

Cameroon Situation

September 2019

44,247 *Cameroonian refugees are registered in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.*

UNHCR is seeking funding to provide assistance and protection to 1,573 new refugees registered in Nigeria during the month of September.

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

44,242 | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria.

23,356 | Cameroonian refugees are hosted in the Adagom, Okende settlements in Cross River State and in the Anyake settlement in Benue State.

47% | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities.



UNHCR Representative to Nigeria and ECOWAS, Ogoja HoLGA, DG CRSEMA and UNHCR Head of Sub-Office Ogoja, visit 95 hectares of farmland donated by the Ndok community, Ogoja, Cross River, to promote refugees' self-reliance, 27 September 2019. ©UNHCR/T. Aseh

Highlights

- In September, UNHCR's new Assistant High Commissioner for Protection, Ms. Gillian Triggs officially commenced her duties. She is a highly renowned expert in international law and has strong and wide-ranging expertise in Protection.
- The case of reported child trafficking by a refugee mother in Cross River State caused a stir in the Media. The case was referred to court and is pending trial.
- UNHCR undertook an assessment mission to Gembu, Taraba State, to meet with refugees and State authorities to look into improving assistance and protection for the growing number of refugees in the State
- UNHCR Country Representative, Antonio Canhandula, met with refugees and State Officials in Ogoja, Cross River and Kwande, Benue. **In Ogoja he visited 95 hectares of farming land donated to refugees by the Ndok community.** The Director-General of the Cross River State Emergency Agency, Mr. Princewill Ayim and the Head of the Ogoja Local Government Administration, Ms. Margaret Basse played a key role in the donation
- UNHCR handed over two vehicles to the Head of Local Government Area, Ogoja and the Director-General, Cross River State Emergency Management Agency as a contribution to improve their support to the refugee influx in Cross River State.

Achievements



Protection:

- During the month of September, CARITAS conducted 288 **border monitoring** missions (i.e. 16 visits to each of the 18 entry points/border communities in CRS). Also, six visits were undertaken to host communities outside Ogoja by protection staff and sixty protection monitors undertook monitoring at refugee locations in Cross River to determine new arrivals and assess needs.
- In **CRS**, Caritas undertook thirty-one monitoring visits to **detention** centres in Boki, Utanga, Sankwala, Ogoja, Ikom, Ajassor and Ikang. In **Benue**, FJDP detention monitoring team followed up on two male refugees (ages 45 and 32) in detention in Adikpo. Both refugees were granted bail.
- In **Benue**, FJDP conducted bi-monthly routine **border monitoring** across five border communities namely, Abande, Imande Agbatse, Ituukase, Mbakwerikyaa and Ugugu in Benue. This was to ensure that Cameroonian refugees seeking asylum have access to the territory, are not subjected to arbitrary detention, and to assess their living conditions and needs.
- FJDP Protection Action Group (PAG) at five border communities contributed to sensitizing asylum seekers in the communities to the need for biometric registration. A total of 110 asylum seekers were registered at Anyake refugee settlement following this awareness-raising.

Gaps and challenges:

- In addition to the urgent needs of food and shelter, fuelwood remains a major challenge for refugees particularly those living in the three settlements - Adagom, Ukende and Anyake.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV):

- In **Cross River State** (CRS) in September, CARITAS recorded 91 SGBV incidents for which survivors received counselling, legal and material assistance. Forty-six awareness-raising campaigns on SGBV prevention and response were conducted.

- In Benue, FJDP attended to eight SGBV, offering psychosocial support and NFIs assistance to victims. FJDP conducted awareness campaigns on rape and alcoholism for refugees in the Anyake settlement and conducted an information workshop on SGBV prevention and response for key stakeholders in Adikpo, Igyom and Ikyogen, Kwande LGA.

CHILD PROTECTION:

- In **CROSS RIVER STATE** (CRS), CARITAS undertook the following activities in September:
- 91 SGBV incidents were reported for which survivors received counselling, legal and material assistance. Forty-six awareness-raising campaigns on SGBV prevention and response were conducted
- 223 Child Protection cases were reported and assisted by CARITAS
- 40 Support Group Meetings (SGMs) were held in Adagom and Ukende (5 per week). SGMs are community-based committees that deal with child protection and sexual and gender-based violence. SG members are refugee/host community volunteers that meet with persons if concern to discuss their cases
- 160 recreational and educational activities were organized in Adagom and Ukende for refugee children
- 60 birth certificates were issued to new-borns (47 in Adagom and 13 in Ukende)
- 153 persons with specific needs (PWSNs) were identified. Furthermore, assistance was provided to 135 PWSNs through home visits in Akamkpa (152 home visits), Bakassi (25), Calabar (21), Boki (543) and Obanliku (424), Ukende settlement (180), Adagom (181), Ikom (101) and Etung (312) in Cross River State.
- In **BENUE**, FJDP undertook three child protection referrals for a 14-year-old male, an eight-year-old girl and a nine-year-old boy.
- A total of nine Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) were conducted including four unaccompanied and separated children (UASC). Three separated children - a 10-year-old girl, two males aged 10 and 16 were placed under caregivers. A female aged 16 years was placed under foster care.
- Three cases of child abuse (Boy/5 years, Girl/8 years) and a nine-year-old girl were referred to the psychosocial team for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). UNHCR, FJDP and the Kwande Local Government social welfare assessed the case of two girls, 15 years, physically abused by their parents. The children were placed with guardians.
- The Child Protection (CP) team visited PHC Igyom where four refugee children receiving medical attention at the facility were evicted by the community youth. The youth were unhappy because the Igyom host community [felt] deprived of access to healthcare at the facility
- 49 lactating mothers and their children (20B; 29G, aged 0-5 months) were supported with non-food items. A mother, 21 years, whom gave birth to twins (1B; 1G) was supported with mattress, bathing soap, baby clothing
- Six community-based committees/protection action groups (PAGs) dedicated to child protection were established for the Anyake refugee settlement, Abande, Imande Agbatse, Mbakwerkyaa, Ugugu and Ituukase border areas.

**Education:**

- In **CROSS RIVER**, 16 education sensitization exercises were carried out in Adagom and Ukende settlements and in the Ekonganaku, Oban, Ikang, Bakassi, Mfaminyen, Akor, Mbeban and Ekang LGAs. Five periodic school monitoring exercises were carried out in schools neighbouring the settlements in Ogoja to assess the number of children in school, encourage

attendance and encourage parents to work with the school authority (PTA meetings). One advocacy visit to the Local Government Education Secretary (Ogoja LGA) was undertaken to call for support to refugee children. 105 children were newly enrolled in primary schools for the new school Year 2019-2020. 192 out-of-school children were recorded (85 in Adagom and 107 in Ukende).

- In **BENUE**, there was no school enrolment during the reporting period because refugee school-age children will be relocated to the new settlement, Ikyogen
- A total of 10 refugees (2W, 8M) have been admitted to the National Open University Study Centre, Ikom, while 16 applications are still pending.



Health:

FHI360 continued to provide technical support to healthcare workers across refugee host communities in **CRS** and **Benue** through on-site mentoring, coaching and supply of essential drugs to primary health care facilities. A total of 3,200 (2,053F; 1,147M) refugees in **CRS** and **Benue** were reached with quality primary healthcare services as follows:

- 1,150 (665F; 485M) were treated for malaria while 872 (693F; 179M) refugees were reached with reproductive health and HIV services. 500 persons (342W; 158M) were counselled and tested for HIV. 2,140 refugees (1,458F; 682M) were sensitized to reproductive health, family planning services, nutrition and water sanitation and hygiene promotion
- Fifteen (15) mother-to-mother support groups (MTMSG) were set up during the reporting period, which makes a total of 165 (MTMSG) across the Adagom (113) and Ukende (52) settlements. The MTMSGs meet weekly to educate and promote Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practices among members. Due to the planned relocation of refugees from Anyake to Ikyogen (**Benue**), no MTMSG was set up in Anyake
- Following advocacy visits with health institutions in **Cross River** and **Benue**, UNFPA donated 7,200 pieces of male **condoms** to promote safe sex among refugees. Meanwhile, the Director of CRSPHCDA and focal person of the President's **Malaria** Initiative committed to prioritize supply of Artemisinin Based-Combination Therapy (ACT) drugs to PHCs in refugee host communities
- FHI360 conducted **capacity building** trainings for government healthcare workers (HCW) and referral assistants on active case finding for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) using the National Operation Guidelines for community-based management of acute malnutrition in Ogoja and Kwande LGAs
- Three (2F; 1M) SAM and 48 (33F; 15M) MAM cases were identified and a female was identified with oedema. These cases have been linked to the closest PHCs for attention/counselling, while cases of SAM will receive therapeutic feeding
- FHI360 contributed to outreach by the Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria at Adagom and Ukende settlements where eye screenings and surgeries were provided for refugees and host population. A total of 657 persons were screened across settlements and host communities in **Ogoja** and **Kwande** LGAs
- FHI360 sensitized refugees to the workings of the health insurance scheme provided by UNHCR/NCFRMI. Some **20,000** refugees have been enrolled in the National Health Insurance Scheme, thus far in CRS and Benue States. Enrolled refugees are issued with health insurance cards with which they are received at designated health facilities for healthcare services
- Ahead of the planned relocation of refugees from Anyake to Ikyogen, Kwande LGA, Benue, rehabilitation of the Primary Health Care Center in Ikyogen, has begun in order to improve quality of healthcare assistance to refugees and host community

- UNHCR provided an examination couch to the Ogboja Primary Healthcare Centre (Ogoja, CRS). Meanwhile, **190** refugee children and **122** host community children from 0 to 5 years, received childhood immunizations in Anyake.

Gaps and Challenges

- Temporary unavailability of insurance cards for insured refugees made it difficult to identify some insured refugees. More cards will be made available
- Funds will be made available to purchase a tricycle ambulance in Ukende.



Food Security and Nutrition:

During the reporting period in **CRS**, Rhema Care undertook:

- House to house information of refugees on cash for food (CBI) distribution modalities and undertook retroactive distribution of CBI for the month of July and August. The distribution was delayed due to internal disbursement hitches
- Managed a help desk at Adagom for walk-in refugees and referred refugees for other protection services
- Carried out a **nutrition** assessment to identify **malnourished** children for the upcoming nutrition supplement and micro-nutrients distribution. 119 children were identified and profiled for micro-nutrients distribution (75 in Ukende; 44 in Adagom)
- Organized a training on humanitarian principles, sexual abuse and exploitation for its CBI and shelter monitors.



WASH:

- During the reporting period, in **CROSS RIVER**, Save the Children provided more than 3,600 households in Adagom, Ukende and Anyake with potable water through six hybrid system boreholes and four rehabilitated boreholes
- To prevent water borne diseases within the refugee settlements, 550 refugees were trained on household-level water treatment using solar water disinfectant (SODIS) in Adagom and Ukende settlements
- A total of 625 HH in Adagom received NFI and hygiene kits. Menstrual hygiene kits were distributed to 1,130 girls and women of reproductive age at Adagom. Demonstration sessions on use of all WASH NFI items were organised for all beneficiaries
- SCI distributed insecticide-treated mosquito nets to 221 households in Adagom in response to high incidence of malaria among refugees
- Members of the community were also mobilized for environmental sanitation and a washing station was installed at the Adagom and Ukende primary health centres. Also, health workers were sensitized to the importance of handwashing
- SCI has completed the construction of 38 bathing shelters in Adagom-3. Meanwhile, construction of 70 bathing shelters are ongoing (20 in Adagom-3, 50 in Ikyogen)
- SCI distributed latrine cleaning materials including, disinfectant (Izal), wooden hard brush, heavy-duty hand gloves, brooms, shovel, rake, nose mask, toilet brush, to sanitation clubs for cleaning of existing latrine facilities in **CRS** and **Benue**
- A mass campaign and door to door hygiene promotion campaign on dangers of open defecation/safe waste disposal were conducted in **Anyake**, Ukende and Adagom refugee settlements to promote personal and household (HH) hygiene among refugees. A total 1,758 HH were reached with hygiene messages

- SCI has completed the construction of 258 shared family latrines (65 in **Ikyogen**, 133 in **Anyake**, 60 in Adagom), decommissioned 11 latrines and is constructing 53 family shared latrines (18 in Ukende, 20 in Adagom 3, 15 in **Ikyogen**)
- SCI conducted post-distribution monitoring for feedback on the quality and quantity of hygiene, dignity and NFI kits distributed in Anyake, **Benue**.

Gaps and challenges:

- Despite the WASH intervention and construction of four boreholes in the Adagom settlement, inadequate water supply remains a significant challenge as the refugee population increases.



Shelter and NFIs:

- In Anyake, **Benue**, a refugee family was provided with shelter assistance after heavy rains destroyed their home. Construction and sand-filling of the 5Km road linking Ikyogen town and the refugee settlement is ongoing and construction of culverts and small drainage channels along the access road to the settlement was completed. 7.3Km internal roads connecting communities within the Anyake settlement were cleared and cambering was completed. Construction of of on block of four classrooms has been constructed completed in Ikyogen
- In **CRS**, Rhema Care completed the construction of a shelter (tent) for a woman at risk in Ukende; built a generator house, a communal kitchen for refugees in Adagom. Rhema care is also carrying out electrification of hangers and movement of pallets from Adagom-1 to Adagom-3
- RhemaCare is building two blocks of three classrooms in Government Technical College Abakpa, Ogoja, to ease congestion in classrooms
- In **Benue**, Food and Non-food items (NFIs) were distributed to 258 refugee walk-ins in Anyake. Mattresses (48) donated by NCFRMI were distributed to 28 women, 19 men and 1 boy. Dried cassava and guinea corn donated by the NKST Christian community, Kwande LGA, was distributed to 1,298 households in Anyake settlement. One woman and 2 girls received cloths. Clothing was distributed to four women, three men, two girls and a boy. Following child protection, psychosocial and SGBV interventions, four refugees received mattresses from the distribution team. 801 new arrivals (282 HH) received food and non-food items including rice, sugar, vegetable oil, salt, cassava flour, buckets, jerry cans, soaps, sanitary towels, pots and mosquito nets in the Anyake settlement. In **CRS**, 625 households received non-food items in the Adagom settlement.



Community empowerment/Self-Reliance:

- In **Cross River** (CRS) Mediatrix began an eight weeks intensive agricultural training in Anyake Settlement for 128 beneficiaries and carried out routine monitoring and mentorship of 2018 training beneficiaries in Ikom, Ogoja, Cross River and Anyake, Benue during the month
- CUSO started a two-month entrepreneurship training for 121 beneficiaries on skilled or semi-skilled income-generating activities. The trainings include hairdressing, tailoring, catering, piggery, poultry and automobile. In Calabar and Bakassi, 24 persons of concern (POCs) graduated in poultry/fishery value chain. The graduation ceremony was aired on **Cross River** Broadcasting Corporation (CBRC)
- CUSO participated in a rapid assessment for refugees hosted by the Deeper Life Church, **Ikom**, to determine livelihoods options for refugees in the area
- Trainings were organized to build the capacity of 16 Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) in Ikom, Etung, Boki, Obanliku in **CRS**, and Ikyogen, **Benue** State. The trainings aimed

at improving perceptions about dependency on humanitarian aid and the importance of self-reliance among others. Further trainings will focus on registration of VSLAs with Ministry of Women Affairs or Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), account opening for each VSLA with partner banks, and more

- A 2-day follow-up training on entrepreneurship was organized for 269 POCs (M58, W211) to validate and align their business plans in **Cross River** and **Benue**
- Farm inputs and production kits were distributed to a total of 204 POCs (M82, W122) in Calabar Municipal and South, Mfamosing, Aningeje, Ekong Anaku, Bakassi, Ikom, Agbokim, Ajasor, Danare 1 and 2 and Obanliku in **CRS**. The inputs distributed include Cassava stems/Maize seeds/Bambara nut seed, bags of fertilizer, Cutlass, Iron file, Hoe, Agrochemicals, Farm boot and coat, Knapsack sprayer
- In Ikyogen, **Benue**, 45 bags (50kg each) of Single Super Phosphate (SSP) fertilizers were distributed to 15 POCs (M8, W7) to complement the first batch of farm inputs/production kits distributed.
- CUSO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assessed and profiled Cameroonian refugees in host communities in Boki, Obanliku, Ikom, Etung, Akamkpa and Calabar, **CRS**. The assessment and sensitization targeted 2,000 farming households
- In September, **CRS** and **Benue** Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) officers provided technical support to farmers field school (FFS) trainees. ADP officers visited the 204 agricultural training beneficiaries on their farms to ensure that the best farming practices were being implemented including use of farm inputs and production kits distributed to each of the trainees
- CUSO and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) assessed and profiled Cameroonian refugees in host communities in Boki, Obanliku, Ikom, Etung, Akamkpa and Calabar, **CRS**. The assessment and sensitization targeted some 2,000 farming households.

Gaps and challenges:

- Most refugees residing in settlements and host communities do not have livelihood opportunities, this results in pressure on host community resources. There is an urgent need to empower over 10,000 refugee households to restore their dignity, independence and promote self-reliance.



Settlement coordination and management

- During the reporting period, the **Benue** State Emergency Management Agency (BSEMA) advocated with the Security Adviser to the Governor of Benue State and the Chairman of Kwande Local Government for the release of Police, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps and Vigilante to provide security at the new refugee settlement in Ikyogen. BSEMA also conducted continuous profiling of new refugee arrivals in Benue State and monitored the development of the Ikyogen refugee settlement
- In **Cross River**, **SEMA (CRSEMA)** monitored the case of a refugee accused of trafficking her baby in the Adagom settlement. This person of concern will be referred to the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons. A trial is scheduled to take place in October
- Also, CRSEMA met with refugees to quell frustrations over pending payment of (August-September) cash for food assistance (CBI). SEMA and UNHCR sensitized refugees to upcoming reductions in the amount of cash assistance. As of 1 October 2019, the CBI amount will be reduced to NGN 5,700 (down from NGN7,500). However, more funds will be invested in livelihoods interventions in order to promote refugees' self-reliance
- Also, CRSEMA surveyed, and gazetted land donated by the Ndok Community, Ogoja LGA, which refugees are to use for agriculture.

Working in partnership

- In September, UNHCR country Representative, Antonio Canhandula, met with the Ogoja HOLGA, Cross River, and in Makurdi, Benue, he met with the Deputy Governor and the Commissioner for Information. He also met with UNHCR implementing partners and refugees during this mission. In Ogoja he visited the 95 hectares of farmland donated by the Ndok community
- On 23rd September, the Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), Child Protection (CP) and education coordination meeting was held in Ogoja (Cross River State). Some 13 staff from the Ministry of Women Development and Social Welfare, SEMA, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UNHCR, Caritas and Mediatrix were in attendance. The provision of livelihood opportunities for SGBV survivors, strategies to promote increased community and government involvement, strengthening of CP/SGBV response and referral pathways were discussed
- FHI360 conducted monthly Health, Nutrition & WASH **coordination** meetings with stakeholders in **CRS** and **Benue**. Furthermore, FHI360 undertook **advocacy** with the Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency (CRSPHCDA), National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) Calabar Office, Director of Finance, Federal Neuropsychiatry Hospital, General Hospital Calabar, the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital. These visits to secondary and tertiary health facilities aimed to improve referral coordination of uninsured refugees, so that they can access healthcare at these facilities and also to agree on modalities for medical bill verification and settlement of bills
- In **Benue**, FHI360 undertook **advocacy** for the improvement of the provision of health services and integration of family planning services to refugees with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) office in Makurdi, the Benue State Primary Healthcare Board, Kwande Local Government Primary Healthcare Authority, AIDS Health Foundation and Cross River State Ministry of Health
- CARITAS undertook an advocacy visit with the office of the National Population Commission (NPOP-C) to advocate for universal birth registration of refugee children
- Rhemacare undertook advocacy visits to the Nkim-kol community, Ogoja LGA, CRS, to share information on the Adagom road construction and get their support.

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 totaling USD44.6M for the response in 2019. **As of 02 October 2019, funding of the budget for the Cameroon refugee situation stood at 55%.**

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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