

NIGERIA/Cameroon situation

12-18 March 2018

Highlights

Key figures

20,485 Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria:

Cross River (16,790)

Benue (3,517)

Akwa Ibom (178)

11,757 refugees reached with food and NFIs distributions in **Cross River State** (CRS) since Jan. 2018

605 refugees have received shelter assistance in CRS since Jan. 2018

675 medical consultations provided in CRS since Jan. 2018

Funding

USD 18 million required (Contingency Plan).

The political and security situation in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba states remains calm. **Refugees continue to express fear of deportation and/or arbitrary arrests.** The Office undertook missions to Eket, Etim-Ekpo, Oran, Kwande, Boki, Etung and Ikom local government areas (LGAs) in Akwa Ibom, Benue and Cross River respectively to assess land, undertake site planning, meet with partners and carry out protection monitoring. UNHCR will undertake registration of reported 400 refugees that have arrived in Taraba in April.

On 15 March 2018, **the Nigeria Eligibility Committee** recommended the granting of a two year **Temporary Protection Status (TPS)** to Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria. The TPS will ensure the legal protection for Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria.

UNHCR, the Nigeria National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (**NCFRMI**) and State Emergency Management Agency (**SEMA**) continued registration of refugees in the Abande and Abatse sites in Kwande LGA where a total of 3,517 refugees were registered.

Population Movements

As of 18 March, UNHCR and Nigerian authorities have registered 20,485 Cameroonian refugees in the southeastern region. There are continuing reports of **new arrivals of Cameroonian refugees** in the Nigerian states of Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba.

UNHCR Response

UNHCR is providing **emergency assistance to refugees** in Cross River state. Response includes, distribution of food and non-food items, health assistance and shelter. In Akwa Ibom, Benue and Taraba states some 4,000 refugees rely on spontaneous basic assistance from, national authorities, NGOs and host communities. Meanwhile, UNHCR is mobilizing resources to commence assistance in the said states.

BENUE: Local authorities have allocated 191 hectares of land for the settlement of refugees in Kwande LGA. UNHCR is undertaking site planning and development. The site has the capacity to host 5,000 persons, however, the influx is expected to continue and there is need for more land in Benue state.

CROSS RIVER: During the reporting period, the Office undertook missions to refugee locations in the Ikom LGA to **assess security threats and relocation prospects for refugees.** Relocation is critical for refugees hosted in community buildings and in vulnerable border areas.

In Calabar, the Office is planning to establish a **counselling service for refugees** to address the protection needs of some 155 urban refugees.

UNHCR and partners are mobilizing resources to extend assistance to some 2,197 refugees in the Akamkpa LGA where UNHCR has not begun assistance since the start of the influx. These refugees are in dire need of assistance. So far, they have been receiving basic assistance from host community and local authorities.

RELOCATION: UNHCR and local authorities in Cross River are seeking suitable sites to relocate refugees from border areas, where incursions and abductions have been reported. Most refugees are hosted in areas that are less than 50 km from the border with Cameroon.

FUNDING: UNHCR and partners have drafted a three months contingency plan for an estimated 40,000 new arrivals from Cameroon with a budget of USD18 million. The Office will soon launch an appeal for Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria.