

## Key Highlights:

- **2,113** asylum seekers registered in Cross River State from 7-19 February - bringing to **16,790**, the total number of people registered since the influx started in September 2017. Women and children still account for more than 75 per cent of those registered.
- 14-17 February, joint rapid inter-agency needs assessment led by UNHCR took place in Boki, Ikom, Obanliku and Akamkpa Local Government Areas (LGAs) in Cross River state. Food, non-food items, shelter, health and education issues were found to be the core priority gaps. Additional findings included discrimination, lack of documentation, trauma from effects of flight and lack of livelihood opportunities.
- On 19 February the third coordination meeting on the Cameroon influx was held in Calabar, Cross River state. It was a follow-up to previous discussions aimed at strengthening inter-agency collaboration on the Cameroon situation.

## Latest Developments

The human rights situation continues to deteriorate in the North-West and South-West Regions of Cameroon due to the ongoing crisis, resulting in additional movements of people to neighbouring Nigeria. Pro-independent campaigners under the banner of the self-declared Ambazonia Republic have threatened to disrupt election related activities of the upcoming March senatorial elections in Cameroon. On February 11, members of the separatist group reportedly abducted the Divisional Officer (DO) for Batibo in the North-West. As a result, a curfew has been imposed by authorities from 8 pm to 6 am as search for the abducted official continues. In the meantime, soldiers loyal to the government in Yaoundé have been accused of killing civilians while the secessionist group is also alleged to have carried out attacks which led to the death of more than a dozen national security officers since October 2017.

## Context Update

While the main receiving states of Cross River, Benue and Taraba in Nigeria are generally peaceful, asylum seekers say they are concerned about the activities of some Cameroonian security personnel crossing the border into Nigeria in search of people accused of supporting Cameroon's pro-independence group. In January, some Cameroonian security personnel reportedly entered into the border town of Danare in Boki Local Government Area (LGA) in Cross River state and allegedly arrested some individuals believed to be members of the Anglophone secessionist group. As part of measures to address these concerns and prevent future incidents, the Government of Nigeria and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency agreed to construct temporary camps, which are at least 50 kilometres away from the border in Cross River and Benue states.

Akwaya Subdivision in the English-speaking South-West part of Cameroon is the main area of origin for a majority of the asylum seekers. Nearly all the asylum seekers fled Cameroon due to the ongoing standoff between the Government and Anglophone pro-independent movement (North-West and South-West), of the country. All asylum seekers who have arrived in Nigeria since September 2017 are living in host communities, but as the resources of the local population diminish, their capacity to provide further support is restricted.

## Response Efforts

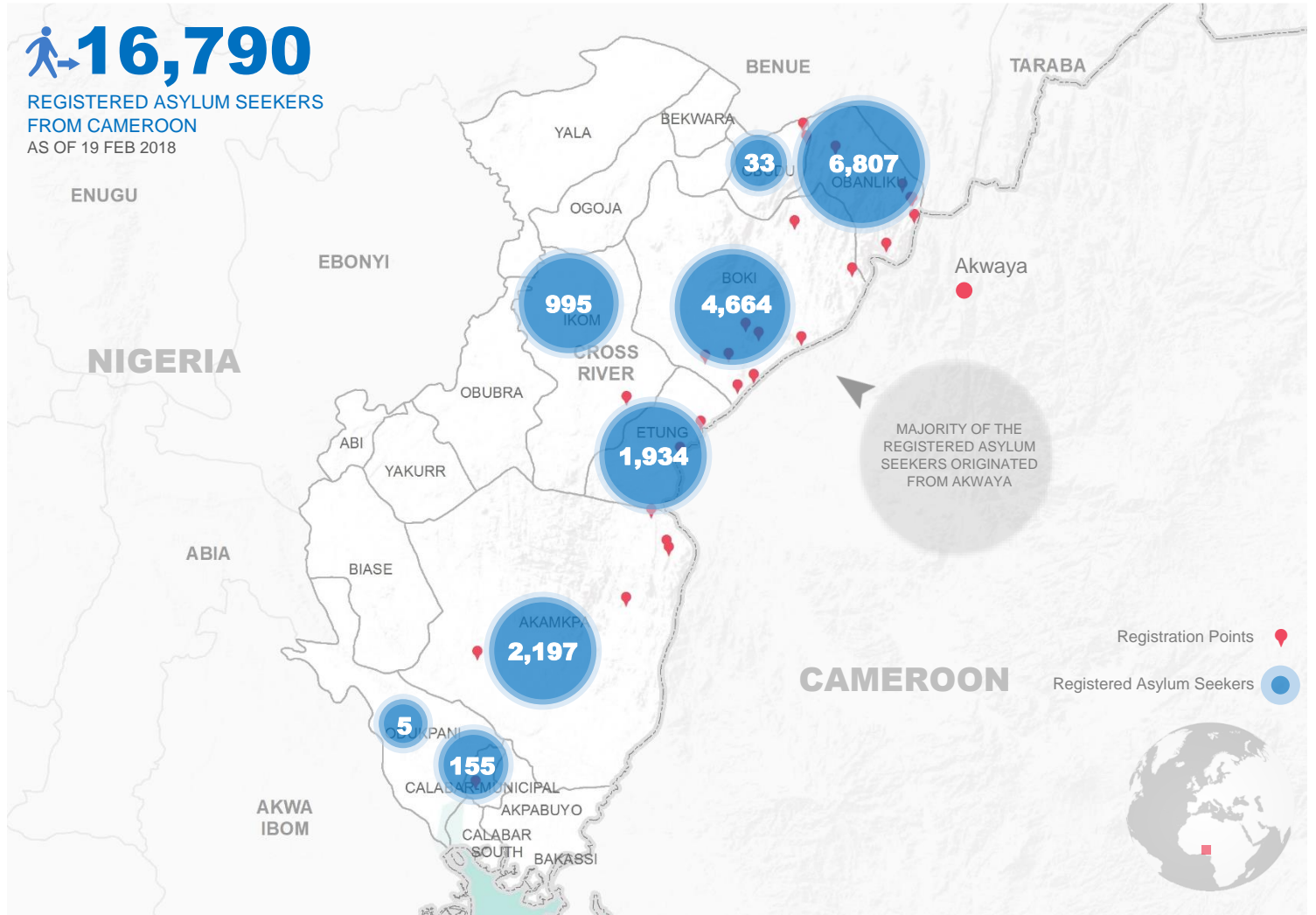
UNHCR and its main government counterpart, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI) have intensified their efforts to enhance the registration process by recruiting and training additional enumerators who have already been deployed to Cross River and Benue states. The joint team will start the process of registering asylum seekers in Abande and Itauve, Kwande LGA in Benue state. UNHCR has started the compilation of a database for unaccompanied and separated children to begin the process of family reunification.

Discussions are taking place between UNHCR and the Government of Nigeria to define the approach of recognising the asylum seekers – whether through group or individual Refugee Status Determination. The Government inter-ministerial/inter-agency National Eligibility Committee (NEC) is due to meet on 27 February to review the procedure for recognition. This followed UNHCR's request for consideration in line with international standards to safeguard the rights of those fleeing the crisis and facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance in safety and dignity.

The previous week, UNHCR and partner Rhema Care carried out the second distribution of food and non-food items (NFIs) in Agborkim and Ikom. The exercise continues this week at Uphill Ranch in Obanliku LGA and Ajassor community. Beneficiaries include those who have already been registered. As the number of those registered continues to increase, so too is the necessity for additional resources to reinforce UNHCR's capacity to adequately respond to the critical needs of those affected by the crisis.

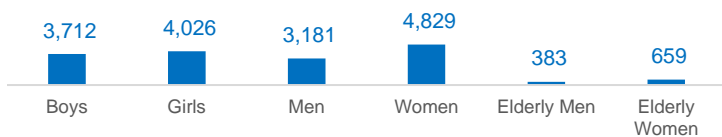


UNHCR in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and IDPs (NCFRMI) is undertaking the registration for newly arrived Cameroonian asylum seekers in Cross Rivers State. The information also helps to identify vulnerabilities among the asylum seeker population as well as baseline data in order to plan and coordinate humanitarian response. The registration exercise will also be extended to the other two affected states – Benue and Taraba.



**DISCLAIMER:** The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. A technical team is currently conducting a thorough review of the information gathered so as to filter out any data discrepancies.

### AGE AND GENDER BREAKDOWN OF ASYLUM SEEKERS



### REGISTERED ASYLUM SEEKERS PER MONTH



LGAs	0-4		5-11		12-17		18-59		60+		Grand Total
	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	
OBANLIKU	449	456	901	791	513	355	1,994	792	350	206	6,807
BOKI	338	307	491	481	330	309	1,198	980	152	78	4,664
AKAMKPA	144	153	162	170	99	120	777	450	80	42	2,197
ETUNG	106	106	164	185	103	103	431	665	42	29	1,934
IKOM	68	46	78	64	55	43	357	229	31	24	995
CALABAR	6	5	6	4	5	6	58	57	4	4	155
OBUDU	1	2	3	3	-	3	13	8	-	-	33
ODUKPANI	-	-	2	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	5
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>1,112</b>	<b>1,075</b>	<b>1,807</b>	<b>1,698</b>	<b>1,107</b>	<b>939</b>	<b>4,829</b>	<b>3,181</b>	<b>659</b>	<b>383</b>	<b>16,790</b>