

# Cameroon Situation

December 2019

**51,723** *Cameroonian refugees are registered* in Akwa-Ibom, Benue, Cross River and Taraba States in Nigeria.

**1,566** *new refugees were registered* in Nigeria during the month of December.

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

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## KEY INDICATORS

**24,546** | Cameroonian refugees are registered in Adagom, Adagom-3 and Ukende settlements in Cross River State and in Ikyogen settlement in Benue State.

**53%** | Of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria live in host communities.

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Mrs Paulina Obi, Nigerian, left and Mrs Rebecca Otor, Cameroonian refugee, right, met in the Adagom refugee settlement in Ogoja, Cross River State, Nigeria. Paulina sells moi-moi around Ogoja town and when she met Rebecca, she decided to offer her free daily moi-moi. "I feel an urge to help my sister", Paulina said. © UNHCR/Tony Aseh.

## Highlights

- UNHCR Offices marked the 16 Days Activism Against Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) campaign and World Human Rights Day on 10 December in Ogoja, Calabar, Adikpo and Gembu (Cross River, Benue and Taraba States). This year's theme, 'End Gender-Based Violence in the world of work', highlighted the need to address SGBV incidences in all situations of work whether it impacts refugees, the internally displaced, stateless people, UNHCR or partners' staff.
- The celebration of Human Rights Day was marked in Benue State with over 200 refugees and host community members in attendance. The coordinator for Benue State Human Rights Commissions Makurdi sensitized refugees on human rights, principles of universality and equal access to human rights for both refugees and host community members.
- UNHCR commemorated World Aids Day and the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Benue (Adikpo), Cross River (Calabar and Ogoja) and Taraba (Gembu) On 2 December. Participants at the events included government officials, host communities, students, teachers, National Youth Service Corp, partners and refugees. A procession and sensitization were conducted on SGBV response, HIV/AIDS and strategies to collectively end violence against women, men, boys and girls.
- Refugees and members of the host community took part in marking the World AIDS day on 2 December at the Ogoja LGA, a calendar event that is marked every year to ensure communities break attitudinal barriers towards persons living with HIV/AIDS. This year's theme was "Communities Make a Difference".

## Achievements



### Protection:

- In December 2019, 2,000 ID cards were issued to eligible refugees to promote freedom of movement and access to services such as banking. Out of 29,480 eligible refugees (14 years and above), 59,3% of refugees have received ID cards issued by NCFRMI.
- From 9 to 14 December, the Office undertook a mission to assess health, education, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) facilities in seven Local Government Areas (LGA'S) including, Ogoja, Etung, Ikam, Obanliku, Boki, Calabar Municipal and Akamkpa, Cross River State (CRS). Each of these LGAs hosts more than 1,000 refugees. The assessment aimed at identifying needs in refugee host communities to ease their burden through the UNHCR 2020 budget year and advocating with the government to include them in their development plan. The report will also be shared with the CRS House of Assembly to inform the 2020 planning and budgeting.
- The monthly coordination meeting for refugee community leaders took place at Ukende settlement (CRS) on 6 December. Some 25 individuals including UNHCR and its partners Caritas, Rhema care, SEMA and FHI 360 were present.
- On 09 December, the Office facilitated a training for 17 Government officials and partners including NFRMI, LGA representatives, SEMA, Caritas, CUSO and FHI360 in Calabar. The training aimed to enhance their knowledge on UNHCR Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF), the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR), Participatory Assessment (PA) and facilitation of Focus Group Discussions.
- Following the above training, from 10 to 12 December, PAs were carried out in Akamkpa LGA-Oban Community, Bakassi LGA-Ikang and Calabar Municipality-Big Qua by facilitators from Caritas, FHI360, SEMA, NCFRMI, Cross River State Ministry of Social Welfare and Sustainable Development, Mediatrix, CUSO, University of Calabar Teaching Hospital, Department of Social Welfare and University of Calabar. Over 240 refugees and host community members participated in the exercise, which highlighted the immediate needs in the communities. Needs identified include, livelihoods assistance, access to financial services, land for agriculture, shelter, food and non-food items, inadequate and poor WASH facilities, poor solid waste management system, harassment by security officials due to lack of ID cards, absence of child-friendly space, educational support for children with disabilities, lack of teachers,

insufficient classrooms, WASH and scholastic materials, cooking fuel, mosquito nets and poor health care service delivery.

- Over 60 persons in Ikyogen settlement, Benue, took part in awareness-raising on the rights and duties of refugees. The activity was conducted by UNHCR, SEMA, FJDP and traditional leaders, to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host community.
- UNHCR and FJDP conducted monthly border monitoring across the five border communities in Benue State. The team sensitized the Nigeria Immigration Service unit on the right to asylum for Cameroonian refugees.
- On 17 and 19 December, UNHCR and its Partner Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) organized a sensitization and orientation session for 45 Community Protection Action Group members in Takum and Gembu, Taraba State. The orientation built the capacity of the Community Protection Action Group members for effective protection service delivery and humanitarian principles.
- **In Cross River State**, Caritas identified 178 persons with specific needs in Akamkpa, Bakassi, Calabar, Boki, Obanliku, Ikom, Etung through home visits. Assistance was provided to 21 individuals based on their urgent needs. People living with disabilities, elderly persons, unaccompanied and separated children and women-headed households were provided with assistance including crutches for disabled persons, psychosocial support/counselling and referral for livelihood support.
- **In Benue State**, some 16 persons with specific needs (12 female and 4 male) were supported with clothes at the Ikyogen settlement. Also, house visitations/follow up were conducted for four individuals with specific needs. Twelve cases with protection needs were identified and referred for necessary assistance.
- Nineteen spontaneous arrivals in the settlement with specific needs (5 women, 3 men, 5 boys and 6 girls) were profiled for assistance.
- **In Taraba State**, 540 refugees participated in education and protection awareness sessions conducted by UNHCR's partner JRS. Also, two community Protection Action Groups were formed to provide support to refugees.
- A total of 917 individuals in 210 households were **relocated** from the Adagom-1 and Ukende settlement hangers to the Adagom-3 settlement, CRS, in order to reduce pressure on existing facilities in Adagom-1 and Ukende settlements. So far, 1,803 individuals (210 households) have been relocated to the new settlement.

#### **DETENTION**

- UNHCR and Caritas secured the release of a refugee in Calabar. His documentation was expired. Furthermore, Police authorities have assigned senior police officers to work with UNHCR as desk officers, to be contacted when refugees need their intervention. Furthermore, eighteen monitoring visits were undertaken to detention centres in Calabar and Obanliku, **Cross River State (CRS)**. No refugee was found in any of the detention facilities.

#### **Border monitoring**

- In **Benue State**, a total of 116 spontaneous arrivals were recorded at the Ikyogen settlement. Meanwhile, some 182 new arrivals were identified during routine border monitoring visits across five border communities in CRS, Benue and Taraba States.

#### **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV):**

- In Benue, UNHCR, SEMA, Kwande LGA SGBV officer and FJDP organized a radio talk show to commemorate the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV with discussions on women's rights and mechanisms to address and end gender-based violence. In Calabar, CRS, the Office organized a stakeholder's forum presided by the CRS House of Assembly Speaker, Rt. Honourable Eteng Jones-Williams, the Chair House Committee on Women and Girls and Chair House Committee on International Donor Support. Over 400 refugees and stakeholders including government officials, security agencies, media, CSOs pledged their support to end GBV in all its forms in CRS.
- In Adagom, Ukende, Boki and Obanliku (CRS), 25 SGBV incidents were recorded. Survivors received psychosocial counselling, relief items and protection accommodation.

- In CRS and Benue, 28 awareness-raising sessions on SGBV prevention and response were conducted in Adagom, Calabar, Akampka, Obanliku, Bakassi, Boki and Ikyogen.
- In CRS, a beauty pageant, talent hunt (within the adolescents club), cooking competition, movie shows, and focus group discussions were conducted in the settlements during the 16 days of activism against SGBV. Also, 18 SGBV support group meetings were held in the Adagom and Ukende settlements, to promote the wellbeing and coping mechanism of survivors, and six focus group discussions were held in Adagom and Ukende.

#### **Child protection (CP):**

- In **CRS**, 47 child protection cases including physical abuse, exploitation and child neglect were reported in Obanliku, Adagom and Ukende. Meanwhile, in **Benue State**, four physical abuse and child neglect cases were reported in Ikyogen. The affected children were attended to and psychosocial counseling was provided for the parents/guardians.
- A total of 18 Best Interest Assessments were conducted for refugee children at risk in Ikyogen settlement. Twelve separated children (9 boys and 3 girls) were provided with caregivers following a Best Interest Determination process.
- Some three separated children between 10 to 14 years were successfully reunified with their mothers who newly arrived at Ikyogen settlement. They were identified during screening and profiling of new arrivals.
- In **CRS** and **Benue State**, 15 refugee children received birth certificates issued by National Population Commission.
- At the child-friendly spaces in Adagom and Ukende, 68 recreational and educational activities for refugee children aged 1 to 3 years were conducted.

#### **Challenges**

- Refugees living out of the settlements are sometimes unable to afford issuance fees for birth certificates.
- Refugee children in Ikyogen settlement need a child-friendly space for structured play, recreation, leisure and learning.
- The two years Temporary Protection Status (TPS) for Cameroonian refugees approved by the Government of Nigeria in May 2018 will expire in May 2020.



#### **Education:**

- A refugee education needs assessment was completed with 3,979 households assessed in 13 days in Ikyogen, Ukende, Adagom in CRS, Sardauna and Takum in Taraba State.
- Also, 43 schools (23 primary and 20 secondary) were assessed during a rapid needs assessment of education, health and WASH facilities in seven LGAs hosting refugees in CRS.
- Twenty Cameroonian refugee students (including 5 women) selected for the academic year 2019/2020 have received DAFI scholarships for registration, tuition, travel allowance, subsistence, housing, books and uniform/clothes. Additionally, 10 refugee students (including 5 women) independently registered in University received one-off support for their tuition, subsistence, housing and books.
- Forty periodic validation exercises were conducted in Ogoja, Akampka, Obanliku, Bakassi and Boki CRS, to monitor refugee students, and improve attendance and school enrolment. Also, six sensitization sessions were organized to strengthen collaboration between parents/guardians and school officials.
- In Benue, payment of school fees was completed for 1,247 refugee children in primary and secondary schools. School bags were distributed to 1,024 refugee children and 18 children in high school were registered for preliminary external examination.
- A hand pump was installed at St. Xavier Secondary School Ikyogen, **Benue**, to improve water supply, sanitation and hygiene for refugee and host community students.
- In **Taraba State**, school bags and writing material were distributed to 98 refugee children (44 boys, 54 girls) in four government primary schools.

#### **Challenges**

- There are 1,072 University level registered Cameroon refugee students in Nigeria. However, only 30 refugee students (including 10 women) have received assistance for the 2019/2020 school year. In

addition to limited scholarship resources, the difference in the educational systems in Nigeria and Cameroon makes some students unable to enrol.

- Most schools where refugee children are enrolled lack enough classrooms, WASH facilities, teaching material, furniture and teachers, to provide quality education to refugees and host community children. In St Peter's school Adagom, over 150 children share one classroom.
- Refugee children in Ikyogen and host community lack school items like uniforms, sandals, socks and writing material.



### Health:

- UNHCR assessed the nutritional status (Rapid Anthropometry SMART survey) of refugee and host community children (6 months to 59 months) in Adagom, Ukende, Ikyogen. The survey found that among refugees Global Acute Malnutrition is 16.6%, moderate malnutrition is 7.3% and severe malnutrition is 9.3%. Stunting is 60.0%, moderate stunting is 26.8% and severe stunting is 33.1%. This implies that there is chronic malnutrition among refugee children.
- The Primary Health Center (PHC) in Oban, Akamkpa LGA, CRS, was activated following a facility assessment. The facility was provided with essential drugs, medical supplies and equipment to improve service delivery to refugees and host communities.
- Some 4,710 refugees (2,837F; 1,873M) received medical care services in healthcare centres in CRS and Benue, of which 1,655 (949F; 706M) were treated for malaria, 2,138 refugees (1,429F; 709M) received reproductive health and HIV testing services.
- A total of 982 refugees (569F; 413M) were provided with referrals, escort and logistics to access health care.
- The monthly Health, Nutrition and WASH coordination meeting was held in CRS and Benue to ensure effective collaboration and cooperation among partners supporting refugees.
- Health commodities including drugs, cotton wool, sanitary pad, and disinfectants were supplied to PHCs Adagom, Ogboja, Ukende, Oban, Utanga, Ajassor, Agbokim, Bashua, Big Qua, Iking and Ikyogen in CRS and Benue, to improve quality of care accessible to refugees and host communities.
- The Director of Kwande LGA Primary Health Care Development Agency advocated for the deployment of medical doctors, nurses and pharmacists as interns with the Benue State National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) coordinator. This will improve health care at the Ikyogen PHC.
- The Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria (OSN) provided free eye screening, surgeries and glasses to ten refugees in Ikom, Agbokim and Ajassor communities in CRS.
- Male condoms donated by UNFPA were supplied to PHC Adagom for further distribution to other PHCs in Ogoja, CRS.
- In Ikyogen settlement, Benue, mosquito nets were distributed to 56 pregnant women. Health awareness sessions were organized on malaria control among refugees. This was a follow-up strategy to reach pregnant women that missed the mosquito net distribution during their first antenatal appointment. Also, mattresses and wrappers were distributed to newly delivered mothers.
- In **Taraba** State, medical commodities were deployed to health centres in Gembu to improve quality of medical care provided to refugees and host communities. Meanwhile, free treatment for refugees and members of the host communities has commenced.

### Challenges:

- The high rate of stunting among refugee children (6 months to 59 months) requires urgent assistance in food and nutritional supplements to improve children's health. In 2020, UNHCR will conduct a full Standardized Expanded Nutrition Survey (SENS) to determine remote causes in conjunction with UNICEF and Ministry of Health and support malnourished children with supplements.
- The poor condition of the access road to Ikyogen settlement hampers proper health assistance.
- The Ukende settlement needs an ambulance to help refugees access health care especially during emergencies.
- PHCs in CRS and Benue (Ogboja, Ukende, Utanga and Ikyogen) providing health assistance to refugees and host communities do not have WASH facilities. This challenge will be addressed in 2020.



## Food and Non-Food Items:

- In **CRS**, 23,011 refugees in Adagom and Ukende settlements received cash distributions for food and basic needs for the months of October, November and December. In Benue, 5,933 refugees received cash for November and December 2019. A total of USD 5.15 million was distributed as cash for food to refugees in CRS and Benue in 2019. The number of cash beneficiaries has increased threefold from 10,160 in January 2019 to 29,019 beneficiaries by December 2019.
- In **Benue**, 263 spontaneous new refugee arrivals received food and non-food items including rice, palm oil, sugar, salt, sanitary pads, cooking pots, toothpaste/brush and soap. Mattresses were distributed to 109 refugees including those with specific needs (the sick, elderly and persons with disability). In addition, 378 women received wrappers, while two households received clothing in Ikyogen settlement.
- Following the relocation exercise carried out in October, firewood was distributed to 22 households in Ikyogen settlement for cooking as part of the non-food items package. Also, 96 pieces of toilet paper and soap were donated to refugees by the Local Government Action Committee on Aids (LACA) on the commemoration of the World AIDS Days in Benue.
- 1,039 refugees in Adagom and Ukende settlements were provided with food items including rice, beans, yams, cassava flour and soup ingredients.
- Post-CBI distribution monitoring was completed on 20 December. Data was collected from 937 households across the four settlements in CRS and Benue.
- In **Taraba State**, dignity kits including sanitary pads, soap, toothbrush and paste were distributed to 1,359 refugees. Beneficiaries were verified and selected based on their vulnerability status.

### Challenges:

- Cooking fuel remains a major need for refugees in settlements. There is an urgent need for sustainable energy. Clashes have been reported between refugees and host communities when refugees collect firewood from host community farmlands.
- The refugees in Taraba State lack food and non-food items.



## WASH:

- 3,800 refugee and host community households in Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen, CRS and Benue, continued to receive potable water through a hybrid borehole system.
- In Adagom-1, construction of a solar borehole was completed. In Ikyogen, one out of the two planned boreholes is successful and in use, while the second has failed in spite of several drilling attempts from over 13 surveys in the settlement. Treated water from a nearby stream is currently served to augment the borehole supply.
- In Benue, 439 refugees including pregnant and lactating mothers received wash items, while 782 women of reproductive age received dignity kits (sanitary pad, panties, soap, buckets) at the Ikyogen settlement. So far, 3,453 women of reproductive age have received dignity kits in Adagom, Ukende, and Ikyogen settlements.
- 2,930 refugees in Ukende, Adagom and Ikyogen were reached with hygiene related messages during World Toilet Day - promoting personal/environmental hygiene and sanitation. Five latrines were decommissioned in Adagom and Ukende settlements.
- A total of 105 latrines were constructed in Ikyogen (25) and Adagom (80) settlements. Twenty-five bathing shelters were completed in Ikyogen and two rehabilitated in Adagom, to improve access to sanitation facilities. Installation of 100 family shared latrines in Ikyogen and Adagom was completed. One hundred persons were trained on water treatment at household and community level at the refugee settlements in CRS and Benue.
- In Benue, 47 participants were trained on soap making and start up materials were distributed to beneficiaries to empower and promote self-reliance.
- Hygiene promotion and sensitization sessions on open defecation, good hygiene behaviour, safe water chain and environmental sanitation were conducted in Adagom, Ukende and Ikyogen settlements with

some 2,935 refugees. Also, weekly routine clean-up activities were undertaken by the sanitation clubs, with support from the hygiene promoters and community leaders in all settlements.

#### Challenges

- Water supply from boreholes **across the settlements** stands at 10-15 litres per person per day. This is below the standards of 20l/p/d, meanwhile the refugee population is increasing.
- In **Taraba State**, refugees continue to suffer from lack of WASH facilities. In the government quarters and abandoned buildings where refugees reside, there is little or no WASH facilities like boreholes, latrines and bathrooms.



#### Shelter:

- In Benue, a total of 103 refugees received cash assistance for the construction of transitional shelters in Ikyogen settlement. So far, 207 transitional shelters have been completed and occupied by refugees in Ikyogen, while 89 are under construction.
- Construction of 7.3Km internal roads connecting refugee communities, 300m concrete drains for erosion control and cambering to grade were completed in Ikyogen, to ease movement by refugees and host community.



#### Community empowerment/Self Reliance:

- Registration of Village Savings Loan Associations (VSLA) with the government through the Cooperative Department has been completed. Account opening for refugees is on-going. The VSLA groups in CRS and Benue are successful and continued releasing loans to members. 30 VSLAs were created in 2019 with a total membership of 484 refugees.
- A one-day training aimed at empowering refugees with essential skills on integrated agricultural farm record keeping/management and disease control in crops was conducted in the farmers field school category by the Cross River Agricultural Development Programme extension agents in CRS and staff from the Agriculture Department in Kwande LGA, Benue State.
- MEDITRIX agricultural/livelihood training on crop production was concluded with 58 beneficiaries (44F; 14M) in Ikyogen settlement. It will empower refugees with self-reliance skills.
- To strengthen the capacity of refugees in CRS, CUSO facilitated account opening for Cameroonian refugees. This initiative will improve access to financial products/services and provide alternative documentation that will aid successful account uptake for access to finance in Ikom, Etung and Boki, Cross River State (CRS).
- In Etung, Ikom, Akamkpa, Calabar, Bakassi, Boki in CRS and Ikyogen in Benue, 292 beneficiaries of the entrepreneurship development program participated in a business clinic session facilitated by CUSO across the participating communities. Beneficiaries were engaged in a knowledge-sharing event on business management and promotion.

#### Challenges

- In **Taraba State**, the Office is not yet able to fund livelihood assistance. Some refugees are reportedly engaging in negative behaviour to cope. Most of them have skills and are willing to start a business.



#### Settlement coordination and management

- Within the context of the 16 Days of Activism against SGBV, on 01 December, the CR State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) organized a sports and culture week for refugees and host communities in Adagom and Ukende to promote peaceful coexistence and raise awareness on prevention and elimination of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and the AIDS pandemic. Activities conducted included mixed football matches between refugees and host communities, cultural displays and talent hunt.

Refugees, host communities, government officials, UNHCR and partners participated in the events which concluded on 8 December.

- 12 new refugee leaders were elected during the refugee leadership election organized in the Ukende settlement by UNHCR and SEMA. Among the elected community leaders, five central settlement leaders were elected for the position of chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer and public relations officer, to oversee the coordination of the settlement.
- In CRS and Benue, SEMA continued to profile new and spontaneous arrivals at the settlements, while ensuring their protection, conflict resolution and peacebuilding for refugees and host communities.
- The CRS, SEMA organized a meeting with refugee community leaders, department of State Security, traditional rulers, youth leaders from Adagom and Ukende communities, to introduce the newly elected refugee leaders of Ukende settlement and raise awareness on the need for peaceful coexistence, voluntary return, actions intended to ease pressure on the host community namely, livelihoods support for refugees/host communities. Some 61 participants attended the meeting.

## Working in partnership

In collaboration with the Nigerian Government, UNHCR ensures international protection and delivery of multi-sectoral assistance to Cameroonian refugees. The Office holds regular coordination meetings 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, Jesuit Refugee service (JRS), Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS) and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Operational partners include ICRC, 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 totalling USD44.6M for the response in 2019. **As of 09 December 2019, funding of the budget for the Cameroon refugee situation stood at 57% of USD 44.6 million**

***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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