

Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

April 2023

Some **86,000 Cameroonian refugee men, women, and children are registered** in Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Benue, Cross River, Enugu, and Taraba States in Nigeria.

The **anti-human trafficking movie “Dangerous Hope”**, produced by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), **was screened** at the refugee settlements in Cross River State to **help prevent and reduce the risk of human trafficking among refugees.**

UNHCR has **handed over water and sanitation facilities to the government and host communities in Akwa Ibom State.** These include solar-powered boreholes and refurbished latrines designed to serve both the refugees and local residents



A Cameroonian refugee woman in Ogoja, Cross River State, skilfully stitches colourful dresses, a testament to the vocational training provided by UNHCR to enhance refugees' self-reliance. © UNHCR/ Lucy Agiende.

Operational Highlights

- From 19 to 21 April, UNHCR and its partner Caritas **screened the anti-human trafficking video “Dangerous Hope”** across the three refugee settlements in Cross River State (CRS). UNHCR has produced a short film featuring main actors from the Cameroonian refugee community. This film **explores the issue of human trafficking within the context of forced displacement** to educate and empower **refugees on prevention measures against trafficking** and provide tools to assist survivors in rebuilding their lives.
- In Akwa Ibom State, UNHCR **handover completed water and sanitation facilities to the local government** chairpersons of Itu, Oron, and Esit Eket to **help improve access to potable water** and **environmental/personal hygiene for refugees and locals**. The facilities rehabilitated and installed include the **construction of a solarised borehole**, the upgrading of one dysfunctional generator borehole to a solar borehole, the construction of a hand pump borehole, and three-compartment pour flush latrines in the communities and Primary Health Centres.



PROTECTION

Protection Monitoring

- In Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River, and Taraba (ABCT) States, UNHCR collaborated with 12 government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to undertake monitoring visits to border communities, detention facilities, and refugee settlements to **deliver protection and assistance**, including **healthcare, child protection, prevention, and response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), education, and security** to Cameroonian refugees.

Protection Response

- Some **350 refuge and host community children** took part in educational and recreational **activities, including** debate, career se, **hygiene promotion**, and cultural activities/dance at the **child-friendly spaces** in Taraba State, to **enhance** their **cognitive, psychosocial, and social development**, with support from UNHCR and partners.
- UNHCR and its partner Foundation for Justice, Development, and Peace conducted a three-day **protection induction training on GBV and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) prevention, risk mitigation, and response for 39 protection volunteers, refugee leaders**, and staff of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) in Akwa Ibom State.
- With support from UNHCR and its partners, **some 120 refugee children received birth certificates issued** by the National Population Commission to help ensure their access to basic social services, including education and healthcare.
- Awareness sessions on **GBV prevention and risk mitigation, including referral mechanisms and reporting channels, reached over 1,000 refugees** and locals in ABCT States. Concerns of women and girls regarding emotional abuse, rape, and physical abuse were addressed by UNHCR and its partners during the sessions.
- In ABCT States, UNHCR and partners **managed about 50 GBV cases** reported through protection caseworkers in the refugee settlements and host communities. Survivors who suffered from child marriage, denial of resources, psychological/emotional abuse,

sexual/physical assault, and rape **received psychosocial support services, health care, and legal and material assistance** to help improve their well-being and coping strategy. **Two mental health support groups were established** in Takum and Baissa communities to increase access to mental health services for GBV survivors in Taraba State.

- Some **50 refugees, including GBV survivors, benefitted from legal assistance** (court representations and legal counselling) provided by UNHCR and partners in ABCT States.
- In CRS, UNHCR and its partners Caritas and NCFRMI conducted **a joint sensitisation and advocacy visit** to Immigration, Customs, Department of State Services, and Police Officials at the border control post in Akpabuyo and Bakassi to advocate **for the recognition of expired refugee ID cards, fact sheets** and cover letter from NCFRMI, following concerns of arbitrary arrest and extortion by refugees.
- In a bid to ensure that **decisions made on behalf of refugee girls and boys with specific needs support their well-being, 37 Best Interest Assessments** and determinations were conducted for refugee children **found to be at risk** by UNHCR and partners in ABCT States.
- UNHCR and its partner Jesuit Refugee Service **trained 15 Government and Security agencies on refugee rights, arbitrary arrest/detention, protection legal Framework, GBV, and child protection** in Gembu, Taraba State. GBV referral pathways/contact persons were also identified and established in Gembu.

HEALTH:

- Over **6,000 refugees and locals received healthcare services** at the UNHCR-supported facilities, including 414 reproductive health and 131 mental health clinical consultations. In **over 36 primary healthcare facilities**, UNHCR is **strengthening the health system by providing equipment, infrastructure, and mentoring/supervision of medical staff to improve medical care services to refugees and locals**.
- **More than 1,800 refugee and host community children were assessed for malnutrition** at the UNHCR-supported Primary Healthcare Centres and refugee settlements in ABCT States. UNHCR **provided supplementary food** produced from **nutritious grains to 65 children diagnosed** with severe and moderate acute **malnutrition to enhance their growth and well-being** through its partner, the Nigerian Red Cross Society.
- On 25 April, **World Malaria Day was commemorated** by Children of Rural Africa (CorAfrica) in collaboration with UNHCR and its partner, the Nigerian Red Cross Society and SEMA. **Free malaria tests/treatment and distribution of mosquito nets were undertaken for over 100 refugees and locals** in the Adagom refugee settlement, CRS.



EDUCATION

- UNHCR and its partner Save the Children (SCI) **trained 52 teachers** in Cross River and Benue States on the **teachers' Code of Conduct**, emphasising the expected acceptable standard of behaviour. The teachers will serve as **facilitators for the accelerated learning and remedial catch-up programs** to help refugee children who have missed or fallen behind on education to catch-up.

- **Back-to-school awareness campaign on the benefits of education**, early resumption, and **children's right to access to education** by UNHCR and partner SCI **reached over 700 refugees** in Benue and CRS.

Challenges

- **Food insecurity remains one of the major factors affecting school attendance and academic performance by refugee students** due to limited livelihood opportunities for their parents and economic hardship. Many refugee children engage in menial jobs such as working on people's farms, domestic work, fetching water and hawking wares, preventing them from attending school. Since January 2023, **there have been delays in the payment of cash for food programmes** by UNHCR due to the **monetary policies** of the Nigerian government, including the **cash withdrawal limit**, and given that not all refugees own UNHCR-facilitated bank accounts.



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE (WASH):

- Hygiene awareness sessions on **safe water chain, food hygiene, and environmental/personal hygiene management** by hygiene volunteers reached some **10,000 refugees** in Adagom 1 and 3, Ukende, and Ikyogen refugee settlements (Cross River and Benue States). Seventy-nine refugee communities in the four settlements received sanitation/cleaning materials, including brooms, parkers, rakes, and disinfectants, to help promote environmental hygiene.



SETTLEMENT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS

- UNHCR provided **mattresses and solar lanterns to some 100 vulnerable refugees** with specific needs, including elderly persons and individuals with disabilities in Cross River State.

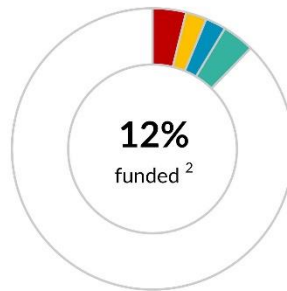
Working in partnership

Together with the Government of Nigeria, UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to Cameroonian refugees. The Agency holds regular coordination and consultative meetings at the State and Local Governments levels as well as with other humanitarian actors. The following partners implement specific sector activities: NCFRMI, State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), SCI, CUSO International, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria, Catholic Diocese of Makurdi, The Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace (FJDP), Mediatrix Development Foundation, Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre, Jesuit Refugee Service, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Nigeria Red Cross Society.

Funding status

UNHCR is grateful for the flexible financial support provided by donors globally and those who have contributed directly to the Nigeria Operation. The operation's comprehensive budgetary needs for 2023 stand at 98.2 million, and at the end of the reporting period, it was only 12 per cent funded.

\$98.2 million

 UNHCR's financial requirements 2023 ¹

NIGERIA

as of 27 April 2023


CONTRIBUTIONS ³ | USD

	Unearmarked	Softly earmarked	Earmarked	Tightly earmarked	Total
United States of America	-	-	2,500,000	-	2,500,000
Germany	-	1,624,434	-	-	1,624,434
European Union	-	-	-	612,877	612,877
Spain	-	-	-	496,858	496,858
Profuturo	-	-	-	199,324	199,324
Denmark	-	64,399	-	-	64,399
Other private donors	-	-	10,342	69,678	80,019
Sub-total	-	1,688,833	2,510,342	1,378,736	5,577,911
Indicative allocation of funds and adjustments	3,617,844	633,570	(152,582)	2,397,001	6,495,832
Total	3,617,844	2,322,403	2,357,760	3,775,736	12,073,743

Methodology: Unearmarked funding is allocated and reallocated multiple times during the year to allow UNHCR to fund prioritised activities. This funding update includes an indicative allocation of funds so as to accurately represent the resources available for the country. The contributions earmarked for Nigeria shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions listed below. This allocation respects different levels of earmarking. Adjustments relate to programme support costs and carry-over.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁴ | USD

United States of America 7.2 million | Canada 3.9 million | Finland 3.1 million | Private donors Australia 2.1 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS ⁵ | USD

Sweden 69 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million

Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Costa Rica | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Peru | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

Notes:

- The financial requirements for Nigeria include requirements for the operation's regular programme and the Western and Central Mediterranean.
- The percentage funded (12%) and total funding amount (\$12,073,743) are indicative based on the methodology described above. This leaves an indicative funding gap of \$86,165,632 representing 88% of the financial requirements.
- Contributions to Nigeria are shown by the earmarking modality as defined in the Grand Bargain.
- Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Nigeria. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.
- Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.

More Information

CONTACT US
Tesfaye Bekele | Head of Sub-Office, Ogoja, Cross River State | bekelet@unhcr.org | +234 901 066 0624

Lucy Agiende | Reporting Associate, Ogoja, Cross River State | agiende@unhcr.org | +2349010660627

Edward Ogolla | External Relations Officer, Abuja | ogolla@unhcr.org | +234 09 2916667