

# Cameroon Situation

January 2020

**51,864** *Cameroonian refugees are registered in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.*

**Some 87** *new Cameroonian refugees were registered in Nigeria during the month of January.*

**UNHCR's 2020 financial requirements stand at \$55.1 million** *for Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria and IDPs in Cameroon.*

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## KEY INDICATORS

**24,638** | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Adagom and Ukende settlements (Cross River State), and in Ikyogen settlement (Benue State).

**53%** | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities.

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*Cameroonian refugee children in Rogo Primary School, Takum Local Government Area, Taraba State, showcase school bags distributed by UNHCR @UNHCR.*

## Highlights

- In January 2020, there was a significant influx of Cameroonian refugees into **Taraba State**. According to the new arrivals, there was renewed armed fighting in their communities of origin. These refugees are hosted by the local community leaders and people, while others are staying in abandoned buildings and worship houses. While registration is ongoing, it is estimated that over 2,500 new arrivals in Taraba State, mostly women and children, are in urgent need of food, non-food items, shelter and healthcare.

## Achievements



### Protection:

- As of 31 January 2020, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) have registered a total of **51,864** Cameroonian refugees in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States, of which 41,832 were biometrically verified.

### Birth registration/documentation:

- In **Benue State**, Advocacy was undertaken with the National Population Commission (NPC) Kwande Local Government Area (LGA) to ensure prompt birth registration of refugee children by the commission. Also, awareness-raising on birth registration was carried out, reaching 289 Cameroonian refugees in five border communities - Abande, Imande Agbatse, Ituukase, Mbakwerikyaa and Ugugu.
- In Ikyogen, 49 Cameroonian children (31G, 18B) were profiled for birth registration and referred to NPC, Adikpo office for issuance of birth certificates.

### Detention:

- In Calabar, **CRS**, the Office facilitated the release of a refugee following an arbitrary arrest.
- Four visits to were conducted to detention facilities, including Airport Police Station, State Housing Police Station and Federal Housing Police Station in Calabar, and Abo Police station in Boki. No persons of concern were in detention.
- In **Taraba State**, the Office facilitated the release of 17 refugees that were detained by Immigration Officials due to lack of identification documents. UNHCR works closely with NCFRMI to ensure the quality individual refugee registration process. Following this registration, two documents are issued to the refugee - an individual factsheet with UNHCR logo and identity card with NCFRMI and UNHCR logos. Refugees, sometimes, do not carry their ID cards with them when on transit and as such they get arrested.

### Border monitoring/Access to territory:

- In **Benue State**, a working visit was undertaken with the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) Patrol Unit in Anshia, Jato-Aka, to sensitize NIS officials against arbitrary detention and freedom of movement for refugees. NIS officials indicated that some Cameroonian refugees cross the borders into Nigeria with no documentation.
- The border monitoring Team facilitated the release of a Cameroonian refugee arrested by NIS officials at Ugbema junction, Buruku LGA, after providing the refugee's status information.
- A total of 57 refugees (20W, 9M, 17B, 11G) were registered during border monitoring visits to five border communities - Abande, Imande Agbatse, Ituukase, Mbakwerikyaa and Ugugu,
- In **CRS**, 72 border monitoring visits were conducted to assess refugees' wellbeing, access to basic rights, protection from refoulement, arbitrary arrests, forcible recruitment and to ensure family reunification. Following these visits, 18 new refugees were registered among host communities.
- In **Taraba**, UNHCR, Jesuit Refugee Service and Local Emergency Management Agency paid an advocacy visit to the Office of the Immigration Service to advocate for refugees freedom of movement. The Immigration Service committed to protecting refugees.

- The Nigeria Immigration Service notified UNHCR that all foreigners living in the country beyond a period of 90 days, must be enrolled in the E-registration as ordered by the Federal Government, including refugees. The Office is advocating for access to registration for refugees in border communities.

#### **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV):**

- In **Benue**, the Office organized SGBV prevention and response sensitization separately for staff and pupils (class 4-6) of the NKST Ahondu Primary School, Ikyogen. A total of 209 individuals participated in the programme including 108 girls, 92 boys, five women and four men.
- Four survivors of physical violence were provided with material assistance including, six yards of wrapper, two tablets of safeguard toilet soap, one bottle of Dettol antiseptic liquid, a pack of washing detergent, body lotion, toilet disinfectant (Izal), toilet roll, torchlight, bathing towel, toothpaste/brush, hair comb, hand sanitizer, bra, a pair of pants and underwear.
- Successful psychosocial counselling was provided to eight persons of concern to help them cope with emotional stress, trauma and grief. Also, 178 specific needs persons were provided with t-shirts.
- In **Cross River State (CRS)**, two SGBV survivors received legal assistance. UNHCR organized 20 SGBV prevention awareness campaigns for 501 persons of concern (252F, 249M) in refugee host communities including, Oban, Ikang, Mfaminyen, Akor, Mbobui, Ekonganaku, Ojok/Mbeban. Psychosocial counselling was provided to 29 SGBV survivors in Biajua/Boki, Calabar, Adagom and Ukende settlements, Ogoja LGA. A capacity-building training was organized for six protection monitors in Ukende on SGBV standard operational procedures.
- Capacity-building was organized for support-group-meeting facilitators. Five support group meetings, one women's group meeting and one SGBV committee meeting were held in Ukende. One capacity-building training was organized for eight protection monitors in Adagom on the classification of SGBV cases.
- To identify **special needs persons**, 20 home visits were undertaken in Akamkpa, Bakassi and Boki. Psychosocial support was provided to four aged persons of concern (3F, 1M) and health referrals were made for three pregnant refugees to PHC Wula, Boki.

#### **Child protection (CP):**

- Best Interest Assessments (BIA) aim to ensure that girls and boys with specific needs receive comprehensive, quality case management, targeted support. In **Benue State**, a total of three BIAs were conducted for a case of neglect of a six-year old blind boy and his four-year-old twin brothers. They were left alone for more than three weeks without a guardian. These children were provided with a caregiver.
- In **CRS**, verification of unaccompanied and separated children is ongoing in Adagom and Ukende settlements. UNHCR and CARITAS facilitated the process of registration and issuance of 13 (4F, 9M) birth certificates to persons of concern. Also, 36 Child protection cases were reported in Adagom in Ukende settlements. One capacity-building session was organized on child protection processes for seven protection monitors in Adagom settlement.
- In Adagom and Ukende, 30 child-friendly space activities were organized for 402 children (195B, 207G).
- In **Taraba**, 26 unaccompanied children and separated children identified among new arrivals were placed under volunteer caregivers from the communities, until alternative care is available for them. Continuous monitoring and home visits are carried out to ensure their safety.

#### **Challenges**

- The two years of Temporary Protection Status (TPS) granted to Cameroonian refugees will expire in May 2020. UNHCR is engaging NCFRMI to look into a review of the Temporary Protection Status.
- In the Ikyogen settlement, **Benue State**, there are many child-headed households; many dogs are not vaccinated against rabbits; there is need for a pesticide to fumigate communities 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 to repel snakes and insects; bathrooms and toilets are inadequate and could lead to SGBV.



## Education:

- In **Benue**, a total of 26 refugee students in high school (13M/F) were registered for the West African Examination Council (WAEC) examinations for the 2019/2020 academic session, in Ikyogen settlement. Also, a total of 70 school-age refugee children, including one with a disability, were enrolled in NKST Gbaazor and NKST Ahondu primary schools.
- Four sensitization meetings were carried out for the 12 refugee communities in Ikyogen settlement on the need for parents to enroll school-age children into approved schools (NKST Gbaazor, NKST Ahondu primary schools and St. Francis Xavier Secondary School) in Ikyogen.
- In **CRS**, seven sensitization campaigns were undertaken in Up Ranch, Oban, Mfaminyen, Ikang, Adagom to encourage school attendance and 40 school monitoring visits were carried out in Akamkpa, Bakassi, Boki, Ogoja and Obanliku to keep tabs on the number of children in school, encourage attendance and encourage parents to attend PTA meetings. Monitoring actions revealed that of the 2000+ enrolled for the new school year, only 1,611 refugee pupils (808F, 803M) were attending school. In Akamkpa, 125 female and 171 male school-age refugee children are out of school.
- An advocacy visit was undertaken with the Ogoja Local Government Education Secretary to discuss curriculum guidelines for early childhood development and facilitation of the Education Working Group.
- Two refugees studying at the Cross River University of Technology (CRUTECH) benefited from the waiver of the International students' fee. Each student received a waiver of over 300,000 nairas for the current session. Thus far, four students have benefitted from the waiver in two campuses.
- In **Taraba**, educational supplies were distributed to 487 registered refugee pupils attending eight public primary schools in Gembu. The supplies included school bag, uniforms, sportswear, exercise book, pen, pencil, eraser, sharpener, ruler, crayon and drawing book.
- UNHCR has provided the Mansur Model Primary School, Gembu, hosting refugee students, with 150 desks and one toilet block.

## Challenges

- Inadequate teachers, teaching aids, furniture and WASH facilities in schools hosting refugee students, continue to hinder quality education for refugee and host community students.



## Health:

- In **Benue and CRS**, on the basis of consumption reports from eight targeted primary healthcare centres (PHCs), essential commodities and medicine were restocked in Abande and Ikyogen, Kwande LGA Benue State; Cross River State: Ogoja- Adagom, Okende Ogboja, Obanlikwu-Amana, Utanga, Up-Ranch, Akamkpa-Oban, Ikom-MCH 4 corners, Bakassi-Ikang, Calabar Municipality-Big-Qua.
- On-site mentoring and capacity building trainings were organized for government of Nigeria (GoN) healthcare workers at above mentioned PHCs, through medical consultations, effective use of pharmaceuticals to treat various ailments, data capture for services provided and inventory control/management using inventory cards. Also, on-site trainings at target PHCs were organized on nutritional screening through anthropometric measures and rational use of medication during pregnancy.
- A mapping of pregnant refugee women was carried out in Ikyogen, Benue, and Ogoja, CRS, to ensure that they have access to quality reproductive health services and that pregnant women receive timely antenatal care.
- Over 3,000 refugees received free medical services in Taraba State during an outreach programme organized by UNHCR. In addition, some 30 pregnant women received prenatal services, while six deliveries were recorded at the health care facilities.

**Challenges:**

- Urgent medical support is required for refugees in Kurmi and Ussa LGA's, Taraba State, as they currently do not have access to any healthcare.

**Food and Non-Food Items:**

- In Adagom settlements, Ogoja LGA, **CRS**, a total of 12,156 refugees received cash assistance for food and basic needs in Adagom settlement for the months of January and February 2020.
- Similarly, donations of blankets for health facilities were received from Zikora foundation, a US based NGO, through the Santa of Maria clinic Ogoja. The blankets were distributed to supported primary and secondary health facilities in Ogoja.
- In **Taraba State**, on 6 January, a USA based philanthropist donated food items to refugees in Taraba State through the National President of Cameroonian refugees. The items included 22 Bags of rice, seven bags of Corn, 10 cartoons of oil, 15 cartoons of canned tomatoes and five bags of salt. The items were received by Local Emergency Management Agency and distributed to refugees in Gembu.

**Challenges**

- Refugees in **Taraba State** continue to express concern over lack of food and non-food items. Some engage in menial jobs to get by, while others resort to begging and other negative coping mechanisms for subsistence. Over 8,000 refugees are in dire need of food and household items, including mats, mattress, buckets, blankets, cooking pots and mosquito nets. Meanwhile, most of them live in dilapidated, abandoned buildings and worship houses because they cannot afford rents.

**WASH:**

- In Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen settlements, **CRS** and **Benue State**, there was routine water treatment, analysis and supply to over 4,000 refugee households and host communities for personal and domestic purposes through motorized and solarized borehole systems. Also, maintenance of water collection points, submersible pumps, digging of hand-dug well, repair of damaged pipelines, routine clean-up of the environment and sanitation structures across all the settlements, decommissioning of latrines by individual members of the refugee communities, and mapping out of dilapidated latrines/bathing showers for renovation were undertaken.
- In **Taraba State**, some 2,666 refugees received dignity kits, including toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap and sanitary pads for women and girls of reproductive age. So far, 4,025 refugees have received dignity kits.

**Challenges**

- Insufficient water supply to refugees remains a major challenge. This is due to unavailability of a borehole with good water yield in Ikyogen settlement given the rocky and mountainous terrain, saline nature of water at the Ukende settlement and seasonal low groundwater level in all the settlements.

**Community empowerment/Self Reliance:**

- In **Benue State** and **CRS**, UNHCR livelihoods partner, Cuso International, organized stakeholder consultations to orient key stakeholders on the livelihoods promotion project for Cameroonian refugees and host communities. The project will hold trainings on entrepreneurial skill and financial management, organize farmer field schools, provide access to arable land and farm inputs to beneficiaries. The meetings took place in Calabar, Akamkpa, Ikom and Ogoja LGAs in CRS, and Kwande LGA in Benue. Participants included refugee leaders, traditional representatives, local government officials and State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA). For 2020, the project targets 3,269 persons, with a 70 – 30 percent beneficiaries ratio for refugees and host community respectively. Some 269 beneficiaries of livelihoods



trainings in 2019 will receive starter pack kits within the first quarter of 2020 to enable them to start-up small businesses to improve their livelihoods.

- The above project will recruit 100 Community Volunteers (CVs) to support project implementation across locations in Benue and CRS - including 22 CVs that worked and performed satisfactorily in 2019.
- Farming inputs/kits procured by UNHCR partner through its partner the Food and Agricultural Organization were delivered in Ogoja, **CRS**, for distribution to 1,000 beneficiaries (about 685 refugees and 315 host community persons) in Adagom, Ukende, Obanliku, Etung, Ikom, Calabar, Akamkpa and Boki. The kits included fluted pumpkin, waterleaf, tomato seeds, pepper seeds, okra seeds, fertilizers, water pumps, sprayers, cutlasses, shovels, hoes, wheelbarrows, flat hammer mills and energy saving stoves. Distribution of the kits to refugees and host communities is based on household size and vulnerability criteria, following the assessment conducted.

### Challenges

- The majority of refugees are in need of livelihood opportunities. Some have various skills, including tailoring, shoemaking, knitting, farming and carpentry, etc. They have expressed willingness to set up businesses if they receive support.
- Managing the expectation of persons of concern and host communities is difficult, particularly as the needs outweigh the planned support that will be provided within the livelihoods project.



### Shelter:

- In Ikyogen settlement, **Benue State**, a total of 36 permanent shelters were completed, thus meeting the 2019 target of 300 shelters constructed in the settlement.



### Settlement coordination and management

- In **Benue State**, UNHCR and **SEMA** organized refugee leadership elections with 30 candidates contesting for six positions in the Ikyogen refugee settlement. Candidates were selected by a committee comprising of SEMA, UNHCR, FJDP and refugees. Some 748 voters cast their ballots for Chairperson, Secretary, Vice-Chair, Public Relations Officer, Women's Leader and Youth Leader. Elected leaders were inaugurated during a subsequent general meeting on 22 January. Benue SEMA (B-SEMA) established a new 15-person security team in Ikyogen settlement made up of host community members and refugees. B-SEMA monitored and resolved protests by the Uji Community, near Ikyogen settlement, which demanded compensation for crops destroyed during the construction of a (UNHCR) radio house and communication mast.
- In **CRS**, SEMA sensitized refugee leaders and other persons of concern (POC) on their civic responsibilities and organized the distribution of agricultural inputs to POCs and host communities in collaboration with UNHCR, Nigeria's Agricultural Development Project and FAO.
- Furthermore, SEMA facilitated a fact-finding mission on refugee needs in Ogoja and Ikom led by the CRS House of Assembly Speaker, Hon. Eteng Jonas-Williams. SEMA also raised awareness among refugees and host communities in Adagom on job opportunities and monitored the overall situation in the settlements to address critical needs.

### Working in partnership

- In **Benue**, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) and Kwande LGA convened a partners meeting in Kwande Local Government Area (LGA) Office on 29 January 2020. Participants including SEMA, Office of the Chairman Kwande LGA, Department of Social Welfare, Education, Agriculture, Health, WASH, Security (Police, DSS and Civil Défense) National Population Commission, and UNHCR partners Foundation for Development Justice and Peace (FJDP), Save the Children International (SCI), FHI 360, CUSO International and UNHCR discussed key challenges in 2019 and plans for 2020. The need for strengthened collaboration and information sharing with the Kwande Secretariat and SEMA regarding their areas of interventions especially in engagements with the host communities, was emphasized.

- To ensure ownership and sustainability of health interventions for refugees and host communities, advocacy visits were undertaken with the **Cross River State** Commissioners for Ministry for International Development and Cooperation (MIDC), Ministry of Health, Director General of Primary Healthcare Development Agency (CRSPHCDA) and SEMA Director General. Also, the Office engaged with Kwande LGA PHCDA Director, Managing Directors of General Hospital Calabar and Federal Neuropsychiatry Hospital Calabar to assess strategies to improve access to quality secondary healthcare services. These stakeholders have committed to supporting UNHCR efforts to improve access to healthcare for the refugees.
- On 30 January, the **Cross River State** (CRS) Ministry of International Development Cooperation (MIDC), State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), UNHCR, and Mediatrix Development Foundation organized a high-level meeting in Calabar, to strengthen collaboration and synergy towards a humanitarian-development nexus in response to the Cameroon refugee situation in CRS. The meeting also aimed to improve coordination and outline roles and responsibilities of authorities implementing projects in 2020. Participants in the meeting included a representative of the CRS First Lady, Speaker of the House of Assembly, Chairman-House Committee on Emergency and Humanitarian Response, Heads of Local Government Administration (HoLGAs), Commissioners of Education, Women Affairs, Establishment and Water Resources, Permanent Secretaries of line ministries, UN Agencies - WHO and UNFPA and NGOs - FHI360, Save the Children, Caritas, CUSO and Rhema Care. The Assembly members committed to guiding local and state authorities in terms of budgetary allocation and indicated that the CRS Government had made budgetary provisions to support the Cameroon refugee situation in 2020.

## 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 09 December 2019, funding of the budget for the Cameroon refugee situation stood at 57% of USD 44.6 million**

*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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