

Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

March 2022

Some **77,000 Cameroonian refugee men, women, and children are registered** in Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Enugu, and Taraba States.

About **18,000 refugees** received **cash** assistance from UNHCR to purchase **food** of their choice in Benue and Cross River States (CRS).

UNHCR, refugees, locals, and partners marked **International Women's Day**, in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and the Taraba States.



Exhibition of crafts produced by Cameroonian refugee women to mark International Women's Day in Ikyogen. Over 1,500 individuals participated including the government officials and private sector so that the local produce and crafts could be marketed © UNHCR/ Williams Ngiyev.

Operational Highlights

- On 8 March, UNHCR, together with **refugees**, locals, government officials, and partners **commemorated International Women's Day** in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba (ABCT) States. Debates, craft exhibitions, drama, dance displays, and focus group discussions took place under the 2022 theme "Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow" with the participation of more than **5,000 refugees** and **locals**. UNHCR focused on the impact of climate change on refugees and internally displaced people, particularly women and girls, recognizing their contributions to sustainable initiatives, climate change adaptation, mitigation, and response to build a more sustainable future for all.



PROTECTION

Protection Monitoring

- More than **600 additional Cameroonian refugees**, mostly women and children, **arrived** in border communities in Ussa and Sardauna local government areas (Taraba State), following attacks reported to be by herders in Cameroon. UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) undertook a mission to assess the urgent response requirement of the new arrivals. **Critical needs** include **food, healthcare, and shelter**. It is reported that in Cameroon the farmers only managed to repel the attackers following some fighting which resulted in the reported killing of five Cameroonians. No incidents of refoulement were reported among the new arrivals. Reprisal attacks are reported to be ongoing by both groups and the new arrivals reported that the attacking herders had threatened that no one would be allowed to return and cultivate their land taken by the herders for their cattle.
- UNHCR collaborated with 12 government agencies, national and international partners to **identify protection incidents**, analyse protection risks, and refer cases to partners providing protection and multisectoral assistance in ABCT States.
- In ABCT States, UNHCR and partners secured the **release** of **eight refugees** in detention and provided **legal representation** in **court** for **five refugees** including **Gender-Based Violence (GBV) survivors**. Over 30 detention facilities were monitored to provide legal assistance to refugees in custody.
- Sensitization sessions on **access to justice** focusing on legal requirements for bail, refugee rights, and referral pathways by UNHCR and partners reached over **1,000 refugees** in ABCT States.

Protection Response

- UNHCR and NCFRM registered some **1,021** additional **Cameroonian refugees, mostly women** and **children**, in Akwa Ibom, Cross River, and Taraba States. They received **documentation** to help them access basic social services including medical care.
- Over **250** Cameroonian **refugee children** received **birth certificates** issued by the National Population Commission in Akwa Ibom, Benue, and Cross River (ABC) States.

- Some **60 GBV survivors** of sexual assault, denial of resources, physical assault, and emotional abuse received multisectoral assistance including **psychosocial support, medical care, material, and legal assistance** in ABCT States.
- UNHCR and partners Caritas and Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace undertook **Best Interest Assessments** (BIA - an assessment of an individual child designed to ensure the child's best interests are considered foremost), for **18 refugee children at risk** of **poor parental care** and **neglect** in Benue and CRS. Case management is ongoing to ensure their safety and wellbeing.
- UNHCR undertook a **capacity-building session** on **Best Interest Procedures** (BIP - a mechanism that UNHCR uses to ensure that the best interest principle is respected in work with individual children), to improve child protection response for **refugee children at risk** for 10 staff of its partner, Caritas in CRS. The session underlined the current **BIA** case-management practices, addressed gaps from the BIAs, and presented an overview of the BIP including practical sessions.
- Over **500 refugee women** and **girls** of reproductive age, including students and individuals with specific needs, received **dignity kits** (soap, sanitary pads, toilet roll, shaving blades, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, towel, and underwear) provided by UNHCR, to promote their personal hygiene.
- In CRS, UNHCR, and partner Caritas organized a workshop for some **130 security personnel**, and **government officials** on **humanitarian principles, refugee law, International Human Rights Law, child protection**, and Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA), to enhance freedom of movement and protection of refugees. Participants included officials of the Customs Service, Immigration Service, Federal Road Safety Commission, National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, Police, Security and Civil Defence Corps, NCFRMI, Social Welfare Office, National Population Commission, National Identity Management Commission.
- About **100 refugees** and host community **volunteers** were **trained** on **child protection, GBV, PSEA**, and **code of conduct** by UNHCR and partners Jesuit Refugee Service and Caritas in Cross River and the Taraba States. The training will enhance community response to child protection and GBV concerns for refugees and locals.
- **Awareness sessions** on GBV, PSEA, domestic violence, substance abuse, survival sex, menstrual hygiene management, referral, and reporting channels reached over **1,500 refugees** and locals across the three refugee settlements and host communities in Benue and CRS.

Challenges

- Caregivers of unaccompanied and separated children have limited resources to cater to their basic needs particularly food and healthcare, as most of them have no means of livelihood in ABCT States.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

- UNHCR **commissioned** and handed over a **solarized borehole** installed at the Primary Healthcare Centre in Gembu (Taraba State) to the host community, to **improve** the **water supply** for refugees and locals.
- UNHCR's partner Save the Children undertook water treatment, water quality tests, and distribution of safe drinking water. They replaced 16 non-functional taps, and sensitized over **2,000 refugees** on communicable diseases, **environmental** and **personal hygiene** in four refugee settlements in Benue and CRS.

Challenges

- Due to the destruction of two solarized boreholes and over 60 latrines and bathing facilities in the Ikyogen refugee settlement and host community, caused by strong winds and heavy rainfall, refugees are forced to share the few available WASH facilities, which were already below the minimum recommended number per community.



HEALTH:

- In ABCT States, UNHCR is improving the capacity of national health systems to accommodate refugees by strengthening and supporting over **30 health facilities** through **rehabilitation** and **construction** of **laboratories**, hospital wards, pharmacies, provision of **medical equipment**, **solar electricity** and **refrigerators**, furniture, **COVID-19 prevention materials** and employment of additional staff to overcome shortages.
- At least **3,000 refugees** and locals received medical care including antenatal and post-natal services, **mental health**, family planning, **vaccination**, and nutrition services at the UNHCR supported facilities in ABCT States. Diarrhoea and malaria remained the major causes of illness.
- Twelve communities in the Ikyogen refugee settlement (Benue State) received **COVID-19 prevention materials** including metal stands, buckets, liquid soap, hand sanitizers, and disinfectants provided by UNHCR. Also, **98 female heads of households** received liquid soap, hand sanitizer, face masks, metal stands, and buckets in the settlement.
- Over **700 refugee** and host community women **received delivery kits** during childbirth in ABCT States. At least **300 refugees** and locals, mainly pregnant women, children under 5 years, and the elderly, **received mosquito nets** to help prevent malaria, provided by UNHCR across its supported facilities.
- At least **70 malnourished refugee** and **host community children** (including 54 refugees) received **supplementary feeding** to improve their quality of life and growth, after UNHCR's partner, the Nigerian Red Cross Society, undertook a **nutritional assessment** of **1,200 refugee children** and locals in ABCT States.
- More than **600 refugees** received **COVID-19 services** including **vaccination** and **testing**. No COVID-19 positive cases were recorded among refugees tested in ABCT States.



FOOD SECURITY

- Some **18,000 refugees** (4,546 families) **received cash assistance** for three months to purchase the **food** of their choice in Benue and CRS. The distribution which will benefit over 35,000 refugees is ongoing, thanks to the generous donation from the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiative and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation.
- In Benue and CRS, over **3,250 refugee families** received the **UNHCR-facilitated ATM cards** to promote their **financial inclusion** and **access to cash-based assistance**.
- Over **6,000 refugees** (1,257 families) received **food items** including rice, palm oil, and seasoning cubes provided by UNHCR in Ikyogen settlement, Benue State.
- The Peace House church donated **food** to refugees in the Ikyogen refugee settlement, including cassava flour, sweet potatoes, and yam.



EDUCATION:

- In Benue and CRS, UNHCR paid **tuition fees** for about **1,500 refugee students** in public primary and secondary schools, for the first and second academic sessions.
- Some **1,300 refugee** and **host community students** received **school uniforms** provided by UNHCR in Benue State.



SETTLEMENT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS

- UNHCR and its partner, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in Benue, Cross River, and Taraba, monitored and managed the security situation and host community relations of refugees in the four refugee settlements and host communities. The agency responded to over **20 potential conflicts** among refugees and locals ensuing from competition for natural resources (firewood, water usage, etc.), farmlands, and other communal issues through **community engagement and negotiations**.
- More than **200 refugee families** received **non-food items** comprising of blankets, jerry cans, buckets, and kitchen sets provided by UNHCR in the Ikyogen settlement, Benue State.
- In CRS, UNHCR, and partner Rhema Care **allocated 48 plots** of **land** provided by the State government in Adagom 3 and Ukende refugee settlements to **vulnerable refugee families**, for the **construction** of their **transitional shelters**. The distribution of shelter kits is ongoing.

Working in partnership

Together with the Government of Nigeria, UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to Cameroonian refugees. The Agency holds regular coordination meetings with State and Local Governments and humanitarian actors. The following partners implement specific sector activities: NCFRMI, SEMA, Save the Children International, CUSO

International, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria, Catholic Diocese of Makurdi Foundation for Justice Development and Peace, Mediatrix Development Foundation, Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre, Jesuit Refugee Service, and the Nigeria Red Cross. Operational partners include UNFPA, FAO, ICRC, and WHO.

External/Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the following support:

Direct contributions to UNHCR in Nigeria: UN Cerf | European Union | Foundation Probitas | France | Japan | Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum Global Initiatives | Muslim World League | Nigeria | Private donors Nigeria | Other private donors | Spain | United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security | United States of America.

Unearmarked contributions: Norway 80 million | Sweden 66.9 million | Private donors Spain 55.7 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 28.5 million | United Kingdom 28.4 million | Germany 26 million | Private donors Japan 23.6 million | Japan 23.4 million | France 20.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | Private donors Italy 14 million | Private donors Sweden 13 million | Ireland 12.5 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Italy 10.7 million. | Private donors.

Softly earmarked contributions: Germany 37 million | United States of America 33 million | Private donors Australia 8.7 million | Canada 5.6 million | Private donors Germany 2.6 million.

CONTACT US

Tesfaye Bekele, Head of Sub-Office, Ogoja, Cross River State
bekelet@unhcr.org; Cell + 234 901 066 0624

Roland Schönbauer, Senior External Relations Officer, Abuja
schoenb@unhcr.org; Cell +234 901 066 0695

Data portal - [Twitter](#) – [Facebook](#) - [Instagram](#)

www.unhcr.org/ng- [Data portal](#) - [Twitter](#) – [Facebook](#) – [Instagram](#)