

Cameroon Situation

October 2019

46,098 *Cameroonian refugees are registered in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.*

UNHCR is seeking funding to provide assistance and protection to 1,655 *new refugees registered in Nigeria during the month of October.*

UNHCR launched a **Supplementary Appeal of \$27.3 M** *in new requirements to provide food, shelter and basic needs to Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria.*

KEY INDICATORS

46,098 | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Nigeria.

23,705 | Cameroonian refugees are hosted in the Adagom, Okende settlements in Cross River State and in the Anyake settlement in Benue State.

49% | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities.



Benue SEMA Director and UNHCR Head of Sub-Office Ogoja symbolically handover a refugee family to traditional leaders in Ikyogen, Kwande, Benue State, 10 October 2019. ©UNHCR/T. Aseh

Highlights

- UNHCR and the Government of Nigeria (GoN) established the Anyake refugee settlement in May 2018 to welcome refugees residing in Nigerian border communities close to Cameroon. As a result of an unfavourable protection environment in the Anyake host community, UNHCR and the GoN relocated the refugee settlement from Anyake to a new settlement in Ikyogen, Kwande LGA, Benue. Hence, from 10 to 31 October 2019, UNHCR, the Benue State Emergency Agency (BSEMA), security forces, partners, Mediatrix, Caritas, FJDP, FHI360) relocated **6,250** refugees (**1,530** households) from Anyake to Ikyogen
- From 15 to 16 October, the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) and UNHCR, facilitated a dialogue on the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) in Ogoja, Cross River State (CRS). Some 70 participants including partners and Government officials from Local, State and Federal levels, and other stakeholders were in attendance. The outcome of the meeting was a mapping of needs and commitments towards Education, Health, Livelihoods, WASH and Protection.

Achievements



Protection:

- About 500 Identity cards were distributed to refugees in CRS and Benue to ensure freedom of movement and access to services, including banking. So far, 14,500 of 25,531 eligible Cameroonian refugees (14 years and above) have received ID Cards
- Vulnerable refugees from the Adagom and Ukende settlements including refugees living with disabilities, pregnant women, women with children aged 0-6 months, elderly and chronically sick persons were provided with mattresses and food items including rice, oil and sugar. A total of 796 refugees received 10,950 kilos of rice, 2736 litres of cooking oil and 1,143 kilos of sugar
- In October, CARITAS contributed to the relocation exercise of 120 households from Adagom-1 settlement to the new Adagom-3 settlement. This relocation was undertaken to decongest Adagom-1
- 144 **border monitoring** exercises were undertaken to border communities and six visits were undertaken to host communities outside Ogoja. These visits aim to track the arrival of new refugees and assess/address daily protection needs. During the visits to 12 communities in Akamkpa, refresher sessions on SGBV response were organized, needs assessment and identification of persons with specific needs (PWSNs) were undertaken
- 18 monitoring visits were undertaken to detention centres including police stations in Abo/Boki, Ikom, Utanga, Sankwala, the Immigration Post in Obanliku, Amana, police post in Batiko Boki and the Nigeria Prisons Ogoja. The visits permit the Protection Team to ensure that the rights of persons of concern in detention are respected and that POCs are not arbitrarily detained
- Caritas conducted non-food items needs assessment for refugees in Akamkpa and Bakassi LGAs
- In **BENUE**, FJDP and Benue SEMA profiled 10 new refugees (3 Men, 1 Woman, 3 Boys, 3 Girls) in Abande. These asylum seekers look forward to being reunited with their families and relatives living in settlements or in host communities in Nigeria
- The chief of the Abande community and his community agreed to host refugees that do not have a shelter in available spaces/accommodations until they are moved to the Ikyogen

settlement. Protection Action Groups in Abande were also sensitized to handling new arrivals of refugees

Gaps and challenges:

- Refugees continue to arrive in border communities where they do not have access to health services, education or livelihoods. Out of desperation, they engage in negative coping mechanisms. Consequently, refugee girls are at risk of adolescent pregnancy and STIs.

SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (SGBV):

In **CROSS RIVER** in October, CARITAS contributed to the relocation exercise of 120 households from Adagom-1 settlement to the new Adagom-3 settlement. This relocation was undertaken to decongest Adagom-1. CARITAS also undertook the following:

- Facilitated 12 support group meetings for **SGBV** survivors and victims in order to strengthen the community support systems in Adagom and Ukende. Also, there were short, structured capacity-building sessions for protection and border monitors on how to identify SGBV/Child Protection cases, upholding the principle of confidentiality, identifying PWSNS, types of SGBV and approaches to psychosocial support. Twenty-one awareness-raising campaigns on SGBV prevention and response were conducted in Oban, Calabar, Iking, Mfaminyen, Akor, Mbobui, Ekonganaku, Ojok/Mbeban, Adagom, Wula, Amana, Danare 1 & 2. Sixteen reported SGBV incidents were assessed and survivors received material assistance; thirty-four reported SGBV survivors received counselling; three reported SGBV survivors were provided with a safe space
- In **BENUE**, three SGBV survivors were provided with dignity kits (six yards of wrapper, liquid disinfectant, two tablets of toilet soap, one pair of underwear pants, one underwear tight, one singlet, toothbrush/paste, flip wear, body lotion, white face powder, comb, toilet tissue, torchlight, battery cells and a pair of bra. Also, a case of teenage pregnancy received dignity items
- Two sensitization campaigns were organized for refugees on financial disputes/denial of resources, physical violence and sexual exploitation/abuse during the cash for food payment. The campaign reached 2,894 refugees (721M, 1,108W, 568 children) in Anyake and Ikyogen
- Another sensitization was carried out in Ikyogen for 143 men and 27 women service providers (labourers, volunteers and vigilante) against sexual violation and exploitation of refugees

CHILD PROTECTION:

In **CROSS RIVER** (CRS), CARITAS undertook the following activities in October:

- Held a refresher session for members of the **Child Protection** Committee (CPC), training for parents/caregivers and foster parents on result-oriented parenting skills etc. Assessed 150 child protection cases (Up Ranch, Boki, Obanliku, Ukende, Adagom, Ikom). Held two parenting sessions in Adagom and Ukende for caregivers, foster parents and parents (21 participants in Adagom, 19 in Ukende). Two refresher sessions were organized for Child Protection Committees in Adagom and Ukende. 158 child-friendly space activities were organized in Adagom and Ukende and two meetings were held with the adolescents' club
- Identified 388 **persons with specific needs** in different locations in Cross River State (Akamkpa, Bakassi, Calabar, Boki, Obanliku, Ikom, Etung). This was done mostly through home visits to Boki, Obanliku, Akamkpa, Etung, Ikom, Calabar and Bakassi. 218 PWSNs were assisted
- issued 24 birth certificates to new-borns in Adagom
- In **BENUE**, two cases of child abuse were reported and a total of 30 best interest assessments were conducted within the reporting period for which 20 children (12 girls and 8 boys) were successfully reunified with their parents/families and 10 children (5G, 5B) were placed under guardianship
- Fuelwood was distributed to 214 households after the first and second relocation batches

- Twelve house visits and eleven follow up visits were undertaken to meet persons with specific needs in Anyake and Ikyogen. Nineteen cases were identified and referred to appropriate service providers
- FJDP undertook sensitization on zero tolerance to sexual abuse, exploitation and reporting of cases of sexual violation in Anyake and Ikyogen.



Education:

- In **CROSS RIVER**, Caritas distributed school bags to children in Akamkpa (Mfamosing, Ekonganaku, Aningeje, Oban, Akor, Old Ndebiji, Ojok, Nkame, Mfaminyen, Ekang) and Bakassi (Ikang)
- With the beginning of the new school year, 2,282 new pupils and students were successfully enrolled. More children are expected to get into school as the school year continues
- 21 education sensitization exercises were carried out in Oban, Calabar, Ikang, Adagom, Wula, Amana, Danare 1 and 2 LGAs
- 32 periodic school monitoring exercises were carried out in schools neighbouring the settlements in Ogoja and in Akamkpa, Bakassi, Boki, to assess the number of children in school, encourage attendance and encourage parents to work with the school authority (PTA meetings)
- In **BENUÉ**, there was no enrolment during the reporting period because refugee school-age children will be relocated to Ikyogen. However, a total of 113 school-age children (54M, 59F) were profiled for enrolment in secondary education and a total of 312 (148M, 166F) were profiled for enrolment into primary education.



Health:

- FHI360 continued to provide technical support to healthcare workers across refugee host communities in **CRS** and **Benue**. FHI360 assessed and activated a new primary health centre at Danare 2, Boki LGA to enable persons of concern in hard to reach areas access healthcare. The Boki LGA, **CRS**, is home to close to 4,000 Cameroonian refugees
- To carry out smooth relocation of refugees from Anyake settlement to Ikyogen, FHI360 sensitized key stakeholders in Ikyogen to health interventions, goals and objectives. It conducted a fit to travel assessment, facilitated the mass movement of refugees in batches to the new settlement in Ikyogen and hired indigenes of Ikyogen and Cameroonian refugees as referral assistants to optimize health services during the relocation exercise. The project staff also facilitated the relocation of refugees in Adagom and Ukende to Adagom-3 in **CRS**
- Following advocacy with the Cross River State Primary Health Care Development Agency (CRSPHCDA) and rollback malaria team for CRS, these institutions donated and deployed anti-malaria drugs to six health centres in Cross River State which provide services to refugees
- A total of 3,886 (2,108F; 1,778M) were reached with quality primary healthcare including, 902 (511F; 391M) POCs were treated for malaria while 517 persons (388F; 129M) received reproductive health and HIV services; 326 persons (222F; 104M) were counselled and tested for HIV. A total of 667 persons (432F; 235M) were sensitized on reproductive health, family planning, nutrition, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH). A total of 1,022 persons (637F; 385M) were provided with logistics support and referrals to health facilities
- The mother-to-mother support groups (MTMSG) in Adagom (113) and Ukende (52) settlements met weekly with health assistants promoting infant and young child feeding/nutrition practices such as early initiation of child to breastmilk during one hour of

birth, exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) for 6 months, complementary breastfeeding, minimum dietary diversity and minimum dietary frequency

- FHI360 conducted advocacy visits with Supervisors of the Cross River State Ministry of Health (SMoH); senior management of Benue State University Teaching Hospital (BSUTH); Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Makurdi, Federal Neuropsychiatry hospital and University of Calabar Teaching Hospital. These visits aimed to improve referral coordination and engage management on the modalities for settlement of medical bills of uninsured POCs referred to the respective health facilities. FHI360 also visited the State Coordinator, National Youth Service Corps in Makurdi to solicit that medical doctors be posted to PHC Ikyogen to support the facility
- FHI360 facilitated monthly Health, WASH and Nutrition coordination meetings with Ogoja and Kwande primary health care coordinators and other project partners. FHI360 also undertook on-site coaching of government healthcare workers on inventory management through the use of bin and inventory control cards and medical consultations of persons of concern
- To ensure proper storage of medicines, FHI360 deployed 22 drug shelves to 11 primary healthcare centres (PHCs) across project locations. During the reporting period, FHI360 restocked PHC Adagom, Ogboja, Ukende, Utanga, Ajassor, Agbokim, Bashua, Big Qua, Ikang and Ikyogen with essential medicines and commodities. FHI360 provided HIV test kits to the PHC Igyom and Ahobee memorial clinic in Ikyogen.

Gaps and Challenges

- There is an outflow of refugee population from the settlement in search of economic opportunities, which adversely affects the uptake of immunization services
- The high demand for health services causes frequent breakdown of tricycle ambulances
- Errors in the documentation of some refugees affects their ability to access CBI.



Food Security and Nutrition:

- The Office distributed cash for food for the months of August and September to 4,812 refugees.



WASH:

- During the reporting period, UNHCR and Save the Children marked the Global Handwashing Day on 15 October in the refugee settlements. A Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST) campaign was organized with the participation of over 3,000 adults and children. PHAST seeks to help communities to improve their hygiene behaviours, to prevent diarrhoeal diseases and to encourage community-management of water and sanitation facilities. PHAST mainly demonstrates the relationship between sanitation and health status
- Soap making training was organized to promote personal, household hygiene and self-reliance for 130 refugees (Ukende 60 and Adagom 70) and host community persons
- More than 3,700 refugee households (HH) (18,000 refugees) and host community HHs in Adagom, Ukende and Anyake were supplied with potable water for personal and domestic use
- The construction of 111 family shared latrines in Adagom 3, Ukende, Ikyogen, 98 bathing shelters Adagom 3, Ikyogen, Adagom, 7 UDDT latrines were completed

- SCI conducted hygiene promotion campaigns in Adagom, Ukende and Anyake. Refugees and host communities were sensitized to the importance of handwashing right after using toilets. Handwashing will reduce oral-fecal disease transmission in the settlements
- The construction of one generator house is completed in Adagom. Construction of 13 water tank base and five water collection points were completed in Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen
- A total of 42 WASH committee members were established in Anyake and received training
- Hygiene awareness was undertaken for 682 households
- Handwashing facilities were installed in Ikyogen, Ukende, Adagom-1 and Adagom-3 and in the three schools - St Peter's 1, St Peter's 2 and St Eugene. Waste bins were also distributed
- The decommissioning of 36 latrines was completed (35 in Anyake and one in Adagom)
- Excavation of four solid waste pits in Adagom, Adagom-3 and Ikyogen was completed.

Gaps and challenges:

- Despite the WASH intervention and construction of four boreholes in the Adagom settlement, inadequate water supply remains a significant challenge as the refugee population increases.



Shelter and NFIs:

- In **Benue**, construction and sand-filling of the 5Km road linking Ikyogen town and the refugee settlement is ongoing. 7.3Km internal roads connecting communities within the Ikyogen settlement were cleared and cambering was completed
- Construction of two addition culverts on the 5km road and one culvert linking the settlement communities 8, 9, 10, 11 & 12 commenced
- 74 refugees were paid cash for construction of permanent shelters in Ikyogen
- Rehabilitation of a school is in progress, two schools were roofed and two others were built to roof level
- 659 emergency shelters were constructed in Ikyogen
- Out of 170 planned shelter construction, 34 have been completed, 87 are yet to be roofed and 49 are under construction.
- In **BENUE**, in October, FJDP distributed non-food items to 983 refugees - screened walk-in refugees in Anyake settlement; Clothing and slippers to three boys with specific needs; One kitchen set to a household of four persons; Shelter kits to refugees at the Ikyogen settlement
- **Rhema Care** managed the **help desk** at the reception areas in Adagom and Ukende for walk-in refugees, referred them to other services and provided lighting of the reception areas
- 64 HH i.e. 359 refugees living in hangars in Adagom-1 were successful **relocated** to Adagom-3
- Rhema Care and CRSEMA met twice with the Nkim-kol Clan, Adagom, to hold **negotiations** regarding the Clan's request for road construction. Rhema Care also requested the support of Adagom-3 host community women to provide feeding for refugees during the relocation exercise
- Rhema Care is working on the following **shelter** constructions in Adagom-3 settlement: two additional hangars (reception hangars for walk-ins), a staff *tukul-hut*, internal and feeder roads within the settlement, began the construction of a 5 kilometre road from Kastina Ala road to Adagom-3 settlement, a one block of four classrooms at St Eugene Primary School Ukende. Rhema Care is undertaking site monitoring and planning for the Adagom-3 settlement where building of shelters for refugees in Adagom-3 has begun following the first relocation batch. One hundred and twenty-two (122) refugees received cash assistance for shelter construction.



Community empowerment/Self-Reliance:

- Mediatrix carried out a Livelihood Impact Monitoring Visit to Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen (refugee settlements), to identify beneficiaries trained in agriculture, vocational and small business skills. The monitoring revealed success stories among beneficiaries in the settlements Adagom, Ukende in CRS and Ikyogen in **Benue**
- Mediatrix also monitored and mentored the 2018 livelihoods trainees in Ikom, Ogoja and Calabar, Cross Rivers, and Anyake, **Benue** State. It also carried out monitoring and supervision of the intensive agriculture, livestock, fisheries training for 128 beneficiaries in Anyake settlement. The training was suspended due to the relocation of refugees to Ikyogen
- During the reporting period, 39 trainees out of 121 enrolled across all project locations have completed training in hairdressing, tailoring, catering and automobile mechanics at Ikom, Calabar and Etung respectively. This adds to the previous 24 persons of concern that have completed training on Poultry and Fishery in Calabar
- Activities are ongoing to register 30 project VSLA groups as Cooperatives with the Ministry of Cooperative and Social Welfare. Also, group bank accounts will be opened to facilitate access to finance and other benefits associated with cooperatives
- CUSO, FAO and UNHCR organized a one-day stakeholder sensitization workshop in Ogoja to train participants on good agricultural practices. This workshop was held within the framework of the UNHCR and FAO Agriculture and Livelihood project for Cameroonian Refugees and Host Communities in Nigeria. Participants at the workshop included government agencies and INGOs namely Save the Children, FHI360, Rhema Care, FJDP, Mediatrix, SEMA, Ministry of Agriculture, Local Government Authority and CUSO International
- CUSO conducted an assessment to identify alternative income-generating activities (IGAs) for farmers as most of the farming trainees in Cross River and Benue are into cassava and bambara nut farming. Cassava can take up to 10 months to mature for harvesting. During the period before harvesting, farmers need to have other sources of income. The assessment was conducted with 121 POCs (46M, 75W) in all Farmer Field Schools in Cross River (Etung, Boki, Ikom, Obanliku LGAs) and Benue (Kwande LGA)
- A Farmer Field School (FFS) training was held in Bacoco, Calabar municipal to improve farmers' vegetable production capacity. The training was conducted for four farmers on seed selection, site selection and land preparation, planting time, making a nursery and when to transplant seedlings. These four farmers received vegetable seeds (pumpkin and waterleaf), three litres of agro-chemicals, and a set with cutlass, hoe, knapsack sprayer, watering can, rain boat and iron file to support their activities
- Fertilizers were distributed to farmers in Calabar South, Calabar Municipal, Mfamosing, Aningeje, Ekong Anaku, Akamkpa 1, Ikom, Etung, Boki, Obanliku and Bakassi. Distributions were made to 188 farmers of fertilizers across these locations (50 kg of Urea and 150kg NPK fertilizers)
- CUSO and Ministry of Agriculture extension officers undertook farmlands verification to monitor the use of distributed inputs and assess the need for more inputs. The verification noted that all the farmers had used all the inputs and needed more cassava stems. More stems were distributed to permit complete cultivation of farm plots
- FAO conducted community needs assessments to identify beneficiaries for agriculture training in Akamkpa, Boki, Calabar Municipal, Etung, Ikom and Obanliku LGAs in Cross River. Some 1,750 refugee households (HHs) were profiled, out of which 929 HHs were identified as

farmers. Currently out of 929 refugee HHs, 300 were selected for the project. Furthermore, community meetings were conducted in Adagom, Ukende in Ogoja and in host communities in Ikom, Obanliku, Boki, Etung, Akamkpa and Calabar to raise awareness on the project and complete HH profiling. Overall, 457 refugees in Adagom, 186 refugees in Ukende and 894 host community households in six LGAs were profiled.

Gaps and challenges:

- Most refugees residing in settlements and host communities do not have livelihood opportunities, this results in pressure on host community resources. There is an urgent need to empower over 10,000 refugee households to restore their dignity, independence and promote self-reliance.

**Settlement coordination and management**

- In October, the Benue State Emergency Management Agency (BSEMA) sensitized host communities to the relocation of refugees from Anyake to Ikyogen ahead of the relocation exercise that began on 10 October. Host community members, Central Committee, Traditional Rulers, the Youths, Security Agencies were sensitized. BSEMA organized monthly partners coordination meetings on 30 October at the Kwande LGA Secretariat, Adikpo. BSEMA facilitated the mobilization of 14 armed security personnel (the Police and NSCDC) at Anyake Settlement and Ikyogen Settlement during the entire relocation of refugees from Anyake to Ikyogen settlement process. BSEMA followed-up on cases of theft of refugees' belongings during the relocation from Anyake to Ikyogen – culprits were arrested and some of the stolen property were retrieved.

Working in partnership

- In collaboration with the Nigerian Government, UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to Cameroonian refugees. The Office has established a monthly coordination meeting in Ogoja, CRS, to foster collaboration with UN agencies and humanitarian actors. The following partners implement specific sector activities in the response to the Cameroon refugee situation: Family Health International (FHI 360), Save the Children International, CUSO International, Catholic Caritas Foundation Nigeria (CCFN); Catholic Diocese of Makurdi Foundation for Justice Development and Peace (FJDP); MEDATRIX Development Foundation, Rhema Care Integrated Development Centre and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Operational partners include ICRC, MSF, UNFPA and WHO.

Financial Information

On 26 March, UNHCR launched a Supplementary Appeal for the Cameroon situation for USD27.3 Million in new requirements for refugees in Nigeria, while reiterating already established overall requirements totaling USD44.6M for the response in 2019. **As of 06 November 2019, funding of the budget for the Cameroon refugee situation stood at 55%.**

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with un-earmarked and broadly earmarked funds including:

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