

Cameroonian refugee situation, Nigeria

1 - 31 January 2019

836 refugee students have received **cash for education support** to facilitate school enrolment and retention in Calabar and Adagom settlement (Cross River state).

UNHCR completed the **construction of two blocks of nine classrooms** to increase learning space for **refugees** and host community pupils in Adagom (Ogoja, Cross River state).

8,031 refugees have been enrolled into **the health insurance scheme**, to improve health care delivery for refugees in Adagom and Anyake settlements (Cross River and Benue states).

KEY INDICATORS

32,601

Cameroonian refugees registered with Level 1 and Level 2 registration [As of 31 January 2019]

2,790

Cameroonian refugees registered in Anyake settlement, Benue State [as of 31 January 2019]

7,236

Cameroonian refugees registered in Adagom settlement, Cross River State [as of 31 January 2019]



School block of six classrooms constructed by UNHCR in St Peter's Primary School, Adagom (Ogoja LGA, Cross River State) / ©UNHCR / L. Agjende/2019

Operational Context

- Cameroonian refugees continued to arrive in Nigeria from the southwest and northwest regions of Cameroon through unofficial entry points, as official borders remain closed. During border monitoring, UNHCR partners Caritas and Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP) recorded a total of 928 new arrivals, most of them women and children, in the border areas of Obanliku, Akamkpa and Kwande Local Government Areas (Cross River and Benue states). The refugees were assessed and found to be in dire need of food, non-food items, and shelter.
- Some 287 refugee households, the majority of whom were women and children, self-relocated from the Anyake settlement (Benue state) to the Adagom settlement (Cross River state) following eviction threats from the Anyake chief in December 2018. The refugees fled the settlement due to fear of insecurity of their lives and properties. Interventions are ongoing by government officials and the UNHCR to ensure the safety of refugees and facilitate access of humanitarian actors to carry out their activities without disruption, while searching for durable solutions.

Update on Emergency Response

- **Protection** – A protection desk in the Adagom settlement (Ogoja Local Government Area, Cross River state) was established by UNHCR to enhance communication with refugees, in order to respond to their concerns and specific needs. Some 108 refugees were received during the reporting period. Refugees' concerns and needs identified were recorded and referred to appropriate service providers for intervention. These needs include shelter, registration, health care, non-food items, and education. They were provided with the necessary support, especially to the most vulnerable refugees with special needs.
- A total of 180 refugees that included adult males, females and adolescents were sensitized on their rights and obligations including their non-participation in the politics of the asylum country and adherence to the laws of Nigeria. Other areas covered included: awareness on child protection and SGBV related issues. The three sensitisation campaigns which were conducted in four border refugees hosting communities in Akamkpa LGA (Cross River state) took place from 14 to 16 January.
- Some 101 refugees, who participated in the urban refugee protection assessment jointly carried out by UNHCR Protection and Community outreach volunteers in Calabar (Cross River state), cited sexual exploitation, lack of education for school-aged children, poor medical care, arbitrary arrests, lack of documentation, livelihood and shelter, among the many protection concerns. The age-gender-diversity (AGD) exercise included 31 children who participated in line with community-based and rights-based approaches, using key informant interviews and focus group discussions. The aim of the exercise was to understand the needs and concerns of the refugees, the results of which would help to improve the efficient delivery of assistance.
- **Child Protection** – Some 29 unaccompanied and separated children were placed in foster care. These children were identified by UNHCR protection during the screening of the spontaneous arrivals in the Anyake settlement (Benue state). The child protection committee in the settlement also conducted monitoring and follow-up visits to 12 separated children in alternative care, in order to assess their coping mechanisms and living environment.
- **Registration** – As of 31 January 2019, UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees (NCFRMI) biometrically registered/verified some **25,438** refugees in the states of Cross River, Benue, Akwa Ibom and Taraba. So far, 3,460 refugees have received their ID cards.
- **Relocation** – UNHCR partner Caritas recorded 1,061 spontaneous arrivals in the Adagom settlement who fled Anyake settlement as a result of eviction threats from the host community. The majority of the arrivals were women and children. They were provided with food, non-food and shelter in response to their immediate needs. The Adagom settlement has exceeded its capacity of 4,000 individuals to over 7,000 refugees. On 17 January, UNHCR commenced the relocation of refugees to the newly established settlements of Okende (Ogoja, Cross River state).
- UNHCR in collaboration with its partners, relocated a total of 118 households (768 individuals), most of them women and children, from a transit facility in Adagom settlement to the new settlement in Okende (Ogoja Local Government Area, Cross River state).

- **New settlement** - On 3 January 2019, UNHCR and the Benue state Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) assessed a site in the Ikyogen cattle ranch (Kwande LGA, Benue state) donated by the government for the establishment of a new refugee settlement. Situated about 5 kilometres away from the main town, the site is considered suitable for a refugee settlement because of the presence of a police post, primary and secondary schools, a health centre, markets and domestic commerce.
- In the new refugee settlement of Okende (Ogoja, Cross River state), construction of a culvert was completed and access road to the settlement has been improved. Relocation of refugees to the settlement has commenced and construction permanent shelter which started on 18 January, is currently ongoing in the site.
- **Settlement management** – UNHCR completed the construction of a security post to accommodate the police, immigration, and the Cross River state SEMA in the Adagom settlement, as part of the measures to ensure adequate security for both refugees and members of the host community. As further security measures, 38 solar lights were installed at strategic locations in the refugee settlement and the Adagom village in Ogoja.
- In order to facilitate refugee children’s access to the school, the construction of a foot bridge linking the Adagom settlement and the community primary school was completed on 31 January 2019.
- **Food and non-food items** – In Anyake and Adagom settlements, 1,641 individuals (478 households) received cash for food assistance to enable refugees purchase the food of their choice, while 591 spontaneous arrivals received food and non-food items in Adagom, Okende and Anyake settlements. UNHCR intends to launch the Cash Based Intervention platform during the first quarter of 2019, for about 25,000 biometrically registered refugees in both settlements and host communities.
- **Education** – Some 836 refugee children in both primary and secondary schools have so far been supported with cash for education assistance in Calabar and Adagom settlement. Tuition fees were paid directly to the schools. Implementation of the cash assistance is ongoing in the settlements, while arrangements are being made to support about 9,000 refugee school-age children in both settlements and host communities. The cash grant is intended to facilitate school enrolment and retention for refugee students in primary and secondary schools through the purchase of school items such as school bags, shoes, text books, writing materials and uniforms.
- UNHCR has completed the construction of two blocks of nine classrooms in St Peter’s Primary School 1 and 2 in the Adagom community. The new school blocks have increased the learning space and quality of education for refugees and host community pupils. The construction of latrines were also ongoing. UNHCR has rehabilitated two school structures in the primary school to complement the newly constructed buildings for the benefit of over 1,500 refugee and host community pupils. In addition, 280 school desks have been provided for students in the two schools.
- **Shelter** – A total of 808 permanent shelters have been completed thus far in Adagom, Anyake and Okende settlements, of which 800 were funded by the EU Humanitarian Aid. Furthermore, 344 Households in Okende and Adagom settlements received shelter kits for construction of additional permanent shelters with UNHCR’s reserve funds. Over 4,000 Cameroonian refugees are now living in safe and dignified shelters in the settlements.

- **Health care** – Together with other means to improve the quality of health care delivery for refugees and the host community in Adagom, UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of the Adagom health centre, a waiting area and a latrine block. During the reporting period, its partner Mediatrix donated medical supplies and equipment (including a solar fridge, 3 hospital beds, a delivery couch, 3 mattresses, 1 baby cot and drugs) to the Health Centre benefitting both refugees and the host community.
- Some 121 refugee children were vaccinated in Adagom and Anyake settlements. Moreover, 464 refugees in the two settlements were referred to the appropriate health care facilities to receive medical care.
- In Adagom and Anyake settlements, 8,031 refugees have been enrolled into the Health Insurance Scheme by the Health Management Organization (HMO), Integrated Health Care. Of this number, 1,471 Households have received their medical insurance card to facilitate access to health care services. UNHCR and the HMO sensitized refugees in the two settlements on procedures for accessing health care in the designated health facilities.
- **Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)** – In Okende settlement, a water treatment unit and two water collection points were installed to ensure that refugees have access to clean water. Hygiene sensitization sessions were conducted for refugees in Adagom and Okende settlements on safe water management, hand washing and appropriate use of latrines, to promote sanitation and personal hygiene.
- At least 136 potties were distributed by UNHCR to 104 refugee households with young children in Okende settlement. In Adagom settlement, a total of 467 households with children from 0 to 4 years have benefitted from the distribution of potties, 1,065 households have received hygiene kits, while 1,157 women have received menstrual hygiene kits of sanitary pads, soaps, cloth lines, panties and buckets.
- UNHCR completed the rehabilitation of the water supply system in Adagom community during the reporting period. The rehabilitation works included: installation of a new solar powered water pumping system, renovation of 200 cubic meter reservoir, laying of pipes and construction of five water distribution points in the two primary schools, health facility, and village centre. As a result, about 2,700 host community population and 1,162 refugee children now have access to safe potable water.

Critical needs and priorities

- **Education** – In Cross River and Benue states, primary and secondary school structures assessed are inadequate and in dire need of rehabilitation. School equipment (desks and chairs, books, etc.) and WASH facilities are insufficient, and the capacity of the teaching staff poses a major challenge to attaining the desired quality of education for the over 10,000 refugee and host community students.
- **Healthcare** – Access to quality health care services remains a serious challenge for Cameroonian refugees in Cross River, Benue, Taraba and Akwa Ibom states, especially for those living in the host communities. The health facilities are in need of rehabilitation, additional health workers, basic equipment and medicines to improve medical care for the over 25,000 biometrically registered refugees in the four states.

Working in partnership

- Together with the Nigerian Government, UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to the Cameroonian refugees and has established a monthly coordination meeting in Calabar to foster closer collaboration with other UN agencies and humanitarian actors. The following partners implement specific sector activities in this situation: Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria (CCFN); Catholic Diocese of Makurdi – Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP); MEDATRIX Development Foundation and Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre. Other partners also deliver services to the Cameroonian refugees with own resources such as, ICRC, MSF, Save the Children, UNFPA and WHO.

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LINKS

[UNHCR Operational Portal : Nigeria Country Page](#) - [UNHCR Nigeria website](#) – [UNHCR Nigeria on Global Focus](#) – [UNHCR Nigeria Facebook page](#) – [UNHCR Nigeria Twitter account](#) – [Web Story: Cameroonian refugees flee clashes and find safety in Nigeria.](#)