

## General Protection

With support from UNHCR, **16** Refugees Appeal cases were filed by JDPC Lawyers. These cases will be presented in the next Appeal Board sitting.

There were a few reports of harassment of refugees by the Nigeria Immigration Service (NIS) in Lagos. Some refugees reported that the NIS is demanding that refugees go the NIS office to register their presence in Nigeria. The NCFRMI Head of Office in Lagos is currently engaging with the NIS Command in Lagos to ensure that this is done in line with global best practices, especially with NIS Regulations which requires all foreigners who intend to stay in the country beyond 90 days to register their presence with NIS.

## Assessment/Verification

JDPC carried out verification exercise of persons of concern in primary and secondary schools in Ijebu-Ode and Lagos with a view to ensuring that refugee children are in school and that the education support stipends are used for the purpose for which they have been given.

## Education

On 18 October, **5** refugees in Abuja and environs were interviewed for possible DAFI scholarship for tertiary education. Out of the **5** refugees, **4** are Congolese and one a Cameroonian. The outcome of the interview should be out in November.

On 24 October, UNHCR through JDPC and NCFRMI supported **18** refugee children in Abuja and environs with education support stipends. Out of the **18** refugee children assisted, **14** are Cameroonians, while the remaining **4** are Congolese. **13** are in Primary school, while **5** are in Secondary school. To benefit for next term support, the parents are expected to present prove of payment of current school expenses.

## Livelihood Assistance

UNHCR together with JDPC and NCFRMI conducted livelihood interviews for **25** Persons of Concern in Lagos with the aim of providing them with startup cash to start their businesses. The outcome of the interview is expected to be released soon.

Following the outcome of previous livelihood interview and the approval of the interview committee, cash grant was disbursed to **9** Persons of Concern.

## Counselling & Community Based Protection

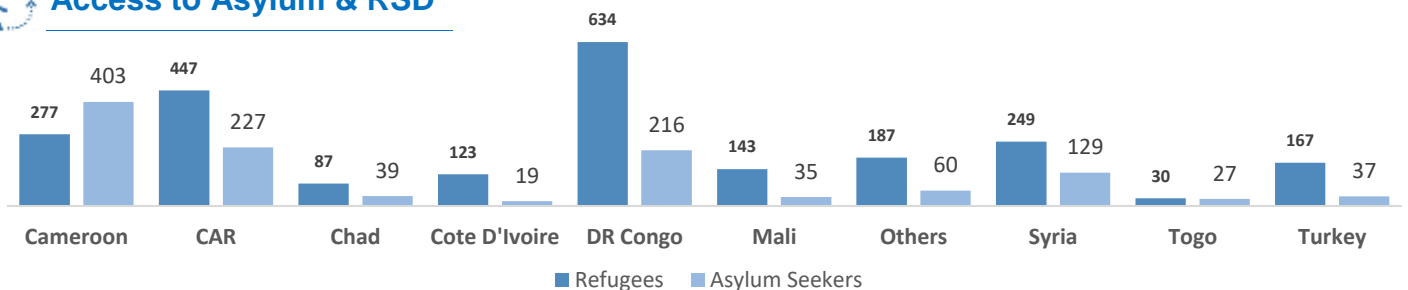
As a follow up to the case of an 8-year-old female Cameroonian unaccompanied minor found lying on the ground in a forest at Kado Kuchi area of Abuja by a Cameroonian couple last month, NCFRMI received information about the return of the child's mother. Both the Care-givers of the minor and the mother have been invited by NCFRMI for counselling and other necessary support. How do we know this is the real mother?

In the month of October, asylum seekers, mostly from Cameroon were registered regularly by NCFRMI in Lagos and Abuja. In Lagos, regular counseling sessions were held. During the sessions, issues regarding documentation for bank account opening, letters of introduction for employment purposes, renewal of expired attestations were identified and promptly referred to concerned staff members for appropriate action.

## Material Protection-Based Assistance

Following report of depletion of items at the NCFRMI store in Lagos last month, the store has been replenished with a few bags of bathroom slippers, salt and garri for the benefit of asylum seekers mainly from Cameroon. More food and non-food items like insecticide-treated mosquito nets, cooking stoves, blankets, mats, cooking pots for the newly arrived asylum seekers is still expected from UNHCR.

## Access to Asylum & RSD



CoO	Female								Male								Total	Grand Total
	0-4	5-11	12-17	18-24	25-49	50-59	60	Total	0-4	5-11	12-17	18-24	25-49	50-59	60>	Total		
CAM				1	2		1	4				1	8			9	13	
SYR								0				1	2			3	3	
LEB								0				2				2	2	
YEM								0				1				1	1	
<b>Total</b>								<b>4</b>								<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	

Data of asylum seekers registered in Abuja in the month of October

## Detention Monitoring

Following a report of detention of three Eritreans nations at the NIS Headquarters, UNHCR and NCFRMI staff members visited the NIS on 25 and 29 October, respectively, to discuss and assess the condition of Eritreans.

During the first meeting, the Eritreans narrated the story of how they fled the State of Eritrea to the Republic of Sudan in 2018 to avoid forced conscription into the military and were granted refugee status in Sudan. Between January - February 2019 they were smuggled into Nigeria by a Sudanese woman with a promise to get them a job in a construction company in Nigeria. After several months of stay in Nigeria without the promised job, the Eritrean confronted the woman who then locked them up in her house in Abuja and demanded payment of **\$15,000** ransom each from their parents to return them to Sudan. Upon receiving the sum of **\$11,000** and **\$14,000**, respectively from their parents, she fled with their passports without helping them to return to Sudan.

The Eritreans noted that they cannot return to Sudan for fear that woman who smuggled them into Nigeria will come after them in Sudan. During the second meeting, one of them expressed interest to seek asylum in Nigeria. UNHCR and NCFRMI is currently liaising with the NIS to facilitate access to asylum.

## Training and Capacity Building

JDPC enrolled **9** adult refugees for its adult literacy and skill acquisition program in Ijebu Ode.

## Photos from the Interactive Section with the ECOWAS PRC on Statelessness



Group picture: Interactive Session participants. © UNHCR

## Health Insurance

Persons of concern (POCs) who enrolled in the NHIS continue to access health in assigned facilities in Lagos, Abuja and Ijebu Ode. During the monthly registration at NCFRMI Office in Lagos, **48** POCs were captured by the HMO. UNHCR and NCFRMI continue to engage the HMO for improved services to POCs. Payments of premium by refugees who have stayed more than two years, however, remain low.

A refugee with an ailment not covered by the NHIS was supported by UNHCR to access Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) examination. The MRI procedure is outside the coverage of the NHIS.

## Statelessness

On 15-16 October, UNHCR held an Interactive Session on Statelessness with the ECOWAS Permanent Representatives' Committee (PRC). The session was organized following recommendations from the 2019 ECOWAS Ambassadors' retreat held on 15 – 16 April 2019, in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The event aimed at sensitizing Permanent Representatives on the concept of statelessness and its consequences on the lives of affected persons and mobilize them to support the ratification and implementation of relevant instruments. At the end of the meeting, the Permanent Representatives indicated that they will intensify advocacy with their respective governments to take the necessary actions to eradicate statelessness, including through ratification of relevant instruments and adoption of national legislation consistent with international law.



Amb. Alat Mogaskia, Permanent Representative of Niger to ECOWAS and PRC Chair, shows a #IBelong card. © UNHCR



Prof. Muhammed Ladan, DG NIALS, presents during the Interactive Session. © UNHCR