Access to Asylum

106 new asylum applications registered, 36 (30 males and 6 females) in Lagos; and 70 (39 males and 31 females) in Abuja. Asylum seekers are mainly from Syrian, Turkey, CAR, Cameroon, DRC, Palestine, Benin, Yemen, and Liberia.

General Protection

On 4 November, 8 refugees (5 females and 3 males) identified with specific needs received support in form of one-time grant assistance, and another 9 (5 females and 4 males) received subsistence allowance. The beneficiaries were identified individually during periodic assessments conducted by NCFRMI, UNHCR and JDPC.

Self-Reliance and Skill Acquisition

Counselling sessions was conducted during the period under review with 14 (10 females and 4 males) refugees and asylum seekers in Lagos and Ijebu-Ode. Referrals were made on Health, livelihood and skill training, job placement, accommodation and education were made including to NCFRMI on health and accommodation-related issues.

Transport allowance for the month of November was paid to a female refugee undergoing training on fashion design with the Lagos state vocational training center to aid her mobility to and from the training center.

On 9 and 24 November, Justice, Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) conducted monitoring exercises for 6 (4 females and 2 males) Persons of concern (POCs) on training in Lagos Island and those with existing businesses.

On 23 November, a widow/female head of household was assessed by JDPC for a possible business opportunity. At the end of the assessment, she was recommended for cash grant support.

Registration and Verification

Between 8 to 12 November, UNHCR and NCFRMI carried out a verification/registration exercise for CAR refugees in Kano. The objective of the mission was to biometrically verify households, complete missing records, register new cases, and issue identity documents.

At the end of the exercise, 249 refugees, 19 asylum seekers were verified. 32 new asylum seekers were registered as well as 40 applicants for derivative status. 198 refugee identity cards and 31 asylum seeker attestation letters were also issued.

Education

96 refugee children received allowances in support of their education. 48 are primary school pupils, while 48 are secondary school students.
On DAFI Scholarship for refugees, 66 candidates were interviewed (comprising of 35 males and 31 females) out of the 68 candidates preselected for DAFI Scholarship interviews. The interview was held from 15-19 November 2021 at UNHCR Sub-office Ogoja. Students who were not physically present held their interviews online from UNHCR field offices. The panelists selected the final selection of 30 candidates (17 females and 13 males) based on merit. The remaining 36 candidates will be placed on the waiting list pending when JDPC receives approval to admit more students.

In the month of November, JDPC continued with its Adult Literacy class for POCs in Ijebu Ode, 3 females and 1 male are currently enrolled in the programme. Final exams will commence for 2021 academy session on 18 December 2021.

**Health**

30 additional refugees in Abuja were registered under the NHIS, being the final batch of refugees registered under the scheme in 2021.

**Capacity Building**

UNHCR in collaboration with the NCFRMI organized a training session for officers and men of security and paramilitary agencies Lagos and Ijebu-Ode on 8 and 10 November respectively. The objective of the training includes increase awareness on the rights of refugees and asylum seekers among the security agencies, acquaint security agencies on the identification documents issued to refugees and asylum seekers; and inspire positive and healthy interactions between POCs and Security Personnel.

As part of the drive to mainstream anti-human trafficking messaging into UNHCR protection work, sessions on anti-human trafficking and UNHCR mixed movement mandate were included in the training. Agencies that participated include the Nigeria Police; Nigerian Immigration Service; National Civil Defense Corps; Nigerian Army; Lagos/Oyo State Taskforces.

**Engagement with Partners**

UNHCR Telling the Real Story (TRS) project partners in Edo State met with UNHCR Nigeria Representative to Nigeria during her mission to the State 1 – 5 November 2021. Partners spoke about their engagement with the TRS project and presented ideas for anti-human trafficking activities for 2022. The Representative was also able to meet and present plagues of solidarity and acknowledgment of contribution to the fight against trafficking in persons to the Oba of Benin, and the Governor of Edo State.

**Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)**

On 30 November, after a series of follow-up and planning meetings, as well as preparatory briefings with line ministries, NCFRMI with support from UNHCR, organized a technical and ministerial meeting to validate Nigeria’s Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) Roadmap. Attended by 120 participants from the Federal Government, State-level Government, UN agencies, donors, regional organizations, and refugees, the event provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to reaffirm commitments, discuss and validate the Roadmap towards implementation of Nigeria pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum 2019, ahead of the High-Level Officials Meeting organized in Geneva on 14-15 December 2021.