

# Cameroon Situation

July 2019

**41,087** *Cameroonian refugees are registered* in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.

3,500 new refugees were registered in Nigeria during the month of July. **UNHCR seeks funding to provide them with assistance and protection.**

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

**41,087** | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria

**20,250** | Cameroonian refugees are registered in the Adagom, Okende settlements in Cross River State and in the Anyake settlement in Benue State.

**50%** | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities

---



Some 14 refugee families (82 individuals) live under this hangar provided by UNHCR at the Adagom refugee settlement, Cross River State. When it rains at night they have to stand up as the rains flood the floor. © UNHCR/Tony Aseh

## Highlights

- The United Nations Country Team (**UNCT**) held a retreat in Calabar, Cross River State (CRS) from 11 to 12 July that discussed the current implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria, proposed effective ways of addressing the gender gap in decision-making positions, and suggested sustainable ways to address problems that affect the youth, including unemployment and substance abuse. Senior UNCT members, including Mr Edward Kallon, UN Resident Coordinator, Prof. Ivara Esu, Deputy Governor of CRS, and other Government officials took part in the meeting
- UNHCR partner, **FHI360**, undertook 10 advocacy visits with Government officials in Benue and Cross River to solicit support for the UNHCR Health and Nutrition interventions for Cameroonian Refugees. The advocacy meetings were held with the World Health Organization (WHO), Executive Secretary Primary Healthcare Board, Makurdi, Benue; the Office of the Director, State Primary HealthCare Development Agency and Ward Development Committee (WDC) in Calabar; Coordinators of Primary Health Centres in Akamkpa, Akpabuyo, Bakassi, Obudu and Ogoja LGAs in CRS, and refugee leaders in the settlements in Ogoja. Meanwhile, in Calabar, UNHCR held meetings with the United Nations Population Fund (**UNFPA**), State Emergency Management Agency (**SEMA**) and the National Population for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced (NCFRMI) to strengthen coordination and active participation in humanitarian and development initiatives
- The Food and Agricultural Organization (**FAO**) undertook a livelihood assessment from 15-17 July in collaboration with UNHCR and **Mediatrix** in Adagom, Anyake and Okende settlements. FAO is implementing agricultural assistance targeting 1,000 refugees in CRS and Benue State. Information on livelihood (farming activities) was collected and documented to determine the number of participants for the farming project. Refugees indicated that they need seedlings, farmlands, cassava flour processing machines, and training of extension workers.

## Achievements



### Protection:

- During the month of July, UNHCR partners, the Nigeria State Emergency Management Agency (**SEMA**), the Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace (**FJDP**) and BINTA Medical Outreach reported the arrival of some 644 **new Cameroonian refugees** in Nigeria from the Northwest and Southwest regions of Cameroon. The majority were women and children in urgent need of food, non-food items, shelter and healthcare
- UNHCR undertook **border monitoring** to the Oban community, Akamkpa LGA, CRS, to sensitize and assess the condition of refugees. Over 3,000 registered refugees in the community are living in deplorable conditions, with limited access to primary health care services, education, food and livelihoods. They are in need of urgent support, as the host community has exhausted its resources
- UNHCR organized a **Protection Induction training** for partners and stakeholders responding to the Cameroon Situation in CRS and Benue State. Some 160 participants attended the training including SEMA, Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS), and National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), government line ministries, Rhema Care, Mediatrix, MSF, FHI 360, caritas, FJDPC, and UNHCR staff. The training equipped participants with knowledge of International Refugee Protection, partnership/coordination and SGBV

- **Caritas** undertook four monitoring missions to communities outside Ogoja LGA including Utanga, Amana 1 & 2, Up Ranch and Abo Police. Twelve monitoring visits were undertaken to detention centres including, Ogoja Police Division, some police stations in Calabar, immigration outposts in border communities – Ajassor, Ekang, Amana, Up Ranch, Agbokim, Ajassor, and Ekuketai in Cross River State. These routine monitoring visits aim to ensure and assess the wellbeing of refugees.

**Sexual and Gender Based Violence:**

- UNHCR, SEMA, Caritas and the Ministry of Women Development, conducted a SGBV/Child Protection assessment in the settlements and host communities in **Cross River** and **Benue States** to determine the forms and extent of GBV among women, men, boys and girls, their coping mechanisms, and explore possible actions to prevent and mitigate the identified challenges. The assessment was carried out using the Age Gender and Diversity (AGD) principle, with each group consisting of 15 participants
- UNHCR partner, Caritas, undertook 23 awareness raising campaigns on SGBV prevention and response in **Cross River** - Boki, Biajua, Wula, Danare, Bashua, Basu, Abo Police, Obanliku, Etung, Ikom, Akamkpa and Bakassi. Five SGBV incidents were reported and survivors received soap bars and food; 29 other survivors received counselling; four others were provided with a safe house in Adagom and Okende
- **In Benue**, SGBV survivors received distributions of dignity kits, sanitary pads, slippers, liquid Dettol (antiseptic liquid), torch light, pants (two pairs per person), bra (one per person), tooth paste, tooth brush, six yards of textile wrapper-cloth, white powder, toilet roll, under-wear pants (long tights pants for women and girls short tight pants), singlet, hair comb, antiseptic soap (safeguard antiseptic soap), towel and washing detergents (sunlight detergent).

**Child protection:**

- In **Cross River**, Some 235 vulnerable refugees were protected from child abuse, violence, exploitation and discrimination through awareness raising. There was a mapping of 237 refugees with special needs through home visits by protection monitors and referrals by other refugees and partners. Birth registration was provided to 27 new born refugee babies
- In **Benue**, Two pregnant teenaged girls (16 and 17) were assessed with psychosocial distress and were referred for counselling. Six children (4F; 2M) of deceased refugees were identified with poor health and referred to **FHI360** for medical examination and foster care. Two girls aged 12 and two - victims of physical abuse in June 2019 - were discharged from a secondary healthcare facility and have returned to the Anyake settlement in good condition
- Best Interest Assessments (BIA) were conducted for a 15 year old girl physically abused by her father. Two boys aged eight and 16 years were provided with a caregiver. Four bereaved children including three girls aged one, eight and 10 years and a six year old boy that lost their mother in March 2019 were reunited with their maternal grandmother - also a registered refugee in the Anyake settlement
- Six community based planned activity groups dedicated to child protection have been established at the Anyake refugee settlement and at the Abande, Imande Agbatse, Mbakwerkyaa, Ugugu and Ituukase border areas in Benue.

**Gaps and challenges:**

- Majority of SGBV cases happen at night as there is no electricity in the Anyake settlement at night
- As a result of limited assistance available to cover needs of new arriving refugees, some refugees are reportedly engaging in survival sex and unauthorized harvesting of crops in farms owned by the locals
- Refugees living in the hangars in Okende settlement have no toilets. Women and adolescent girls take their baths in the open just before dawn or after dark. This is unsafe and leaves them vulnerable to SGBV.



## Education:

- **Caritas** undertook 20 periodic school monitoring exercises to monitor the number of school going children in different locations in **Cross River**, encourage attendance, and encourage parents to work with the school authorities. Children still sit on the floor to learn in the newly-constructed classroom blocks at St Peter's II Primary School, Adagom, Ogoja. There are no blackboards in the newly constructed classrooms at St Peter's I, hence teachers/pupils are still confined to overcrowded classrooms
- In **Benue**, UNHCR paid examination fees for 128 refugee students from two secondary schools in Ogoja that will take West African Examination Council (WAEC) as external candidates. On 30 July, tuition fees were paid for 34 refugee children from the **Anyake** settlement that completed primary education, to facilitate issuance of the Primary School Leaving Certificates to the pupils
- At primary school level, payment of third term fee was done for 718 school-age refugees (375Girls, 343Boys). Out of 718 school-age children, 34 pupils in primary six have been registered for First School Leaving Certificate (FSLC). At secondary school level, payment of third term fees was done for 51 refugee students (51Women, 25Men) who were enrolled in December 2018 attending Madonna High School and UBE Junior Secondary School in Adagi. At high school level, payment of third term fees was done for 27 refugee students (14W, 13M) who were enrolled in December 2019 at the Madonna High School Adagi
- In **Taraba**, 400 pupils were selected for enrolment into primary education.

### Gaps and challenges:

- Government Technical College (GTC) Ogoja has reached its full capacity, due to the influx of more refugees into its classes (both from Okende and Adagom). There is need for more classrooms to be built to accommodate growing number of students
- 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
- The student to teacher ratio is very high in schools within the settlements' catchment area and some teachers that were recently transferred to some of the schools have refused to resume. With the arrival of refugees, the St Peter's School, Adagom, has become a full-time regular school.



## Health:

- In **Cross River**, with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Cross River State Ministry of Health conducted a family planning campaign in the Adagom and Okende settlements. Some 616 refugees received free family planning services, and over 12,000 condoms were distributed
- The World Health Organization (**WHO**) Nigeria Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI) Unit resolved to leverage National Immunization Days (NIDs) to vaccinate all eligible refugee children in Cross River State. From 20 to 23 July 2019, a total of 5,863 eligible children from refugee settlements were vaccinated with two drops of the oral polio vaccine (OPV) in the two refugee settlements in Ogoja, as well 26 refugee host communities across six LGAs, Akamkpa, Bakassi, Boki, Etung, Ikom, Obanliku.
- Also, sensitization campaigns on Diarrhea, Pelvic Inflammatory Disease (PID), and Tuberculosis were conducted to increase awareness of these diseases and availability of health services at the PHCs in **Ogoja**, **CRS**, and **Igom**, in **Benue**
- Routine childhood immunizations were administered to 65 refugee children between the 0 to 5 years, in **Anyake** settlement
- To improve refugees' access to quality primary healthcare at PHCs, FHI360 provided technical assistance to government healthcare workers (HCWs) through on site mentoring at their respective service delivery points and supported facilities with essential commodities for provision of care

- During the reporting period, 1,610 persons of concern (1,031W, 579M) were reached with primary healthcare services, of which 78% were refugees and 22% were members of the host community. Out of the 1,610 persons 910 (533W, 377M) were treated for malaria. FHI360 continues to advocate with relevant government authorities for long lasting insecticide nets, and is raising awareness among PoCs on practices to fight breeding of mosquitoes
- FHI360 continued to strengthen integrated delivery of HIV/AIDS services in **CRS** and implement the Aids healthcare Foundation HIV project in Kwande, **Benue**, which led to targeted testing of 133 (99W, 34M) PoCs. Also, tuberculosis screening was conducted and sputum samples collected. Following these screenings, patients were referred for appropriate healthcare assistance
- Nutrition related information, education and communication material was printed for sensitization across the project locations. Also, 11 enumerators and two research assistants were trained on undertaking infant and young child feeding surveys. Following completion of the trainings, community mapping and testing of survey materials were conducted
- In **Taraba**, 1,271 persons participated in the health education exercise including refugees and host community. All 1,271 PoCs and host community benefited from medical treatment. 761 children, 97 pregnant women and 163 nursing mothers were dewormed in July

**Gaps and challenges:**

- Lack of basic amenities - food and shelter – continue to contribute to poor health of refugees in host communities and undermine efforts to improve the health situation of refugees. Also, the lack of a tricycle ambulance for the Okende settlement hinders adequate health care provision
- Refugees in Akampka do not have access to primary healthcare, because UNHCR does not have resources to provide health assistance to refugees there.

**Food and Non-Food Items:**

- In **Cross River**, UNHCR, SEMA, refugee leaders and refugee volunteers identified and distributed wrappers and t-shirts, to 143 including elderly and disabled women in Okende and Adagom settlements. UNHCR distributed retroactive cash for food to 4,250 refugees in Okende for the month of June, 2019. Also, 114 households (over 600 refugees) received cash for shelter construction. 2,403 refugees received food items in Agbokim, Ajassor, Ikom host communities, and in Okende and Anyake settlements. 286 walk-in refugees were provided with wet feeding in reception hangers in Okende and Adagom. Also, refugees at the reception hanger in Okende are exposed to cold and malaria due to lack of blankets and mattresses. On 21 July, the Redeemed Christian Church of God distributed food and non-food items including rice and clothing, and organized a lunch/welfare service for 30 vulnerable refugees in Calabar. However, the operation has run out of funds to provide wet feeding
- In the **Anyake** refugee settlement, **Benue**, sanitary towels donated by NCFRMI were distributed to 597 women of reproductive age to promote their personal hygiene. FJDP distributed food items to 239 screened walk-in refugees; provided technical support for the distribution of food items donated by NCFRMI and Pan African Bible Seminary to 4,303 refugees across the 21 communities in the settlement
- 555 refugee households received non-food items in the three settlements in **Cross River** and **Benue**.



## WASH:

- In July, **Save the Children** International supplied water to 20,250 refugees in Adagom, Anyake and Okende through water trucking and boreholes. During the reporting period, the communities started using 5 new and rehabilitated boreholes and water trucking to the settlements has been stopped. Also, demonstrations on how to use aqua-tabs was provided to 200 households
- In **Cross River**, the drilling of a shallow well and installation of a 16m<sup>3</sup> overhead tank were completed at Okende. One bore hole was drilled in Adagom-3. The pumps for the five boreholes in Adagome and Okende were tested to ensure they function well. The rehabilitation of Adagom-2 host community and Adagom-3 boreholes was carried out and ready to supply water to host community. Adagom-2 primary school and Adagom-3 reception center pipe line reticulation, construction of stand for water tank storage in community-24 were completed
- Seven sanitation and hygiene clubs (with 53 committee members) were established in Adagom and Okende (40 in Adagom; 13 in Okende). The committees were trained on waste management, latrine maintenance, personal and environmental hygiene. Construction of family shared latrines are ongoing in all settlements. Communities were sensitized on the need for latrine excavation and usage of solid waste disposal pit
- Mass hygiene campaigns sessions on domestic/environmental hygiene and cholera prevention were conducted in the settlements. A total of 21 handwashing stations were installed at each of the communal shared toilets in Adagom and Okende (Adagom 12, Okende 9). The communities were sensitized on the importance of washing hands after using the restrooms
- A total of 623 households (246 in Adagom, 175 in Okende, 202 in **Anyake**) received NFIs, hygiene kit and also menstrual hygiene kits to 9 households in Okende. Project team conducted demonstration sessions for all beneficiaries on use of distributed WASH NFI items. Children were involved in the planning and implementation phases of the projects; especially in construction of WASH facilities and hygiene promotion interventions.



## Shelter:

- In **Benue**, clearing of 5km road linking Ikyogen town to the refugee settlement was completed. Road diversion at the culverts area was completed to allow access to the settlement while the culverts cure for 30 days. Three box culverts and two pipe culverts are under construction simultaneously along the access road to the settlement. Meanwhile, three drainage channels are under installation
- In Adikpo, 7.3km of roads connecting communities within the Anyake settlement were set out and are awaiting grading while clearing is ongoing. Eight accommodation hangers were completed. A temporary hanger for storage was constructed pending availability of rub halls. A communal kitchen was completed at the reception centre.
- In **Cross River**, RhemaCare completed 451 shelters, 234 in Okende and 217 in Adagom, during the reporting period.

### Gaps and challenges:

- An additional 49 shelters could not be built in Adagom 1 and 2 because of there is lack of space within the settlement. The office will consider building these additional shelters in Adagom-3
- Emergency shelters are falling apart and there is need for supplies to refurbish and maintain emergency shelters. Also, more shelter units need to be built, as 9,572 registered refugees in Adagom and Okende settlements do not have shelter.



### Community empowerment/Self Reliance:

- In **Cross River**, the Connectivity Centre built by UNHCR in the Adagom community is now functional. The project aims to equip refugees and members of the host community with basic level computer skills including, Microsoft office, publishing, and computer maintenance/repair. About 100 individuals have been enrolled so far, to undertake a four-six months intensive training at the center
- On 23 July, a one-day training on Cash Based Intervention (CBI) Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) for 22 enumerators and supervisors, was conducted by UNHCR in Ogoja. Following the training, an assessment was piloted at the Adagom, Anyake and Okende settlements. The objective of the assessment was to find out the level of risks faced by refugees, and their coping mechanism. A total of 1,172 households were surveyed through door to door interviews, while 3 Focus Group Discussions for women, men and persons with specific needs were carried out. Findings were captured using the KoBo Collect Mobile Tool, and will be used to inform planning and programming of future CBI projects
- UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP), conducted a 3-day training on targeting for SEMA, FJDP, Caritas, Rhema care, CUSO, Mediatrix and Youth Employment and Social Support Operation (YESSO), in Ogoja
- CUSO started a two month training on poultry farming for 25 PoCs (12M, 10W) from Calabar and Bakassi. The project is seeking to hire trainers in tailoring, hairdressing, catering, fisheries and piggery which are of interest to refugees
- Cuso undertook a two day farmer field school trainings at four demonstration sites in Calabar, Bakassi and Akampka to teach refugees best agronomy practices. Theoretical and practical training focused on land clearance methods, ridge preparation, planting method/spacing, cassava cutting method etc
- UNHCR partner, **CUSO** International, undertook creation and strengthening of 30 village savings and loan associations (VSLA) in Akamkpa, Calabar, Bakassi, Ikom, Etung, Obanliku and Kwande LGA's in **Cross River** and **Benue** States. The VSLAs have a total membership of 500 members. Cuso distributed 30 savings boxes and cash books for records keeping. The boxes have three keys which are held by three different managers in each group to ensure transparency and accountability. Furthermore, the project will produce passbooks to ensure smooth running of the VSLA group
- CUSO trained 137 persons of concern (35M, 102W) in income generating activities. The training took place at two centres in Calabar and one in Mfamosing/Akamkpa LGA, **CRS**. Another was organized for 132 PoCs (109W, 23M) in Ikom, Etung, Boki, Obanliku, **CRS**, and Ikyogen, **Benue**
- UNHCR partner **Mediatrix** completed construction of an overhead water tank and piping to Adagom; completed vocational training (on vegetable farming, cosmetology, poultry farming, fish farming, hair dressing, barber shop, tailoring and catering/pastry making) in Adagom settlement for 365 refugees; continued monitoring and mentorship of 151 refugees empowered through livelihoods trainings and provided with business start-up grants (NGN30,000 to 70,000) in 2018 in Ogoja, **Cross River** and Anyake, **Benue**; monitored and supervised completed trainings on agriculture and vocational trainings for 365 beneficiaries in Adagom Settlement. The same training is ongoing for 182 beneficiaries in the Okende settlement.



### Settlement coordination and management

- On 18 July, SEMA **Cross River** in collaboration with UNHCR, piloted a one-day training on conflict resolution and peace building for refugees, host community, and its staff in Ogoja. About 50 participants were sensitized on UNHCR code of conduct, gender / peace building, and community involvement in peace building.

- SEMA organized basic security training for 35 community vigilantes, organized a sensitization meeting with the Head of Sub Office with former and new refugee leaders in Adagom on livelihoods interventions, provided support for the burial of 11 refugees that passed away during the reporting period, received five donations of food and non-food items including, rice beans, used clothing and shoes and inspected farmlands donated by the Ndok and Nkimkol communities to refugees.

## 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, Binta Medical Outreach Africa, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria (CCFN); Catholic Diocese of Makurdi Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP); MEDATRIX Development Foundation and Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre. Operational partners include ICRC, MSF, UNFPA, FAO 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:***

Algeria | Argentina | Australia | Austria | Azerbaijan | Belgium | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | The European Union | Indonesia | Japan | Luxembourg | Kuwait | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Slovakia | Sri Lanka | Sweden | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | United States of America | Uruguay | Private Donors | **NIGERIA** - Daystar Christian Church | Citibank | The 2Face Foundation | Universal Reformed Christian Church | Cadbury Nigeria Plc | Nigeria Red Cross |

### CONTACTS

**Mulugeta Zewdie**, Head of Sub Office, Ogoja – Nigeria.

[zewdiemu@unhcr.org](mailto:zewdiemu@unhcr.org), Cell + 234 809 016 0757

**Tony Aseh**, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Sub Office, Ogoja – Nigeria.

[aseh@unhcr.org](mailto:aseh@unhcr.org), Cell + 234 809 016 057 8

**LINKS:** [Regional portal](#) - [UNHCR operation page](#) - [Twitter](#) – [Facebook](#) - [Recent PI story](#)