

# Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

July 2021

Some **67,000** **Cameroonian refugee men, women and children** are registered in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.

Total of **3 Primary Health Centers** rehabilitated to improve **health care delivery** for refugees and host communities in Benue, Cross River and Taraba States.

Some **700 refugee pupils** got their **tuition fees** paid and more than **220 refugee and host community students** received **educational materials** in Benue and Cross River States this month.



Refugee and host community pupils' study and play together in St. Peter's Primary School Ogoja, Cross River State. In this school, UNHCR has constructed 12 classrooms and provided furniture for refugees and locals. © UNHCR /Lucy Agiende.

# Operational Highlights

- UNHCR commenced a **Multi-Sectoral Vulnerability** and **Capacity Assessment** (MSVCA) for Cameroonian refugees in collaboration with partners in Benue and Cross River States. The MSVCA will provide data on **vulnerability** and **socio-economic situation** of refugees on **food security, protection, health, education**, and capacities of each family that will serve as a basis to inform better programming and planning for the humanitarian assistance provided to Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria.
- UNHCR supported the **renovation** of Primary Health Centre (PHC) Bashu in Cross River State (CRS), PHC Kpambo Puri in Taraba State and **constructed** a three-bedroom self-contained **staff quarters** for **health care workers** in Ikyogen, Benue State, to **improve health care** delivery for refugees and locals.



## PROTECTION

### Protection Monitoring

- UNHCR collaborated with twelve government agencies, national and international partners to systematically **identify protection incidents**, analyse the protection risks and refer cases to partners providing protection and multisectoral assistance, including **legal assistance**, registration/documentation, advocacy, **capacity building**, awareness sessions, services related to **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** and material assistance.
- In Benue, Cross River and Taraba (BCT) States, UNHCR and partners undertook at least **80 joint border monitoring** visits, to assess the presence and needs of new arrivals, advocate for the protection of refugees and ensure that refugees have access to territory. No case of refoulement was recorded during the reporting period.
- More than **160 new arrivals** were identified and profiled by UNHCR and partners in BCT States. They fled following renewed violence in their communities in the South-West region of Cameroon. Urgent needs remain food, healthcare, sleeping mats, and blankets.
- Over **30 detention monitoring** visits were undertaken by UNHCR and partners to several Police stations, Correctional Centres, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, to provide **legal support** to **refugees** in **detention** and advocate against the arbitrary arrest and detention of refugees in BCT States.

### Protection Response

- UNHCR and partners have established protection desks in settlements and host communities to provide support to refugees on GBV prevention/response, legal issues, and registration/documentation in BCT States.
- At least **100 refugees** with various **specific needs** including, critically sick individuals, persons with disabilities, unaccompanied/separated children, pregnant women, older persons were identified by UNHCR and partners and referred to **specialized services** in BCT States.
- UNHCR **trained** a team of **27 enumerators** on **Multi-Sectoral Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment** in Ogoja, CRS. The enumerators will engage respondents and administer questionnaires to every household resident in the refugee settlements and host

communities. Following the assessment, UNHCR will gradually phase out from blanket support and shift to targeted humanitarian assistance and services. Thus far, more than 6,350 individuals from 1,168 families in Adagom settlement, Cross River State (CRS), have been profiled.

- In Cross River State (CRS), UNHCR, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and Caritas **trained more than 20 refugee leaders** on **International protection**, community-based protection, GBV, human trafficking, **leadership roles** and responsibilities, peaceful integration, conflict resolution, and **child protection** in four communities in Akamkpa local government area.
- UNHCR concluded **training** of more than **50 government partners** from NCFRMI on **proGres v4 registration modules** in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States. ProGres v4 is UNHCR's corporate, centralized, web-based case management software application which supports operational functions ranging from the registration of individuals, to a wide array of UNHCR case management functions.
- In BCT States, more than **50 GBV survivors** received multisectoral assistance including **medical, psychosocial, legal, and material assistance** through established referral pathways to strengthen their social support network and enhance their coping skills. Five refugees with **disability** received **walking aids** in CRS.
- More than **105 refugee children** born in Nigeria received **birth certificates** issued by the National Population Commission in BCT States.
- In BCT States, UNHCR and partners undertook **best interest determination** for **two** refugee children to **facilitate family reunification** and conducted five best interest assessments for refugee children at risk. Also, more than **70 child protection** cases were identified and managed according to case management procedures.
- Awareness sessions on **child protection, child rights, birth registrations, prevention of teenage pregnancy, child marriage, death registration, sexual exploitation and abuse, GBV response** and **reporting channels** reached at least **800** refugees and locals in BCT States. UNHCR through the Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace mounted two billboards to sensitize and promote the rights of refugee children in Ikyogen settlement, Benue State.

## Challenges

- In all refugee hosting locations, negative coping mechanisms including **alcohol abuse** and **survival sex** have been reported among youths and women-headed households, due to limited food and livelihood support.



### **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):**

- On 27 July, UNHCR **trained 30 WASH officers** and hygiene promoters from Save the Children International (SCI) on **Improved Emergency Latrine Slabs (IELS)** in Ogoja, CRS. With funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, UNHCR and implementing partner Medair, are developing new performance specification criteria to improve emergency latrine slabs used in humanitarian crisis. The plastic latrine slabs consist of self-closing systems, minimal room for odour and flies, with flexibility and adaptable add-ons for people with special needs, reduced construction time and re-usable slabs.

- UNHCR installed **125 plastic latrine slabs** for the proposed trial in **four** refugee settlements in Benue and Cross River States, through its partner SCI. A focus group discussion which focused on creating awareness on the design, usage, cleaning, and maintenance of the latrines was held with the community leaders and volunteers on the newly constructed latrines.
- Hygiene promoters/volunteers comprising of refugees and locals reached over **1,300** refugees with awareness sessions on **COVID-19 prevention** and personal/environmental hygiene, through door-to-door approach. UNHCR partner SCI installed **25 gender-segregated bathing showers** in Ikyogen, Adagom and Ukende refugee settlements of Benue and Cross River States.
- UNHCR completed the drilling of two manual **boreholes** at the Cameroon Quarters in Takum and PHC Lissam in Taraba State, to **improve water supply** for refugees and host community members.
- The United Nations Population Fund and UNHCR provided **dignity kits** including soap, wrappers, re-usable sanitary pads, buckets, detergents, toothbrush, underwear, and towels to about **250 refugee women** and **girls** including pregnant women, students, individuals with disability and the elderly in Akamkpa and Bakassi local government areas of CRS.

## Challenges

- The main gap in the WASH sector remains **inadequate water supply** in the refugee settlements, despite the construction and rehabilitation of over 15 boreholes by UNHCR. The yield remains insufficient and merely meets about 40 percent of refugees' water need. UNHCR is currently operating a water treatment plant at a very high cost to supplement the water needs of refugees. Moreover, **latrines** and bathing facilities are **inadequate** in the refugee settlements.



### HEALTH:

- UNHCR is providing support to **22 health facilities** through the provision of medical equipment, incinerators, laboratory consumables, COVID-19 prevention items, and capacity-building for staff in Benue, Cross River, and Taraba States. In General Hospital Ogoja, CRS, UNHCR constructed an **incinerator** to improve **environmental waste management**.
- Over **200 refugees** and locals received mosquito nets provided by UNHCR in Benue and CRS, to **prevent malaria**, which remains the major cause of illness among refugees and locals.
- The National Primary Health Development Board **vaccinated more than 155 refugee women and girls** of reproductive age against **tetanus** in collaboration with the Nigerian Red Cross Society, in Benue State.

## Challenges

- Lack of **medications** in the health facilities is hindering access to health care for most **refugees** who cannot pay for health services, due to lack of livelihood opportunities.

- There is no COVID-19 compliant **ambulance** for emergency evacuations in Adikpo, Ogoja and Takum (BCT States). Lack of transportation to facilitate emergency cases and other referrals in these locations remains a major challenge for refugees and locals.



## EDUCATION:

- UNHCR **paid the tuition fee** for more than **720 refugee children** in two primary schools for the third term 2020/2021 academic session in Ikyogen settlement, Benue State.
- In Taraba State, UNHCR and Jesuit Refugee Service trained **10 teachers** on **inclusive education, prevention of GBV, code of conduct, child rights, child protection** and strategies for relating with children who have experienced trauma. Thus far, 40 teachers have participated in the training of trainer's sessions and will be supported subsequently to facilitate step-down trainings to about 1,500 teachers across four local government areas.
- More than **95 refugee preschool children** and **adult education students graduated** from the schools organized by a refugee-led community-based organization in Adagom and Ukende settlements in CRS. Refugees and locals volunteer as teachers while UNHCR provides furniture, writing materials and teaching aid to improve the quality of education.
- Over **600** refugee and host students were reached during awareness sessions on **mental health** and **psychosocial support** including positive coping skills, self-esteem, resilience, and psychosocial well-being by UNHCR partner Caritas, in two secondary schools in Ogoja and Boki, CRS.
- In Cross River State, UNHCR provided **educational materials** to more than **220** refugee and host community pupils in three primary schools in Obanliku local government area, through Caritas. The items included books, pencils, erasers, sharpeners, and water bottles.

## Challenges

- **Shortage of teachers** across public schools where refugees are enrolled, significantly affects the quality of education provided to refugees and locals. The teacher/student ratio is over 1:100. UNHCR continues to advocate with the national education authorities for deployment of teachers.
- In Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen settlements, **refugee children** with **specific needs** have **limited access to education**, given the long distance to commute from the refugee settlements to the schools.



## LIVELIHOODS

- UNHCR provided **cash support** to more than **50 refugees** and **host community** members **trained** and provided with **start-packs** on goat and crop farming, to aid the construction of fences and ploughing of farmland, through the partner - Canadian University Services Overseas (CUSO).
- **More than 50 refugees** trained on small business enterprise by UNHCR through the partner - CUSO, received **start-up kits** to establish their **business ventures** in Takum, Taraba State.

## Challenges

- Refugees continue crossing back and forth to Cameroon in search of **food** and **livelihood opportunities** to sustain their families.



## FOOD SECURITY

- In Cross River and Benue States, more than **2,180 refugee family representatives** have received **ATM cards**, provided by UNHCR, to facilitate **cash-based interventions** and improve the **financial security** of refugees.

### Challenges

- Because of COVID-19, prices of basic food commodities in refugee hosting areas have increased significantly, by 30% on average on core food commodities, compared to early 2020. The cash assistance for food provided to refugees has been inconsistent, due to funding constraint. **Food** remains one of the **critical needs** of refugees in settlements and host communities.



## SETTLEMENT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS

- UNHCR and partner - the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) monitored and managed the four refugee settlements of Adagom, Adagom 3, Ukende and Ikyogen, in CRS and Benue, ensuring integration with host communities and providing security for refugees. At least, 20 potential crises between refugees and locals were resolved through **community engagement and negotiations**.
- On 27 July, UNHCR, SEMA and the Deputy Chairperson of Kwande local government area handed-over the rehabilitated Police post in Ikyogen community to the Nigerian Police Force. Six police officers have been deployed to the post to improve the security of refugees and locals.
- UNHCR distributed **non-food items** including blankets, solar lamps, towels and buckets to over **200 refugees with specific needs** in Benue and CRS.

### 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 at the State and Local Government levels with UN agencies, government, 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, MEDATRIX 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

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### Unearmarked contributions

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