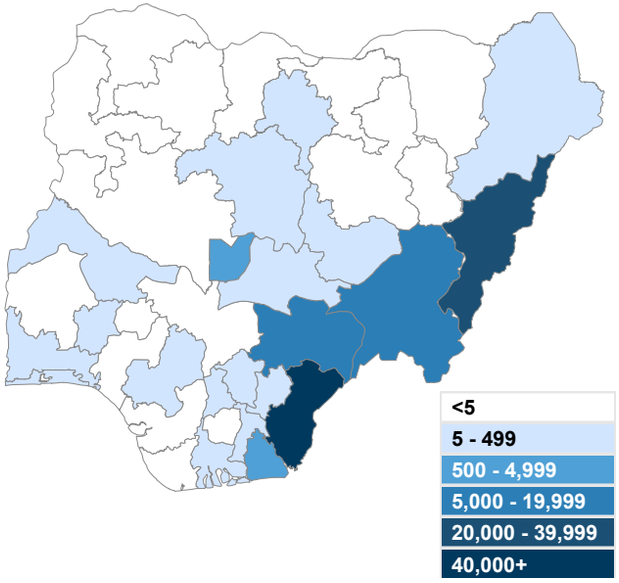
1 December 2024

Cameroonian Population in Nigeria

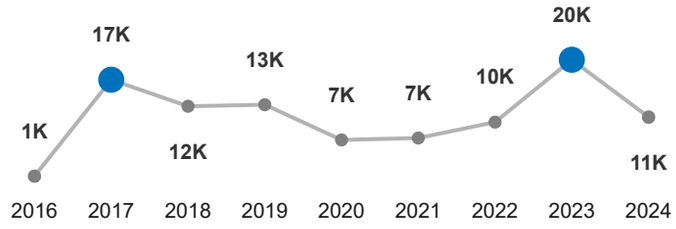
103,881

Cameroonian Refugees & Asylum-seekers

74,369	23,178	6,334
Refugees	Registered Asylum-seekers	Unregistered Asylum-seekers



Arrival Trend



Status Determination

The Cameroonian population in Nigeria have been under Temporary Protection Status (TPS) since March 2018. Initially valid for two years, the TPS was extended twice in 2020 and 2022.

In February 2024, the Eligibility Committee recommended extending the TPS for three years, marking significant progress from the previous two-year durations. The current extension is valid from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2027.

Population in South-South

Refugees in the South-South region have been granted a three-year Temporary Protection Status (1 July 2024 – 30 June 2027), following the Eligibility Committee's recommendation.

Population in Adamawa

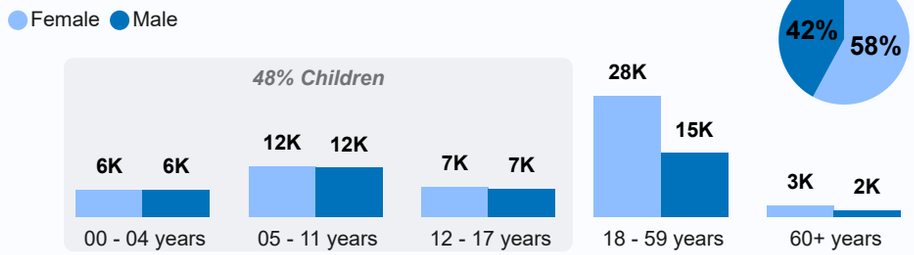
Approximately 15,000 Cameroonian refugees in Adamawa have also been granted two years of Temporary Protection Status, while over 10,000 individuals are still awaiting a decision on their status from the Eligibility Committee.

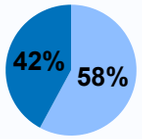
Cause of Displacement

2017 - The conflict in the North-West and Southwest regions of Cameroon has led to the displacement of thousands of people who have found refuge in Nigeria. Around 8,000 new arrivals were registered in 2023.

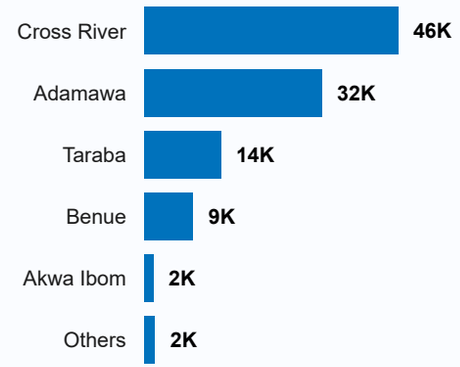
2023 - Far North region of Cameroon experienced inter-communal frictions resulting on mass displacement in Nigeria. L2 registration is ongoing in Adamawa.

Age & Gender Disaggregation of Registered Population*

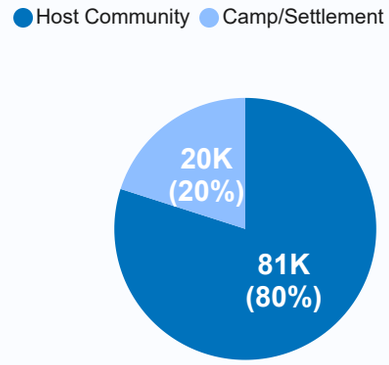




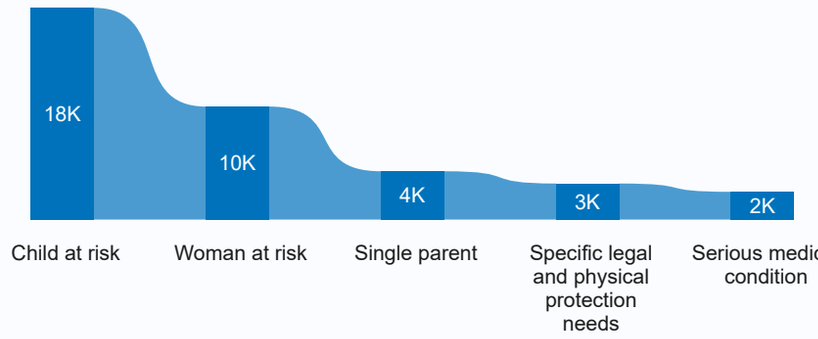
Top 5 States of Residence



Accommodation Type



Top 5 Specific Needs



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