

Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

January 2022

Some **73,000 Cameroonian refugee men, women and children are registered** in Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Enugu, and Taraba States.

Over **160 refugee children** received **birth certificates** issued by the National Population Commission, with support from UNHCR in Cross River and Benue States.

UNHCR and the State government activated **18 COVID-19 testing** sites and supplied test kits to these health facilities **hosting Cameroonian refugees** in Cross River State.



Cameroonian refugee withdraws money using the UNHCR facilitated ATM card, from a point of sale owned by a fellow refugee in Adagom refugee settlement, Cross River State. © UNHCR/Lucy Agiende.

Operational Highlights

- UNHCR and the government **activated 18 COVID-19 health facilities** under the government and private health facilities to **undertake COVID-19 testing** for refugees and locals in Cross River State (CRS). Over 40 COVID-19 test kits (25 tests per kit) have been deployed to these facilities to improve access to testing, which had been a major challenge in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba (ABCT) States. UNHCR and a partner trained staff in the health facilities to support real time reporting of testing using the open data toolkit. The activation campaign targets 30 facilities by February 2022 in ABCT States.



PROTECTION

Protection Monitoring

- UNHCR partnered with 12 government agencies, national and international non-governmental organizations to **identify protection incidents**, analyse protection risks and refer cases to partners providing protection and multisectoral assistance including legal assistance, registration/documentation, child protection, material assistance, health care and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) services.
- In ABCT States, UNHCR and partners undertook over **40 advocacy and border monitoring** visits to Immigration centres, police stations and correctional centres to advocate for the **freedom of movement** of refugees, assess the presence and needs of new arrivals and provide legal support to refugees in detention. About **15 refugees** including a physically challenged child who was subjected to sexual abuse received **legal intervention** and court representation in Benue and CRS.

Protection Response

- UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) registered some **400** additional **Cameroonian refugees** in Benue and CRS.
- More than **400 refugees** received **ID cards** issued by NCFRMI and UNHCR, to help them move freely and access services including healthcare and banking in Benue and CRS.
- Some **160 Cameroonian refugee children** received **birth certificates** issued by the National Population Commission with support from UNHCR in Benue and CRS. In addition, 19 death certificates were issued to relatives of deceased refugees in Benue State.
- UNHCR and partners sensitized over **2,000 refugees** and locals on **Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)** and **GBV response**, domestic violence, sale and exchange of sex, birth and death registration, forced marriage and teenage pregnancy in ABCT States.
- At least **30 GBV** survivors received comprehensive case management services including **medical, legal, psychosocial support** and material assistance through established

referral pathways, to enhance their coping skills in Benue and CRS. Reported incidents include denial of resources, physical assault, emotional abuse, sexual assault, and child marriage.

- Three refugees with **disabilities** received **walking aids** (bilateral axillary crutches and tripod) and medicated spectacles in Benue State, following a medical outreach by UNHCR and its partners, the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and the Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace.
- On 25 January, UNHCR partner Rhema Care conducted a one-day training on the UNHCR Code of conduct dialogue and PSEA for over 30 staff in Ogoja, CRS. During the training, participants signed a commitment statement against PSEA.
- In Taraba State, UNHCR partners NCFRMI and the Jesuit Refugee Service met with nearly 50 refugees, the Nigerian Immigration and Department of State Services, to assess the crisis and immediate support required for **over 1,000 displaced refugees and locals** that fled to surrounding host communities and Cameroon, following an **intercommunal conflict**. Urgent needs include food, non-food items such as jerry cans, shelter kits and health care. The State authorities distributed relief items to some affected refugees and locals and undertook peace negotiations between the conflicting parties.

Challenges

- In ABCT States, a few refugees have reported concerns of extortion, restriction of movement, arbitrary arrest and detention, and **threats by security personnel at check points** in several refugee hosting communities, despite the training UNHCR had provided to security personnel on refugee protection.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

- UNHCR's partner Save the Children International repaired broken pipes in four refugee settlements (Adagom, Adagom 3, Ukende and Ikyogen) in Benue and CRS

Challenges

- Due to **water shortage** in Ikyogen settlement, **refugee students could not resume school on time** as they had to queue for hours to collect water. In addition, some schools with refugee pupils in Benue State lack water/sanitation/hygiene facilities.



HEALTH:

- Over **4,000 refugees** received **health care services** including mental health, pre- and post-natal care, immunization, and family planning in **30 UNHCR-supported health facilities** in ABCT States. Malaria remained the main cause of illness.
- In CRS, more than **230 refugees** and locals were **tested** for **COVID-19**, with no positive cases recorded, while some **130 refugees** received **COVID-19 vaccine**. UNHCR is supporting the State government with COVID-19 test kits, personal protective equipment, improvement of laboratories and capacity building for laboratory staff.

- UNHCR and partner NRCS collaborated with the Dutch KNCV Tuberculosis (TB) Foundation to conduct mobile **TB screening for over 500 refugees** in CRS. Six refugees who tested positive to tuberculosis were linked to care and treatment.
- In ABCT States, at least **150 refugee children** and locals received **nutrition services** including supplementary feeding for malnourished individuals. UNHCR provided **mosquito nets to over 50 refugees**.

Challenges

- Insufficient COVID-19 test kits at the health facilities, coupled with the short expiry date of the kits pose a major challenge to COVID testing for refugees and locals.



EDUCATION:

- UNHCR enrolled more than 40 refugee children in public primary and secondary schools in Benue State. The Agency rehabilitated and built additional classrooms and provided furniture to improve the learning environment for refugees and locals.



LIVELIHOODS

- Some **80 refugees** who were trained previously by UNHCR in **poultry farming, received chicken feeds** this month in Adagom 1 & 3 and Ukende settlements (CRS) through partner Mediatrix, to improve the growth and survival rate of their chicks provided by UNHCR.



FOOD SECURITY

- UNHCR distributed **cash for food to some 160 additional** Cameroonian refugees who did not show up during last month's distribution, including hospitalized refugees in Benue State.



SETTLEMENT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS

- UNHCR and its partner, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) in Benue CRS, and Taraba, managed the four refugee settlements (Adagom, Adagom 3, Ukende and Ikyogen) and host communities, ensuring integration and settling of potential disputes with locals through **community engagement and negotiations**.
- SEMA awarded certificates of leadership to **30 newly elected** refugee **community leaders** in Ikyogen settlement (Benue State), in collaboration with UNHCR. During the inauguration, UNHCR highlighted the leaders' roles and responsibilities and outlined the code of conduct principles to guide their tenure activities.
- In Benue State, UNHCR in collaboration with SEMA, trained **17 security personnel on international protection** and security of refugees, PSEA, and **UNHCR's code of conduct** in Adikpo.

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 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 Nigerian Red Cross. Operational partners include UNFPA, FAO, ICRC and WHO.

External/Donors Relations

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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.

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