

Cameroonian Refugees in Nigeria

June 2021

Some **67,000** Cameroonian refugee men, women and children are registered in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.

UNHCR commemorates **World Refugee Day** on **20 June** with thousands of refugees, government authorities, partners, and host communities in Nigeria.

About **13,000 refugees** received **cash** to purchase **food** of their **choice** in Benue and Cross River States this month.



Solidarity march to commemorate World Refugee Day 2021 by UNHCR, refugees, government officials and host communities in Ogoja, Cross River State. © UNHCR /Lucy Agiende.

Operational Highlights

- On **20 June**, UNHCR, government authorities, refugees, host communities and partners came together to commemorate the **World Refugee Day (WRD)** and **celebrate the courage/resilience of refugees in Nigeria**. A week-long commemoration was undertaken with several activities including solidarity walk, cultural displays, musical performances, friendly soccer games by adults and children, fashion parade, livelihood exhibitions, COVID-19 vaccination, essay/debate competitions and exhibitions of handcraft/technological inventions in Akwa Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States.



PROTECTION

Protection Monitoring

- UNHCR collaborated with twelve government agencies, national and international partners to systematically **identify protection incidents**, analyse the protection risk and refer cases to partners providing protection and multisectoral assistance, including **legal assistance**, registration/documentation, advocacy, **capacity building**, awareness sessions, services related to **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** and material assistance.
- In Benue, Cross River and Taraba (BCT) States, UNHCR and partners undertook at least **30 Joint border monitoring** visits, to assess the presence and needs of new arrivals, advocate for the protection of refugees and ensure that refugees have access to territory. No case of refoulement was recorded during the reporting period.
- At least **200 new arrivals** were identified/profiled by UNHCR and partners in BCT States. They fled following renewed violence in their communities in the South-West region of Cameroon. Urgent needs remain food, healthcare, blankets, and mosquito nets.
- More than **40 detention monitoring** visits were undertaken by UNHCR and partners to various Police stations, Correctional Centres, and Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, to advocate against arbitrary arrest/detention of refugees and provide **legal support to refugees in detention** in BCT States.

Protection Response

- In BCT States, protection desks have been established by UNHCR and partners in settlements and host communities to provide information on GBV prevention/response, legal issues, rights/obligations, and registration/documentation of refugees.
- About **250 refugees** with various **specific needs** including, critically sick individuals, persons with disabilities, unaccompanied/separated children, pregnant women, older persons were identified by UNHCR/partners and referred to **specialized services** in BCT States.
- Over **200 refugees** received **ID Cards** issued by the National Commission for Refugee, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) in collaboration with UNHCR in Cross River State (CRS). The ID card is vital to freedom of movement and access to basic social services including health care and banking.

- UNHCR **trained 46 government partners** of the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons on **proGres v4 registration modules** in Ogoja, Adikpo and Takum in BCT States. ProGres v4 is UNHCR's corporate, centralized, web-based case management software application, which supports operational functions ranging from the registration of individuals to a wide range of UNHCR case management functions.
- Some **40 Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** survivors received multisectoral assistance including **medical, psychosocial, legal**, and material assistance through established referral pathways, to enhance their coping skills, build their resilience and strengthen their social support network in BCT States.
- UNHCR and its partner Caritas trained **40 government officials** on **refugee law, humanitarian law** and human rights, **Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Child Protection and GBV** in Ogoja, CRS. Participants included the Nigerian Police Force, National Immigration Service, National Population Commission, Inter and External Security Special Division, Security Joint Task Force, State Emergency Management Agency, Nigeria Military, Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Corp and Heads of Health Facilities.
- UNHCR and partner Foundation for Justice, Development and Peace (FJDP) trained **22 government officials** on **SEA/GBV prevention and response** in Adikpo, Benue State. The officials included case workers and gender desk officers from health facilities, primary and secondary schools, NCFRMI and Benue State Emergency Management Agency.
- **313 refugee children** born in Nigeria received **birth certificates** issued by the National Population Commission in Benue and Cross River States. Also, **46 child protection** cases including unaccompanied and separated children, child neglect, child labour, physical abuse, child marriage and sexual abuse were managed in CRS.
- UNHCR and partner Caritas commemorated the **International Day of the African Child** on **16 June** with refugee and host community children, who thrilled participants with beautiful dance performances, songs, drama and a fashion show of all African countries and their history/culture in Ogoja, CRS.
- In CRS, **36 GBV** committee members in Adagom and Ukende settlements undertook training on community integrated GBV prevention and response approach, to build their capacity on community engagement. Also, UNHCR partner Caritas produced and distributed about **3,000 GBV information, Education and Communication materials** conveying key GBV prevention/response messages to refugees and host communities to create awareness.
- Sensitization on **birth registrations, child protection/child rights**, prevention of **teenage pregnancy/child marriage**, SEA/GBV response and reporting channels reached over **1,500** refugees and locals in BCT States.
- UNHCR trained **102 refugees** from refugee-led community based organizations including Great Step Initiative, Save the Woman, Protect the Girl Child and refugee leaders in Ogoja, CRS. The training focused on **child protection**, protection mainstreaming, **GBV, Prevention of SEA**, leadership skills, monitoring/evaluation, and conflict resolution.
- **159 refugees** who constitute the community-based protection structures undertook training on **birth registration** and **child protection** which was facilitated by government ministries/ departments, UNHCR and partner FJDP in Ikyogen, Benue State.

Challenges

- In all refugee hosting locations, negative coping mechanisms including **alcohol abuse** and **survival sex** have been reported among youths and women-headed households, due to limited food and livelihood support.



WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE (WASH):

- Hygiene promoters/volunteers reached some **3,000** refugees with awareness sessions on **COVID-19 prevention** and personal/environmental hygiene through door-to-door approach, while **24 latrines** were **decommissioned** in Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen settlements in Benue and CRS.
- UNHCR distributed **dignity kits** to at least **700** refugee women and girls of reproductive age including GBV survivors to promote their dignity and personal hygiene in Benue and CRS. The kits included towels, sanitary pads, underwear, toothbrushes, shaving blades and soap.
- In commemoration of the World Refugee day, the United Nations Population Fund provided **dignity kits** including soap, sanitary pads, detergents, toothbrush, and blankets, which were distributed by UNHCR to about **1,050 refugee women** and girls in Itu (Akwa Ibom State) and Adagom/Ukende settlements (Cross River State).

Challenges

- The main gap in the WASH sector remains **inadequate water supply** in the refugee settlements, despite the construction and rehabilitation of over 15 boreholes by UNHCR. The yield remains insufficient and merely meets about 40 percent of refugees' water need. UNHCR is currently operating a water treatment plant at a very high cost to supplement the water needs of refugees.
- Furthermore, **latrines** and bathing facilities are **inadequate** in the refugee settlements.



HEALTH:

- More than **2,000 refugees** and **locals** in Benue State received **COVID-19 prevention items** provided by UNHCR including buckets, hand wash, sanitizers, and face masks in Benue and Cross River States (CRS).
- In CRS, UNHCR supported the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital with **COVID-19 vaccination items** including surgical masks, isolation gowns, latex disposable gloves, and disinfectants.

Challenges

- Urgent need of **mosquito nets** given the increase malaria, which remain the commonest cause of morbidity.
- Most refugees declined receiving the COVID-19 vaccine due to misconceptions about the vaccine.
- There is no COVID-19 compliant **ambulance** for emergency evacuations in Adikpo, Ogoja and Takum (BCT States). Lack of transportation to facilitate emergency cases and other referrals in these locations remains a major challenge for refugees and locals.

**EDUCATION:**

- The National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons donated **1,465** pieces of **notebooks** to **refugee students**, as part of their support towards the World Refugee Day commemoration on 20 June in Ogoja, CRS.
- In commemoration of World Refugee Day, over **7,000 exercise books**, **4,000 pens** and **2,000 pencils** were donated by government officials, private sector investors and non-governmental organizations in Benue State, following a campaign-launch to support refugee students' educational needs by UNHCR partner FJDP.
- In Benue State, UNHCR **paid tuition fees** for **313 refugee secondary school students** and registration of preliminary final examination, for the third term 2020/2021 academic session.
- UNHCR met with the management of the **School of Nursing** Ogoja, CRS, and the school management indicated their intention to **offer admission to interested Cameroonian** refugee youths into their 3-year nursing programme. UNHCR disseminated a call for submission of certificates/credentials to assess eligibility of intending refugee candidates.
- In Taraba State, UNHCR and partner Jesuit Refugee Service **trained 20 teachers** including **nine refugee teachers** on inclusive education, SGBV, code of conduct, child protection and trauma management in Takum and Ussa local government areas.
- UNHCR constructed one-block of **four classrooms** in Government Primary School Ekang, Akamkpa in CRS, to **increase learning space** and **improve learning conditions** for refugee and host community children.

Challenges

- **Shortage of teachers** across public schools where refugees are enrolled, significantly affects the quality of education provided to refugees and locals. The teacher/student ratio is over 1:100. UNHCR continues to advocate to the national education authorities for deployment of teachers.
- In Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen settlements, **refugee children** with **specific needs** have **limited access to education**, given the long distance from the refugee settlements to the schools.

LIVELIHOODS

- **Some 109 refugees** trained on agriculture/crop farming received **farm inputs** including cassava stems, a knapsack sprayer, a cutlass, digging hoe, weeding hoe, a pair of rain boots, herbicide, pesticide, and seedlings (maize, okra seeds, green spinach seeds and pepper seeds) in Obanliku, Ikom, Etung and Boki local government areas in CRS
- **21 refugee households** trained on agriculture/crop farming received **plots of land** donated by the government to enable them to cultivate their crops after receiving farm inputs provided by UNHCR in Ikyogen settlement, Benue State.
- **699 refugees** and **vulnerable locals** are undergoing **Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET)** of their choice in Benue, Cross River, and Taraba States. The

TEVT training is facilitated by 115 technical partners/tutors to meet the required standards and will last for 3 months, after which the beneficiaries will be graduated and issued with certificates of completion. Beneficiaries will also receive starter-packs by UNHCR to establish their respective business ventures.

FOOD SECURITY



- **12,612** refugees received **cash** to purchase the **food of their choice** provided by UNHCR in Adagom and Ukende settlements, Cross River State. Thus far, **35,246** refugees have received the cash for food covering the months of February and March 2021.
- Authorizations were provided by UNHCR protection desks to about **720** representatives of critically ill refugees, absent household heads, minors, students writing exams, and deceased heads of households to enable them to receive the **cash for food** by proxy in Adagom and Ukende settlements.
- The Cross River State (CRS) Ministry of Humanity and social Welfare donated 200 cartons of **food items** including noodles, salt, tomato paste and pasta for distribution to **200 vulnerable refugees** in Adagom and Ukende settlements.
- In Benue and CRS, **2,035 refugee family representatives** have received **ATM cards** provided by UNHCR, to facilitate **cash-based interventions** and improve the **financial security** of refugees.
- The Full Gospel Church in Cameroon donated **food items** including 10 bags of cassava flour, 7 bags of rice, 8 cartons of food seasoning and 4 cartons of soap to at least **100 vulnerable refugees** to commemorate the World Refugee Day in Adagom settlement, CRS.

Challenges

- Because of COVID-19, prices of basic food commodities in refugee hosting areas have increased significantly, on average by 30% on core food commodities, compared to early 2020. The cash assistance for food provided to refugees has been inconsistent due to funding constraint. **Food** remains one of the **critical needs** of refugees in settlements and host communities.
- Refugees continue crossing back and forth to Cameroon in **search of food and livelihood opportunities** to sustain their families.



SETTLEMENT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT, SHELTER AND NFIS

- UNHCR and its partner the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) monitored and managed the four refugee settlements (Adagom, Adagom 3, Ukende and Ikyogen), in CRS and Benue, ensuring integration with host communities and providing security for refugees. At least 50 potential crises between refugees and locals were resolved through **community engagement or negotiations**.
- The Taraba SEMA and UNHCR **trained 44 newly elected central executive members of the refugee community** in Kurmi, Takum and Ussa local government areas on **leadership skills, GBV prevention/response** and **legal rights**.

- **32 refugee families** received **shelter kits** including cement, wood, nails, staple for doors/windows and roofing sheets to help them construct their **transitional shelters**, following the allocation of plots in Adagom 3 settlement, CRS. UNHCR also provided **cash** for **payment** of **labourers** to **27 refugee families** who commenced construction of their transitional shelters.
- At least **eight transitional shelters** and **latrines** were **destroyed by strong winds** and **heavy rain**, affecting about 51 individuals in Adagom settlement, CRS. Among them seven were injured, while three including two children were admitted for urgent medical attention. UNHCR and its partners conducted an assessment to facilitate repairs of the shelters.
- UNHCR distributed **non-food items** including sleeping mats, blankets, solar lamps, plastic buckets, jerry cans, kitchen sets, stoves, and footwears to over **500 refugees** with **specific needs** in Benue and CRS.

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 UN agencies, 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 Nigeria Red Cross. Operational partners include UNFPA, FAO, ICRC and WHO.

External/Donors Relations

UNHCR is grateful for the following support:

Direct contributions to UNHCR in Nigeria

Canada | CERF | Country-Based Pooled Funds | France | Holy See | Japan | Nigeria | Other private donors | Spain | The Fountain of Life Church | Unilever (UK) | United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security | United States of America.

Unearmarked contributions

Denmark 34.6 million | France 14 million | Germany 25.9 million | Italy 10.6 million | Japan 23.8 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Norway 41.4 million | Private donors Italy 17.6 million | Private donors Japan 27.8 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 37.5 million | Private donors Spain 73.5 million | Private donors Sweden 12.8 million | Private donors USA 10.8 million | Sweden 88.2 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | United Kingdom 45.7 million

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Softly earmarked contributions

Canada 10.2 million | Denmark 14.6 million | France 4 million | Germany 70.9 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Private donors Australia 11.4 million | Private donors Germany 5.1 million | Private donors Japan 4.5 million | Private donors Lebanon 2.1 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.5 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.6 million | Private donors

USA 8.7 million | Spain 3.4 million | Sweden 3 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | United States of America 46.8 million

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