

Nigeria

Multi-year Strategy 2023 – 2025



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1.1 Executive Summary

Nigeria – Africa’s most populous nation with one of the largest economies on the continent - is a federation of thirty-six states and is redefining its national policies and regional engagement following the election of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in early 2023. Renewed Hope National Agenda (2023 – 2027) under the current president of Nigeria touches upon almost every aspect of UNHCR’s mandate, establishing a conducive environment for sustainable solutions.

Nigeria continues to be a country of origin, transit, and destination currently hosting asylum seekers and refugees (over 109,000 individuals from 41 countries), a majority of whom are from the Lake Chad Basin region. The operation supports refugees, stateless, returnees, and IDPs. Conflict with non-state armed groups, communal violence, climate shocks, and other factors contribute to large-scale forced displacement both in Nigeria and in the region. This is resulting in both a protracted crisis of displacement as well as emergency situations. Located in a region that has recently experienced multiple political and economic challenges, including military coups, Nigeria is faced with the enormous responsibility of contributing to regional security despite its socioeconomic challenges, such as a high poverty rate (40.7.9% World Bank projections for 2024) and inflation (32.7% as of September 2024).

Partnerships – existing and potential – comprising of government, humanitarian and development partners, civil society, community-based organizations, the private sector, and displaced communities themselves provide unique opportunities to address these complexities. UNHCR staff are located on the frontline of these challenges in the northeast, middle belt, southeast and urban centres of the country – very often in bordering states that are facing severe economic challenges.

It is in this context that UNHCR aims to deliver sustainable solution-driven protection services for mandated displaced communities in targeted and most in-need locations of the country. In 2025, UNHCR will pivot away from providing substitutional services and blanket in-kind assistance to ensuring that all displaced communities have access to government services, to livelihood opportunities and other long-term support protection mechanisms with a view to becoming self-reliant over time. Cash-based initiatives will be expanded to strengthen the social safety net mechanisms and reach communities most at risk. Community-based/civil society organizations (CSOs), including refugee and IDP-led organizations (RLOs) will be supported to deliver key services within their community.

Renewed discussions with the national government to revisit the current operational approach and engagement will also be undertaken, aimed at handing over activities to the Government such as printing and distributing refugee ID cards, and revolutionizing certain traditional practices like the way Refugee Status Determination (RSD) is undertaken, in an effort to make the existing structure and processes more effective and cost-efficient.

All this will not only result in sustainable programming but enhance efficiency and cost-effectiveness, allowing for UNHCR to reinforce and even expand its footprint and deliver more impactful and targeted responses to regions such as the Middle Belt that is facing large-scale protracted displacement situations with little development support from other partners. In addition to continuing to advocate for inclusive policies towards displaced communities by the government, UNHCR will also step up efforts to ensure that forcibly displaced and host communities are better funded by donor governments, development partners and the private sector.

This approach is in line with the organization's global Strategic Directions for 2022-2026, as well as the 3D strategy for UNHCR's West and Central Africa operations, which underscores the importance of data for evidence-based programming, dialogue with key stakeholders, and engagement with development actors to ensure sustainability. This strategy gives special emphasis to UNHCR's five core directions - protection, response, inclusion, empowerment, and solutions. It equally takes stock of the UNSDCF, Nigeria's national development plan, state-level plans, and government commitments such as the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR). It also considers the UN Secretary General's 2022 Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, the 2009 Kampala Convention, and other regional initiatives.

In this context, UNHCR is dedicated to strengthening partnerships with the Government of Nigeria at all levels, leveraging the country's open-door policy and the favorable protection environment. It is anchored on a whole-of-society approach, enhancing collaboration, deepening and broadening engagement with UN agencies, and international financial partners, as well as regional bodies like ECOWAS.

The internal displacement's operational context in Nigeria is defined by a prolonged humanitarian crisis affecting the North East, North Central, and North West, displacing approximately 3.6 million people. Insurgency in the North-East has left 2.3 million people homeless. In the North-West, communal clashes and banditry have forced 685,000 people from their homes in Zamfara, Sokoto, and Katsina states, while herder-

farmer conflicts have similarly displaced 500,000 in Benue State, located in Nigeria's middle belt.

Limited humanitarian footprint, insecurity, and underfunding will remain major challenges. UNHCR is predominantly present in the North-East and minimally in the Middle Belt but was compelled to close the office in the North-West for lack of funding. Nevertheless, UNHCR will continue to champion the centrality of the protection and core UNHCR protection internally displaced persons (IDP)-focused engagements, whilst ensuring to downscale as the response situation evolves and solutions are attained. The Middle Belt situation where the cluster system is not in place presents different dynamics and would need more of an injection of both developmental and government support.

For refugees, the Government of Nigeria has maintained an open-door policy and has continued to welcome Cameroonian refugees and other nationalities seeking international protection. As of September 2024, the country hosts approximately 109,000 refugees and asylum seekers, the majority from Cameroon. As the conflict in the neighbouring North-West and South-West regions of Cameroon continues unabated, and with more than 4,000 new registrations recorded from January to September 2024, the number of Cameroonian refugees from the North-West and South-West regions is expected to rise steadily between 2024 and 2025. Additionally, Since August 2022, asylum seekers from Cameroon's Far North Region have been arriving in Adamawa State, further compounding the already complex displacement landscape.

Concerning returnees, it is anticipated that the voluntary repatriation of Nigerian refugees from Niger, Chad, and Cameroon will continue during the implementation of this strategy, involving both spontaneous and Government/UNHCR-facilitated returns. In 2024, UNHCR plans to assist 22,000 returnees, with a small increase expected in 2025. Ensuring the safe, dignified, and sustainable return of forcibly displaced populations continues to be a high priority in UNHCR's advocacy and strategy, both for those within Nigeria and for Nigerians seeking asylum in neighboring countries.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Interior, UNHCR is working to adopt a legal framework that will facilitate the identification and regularization of individuals at risk of statelessness. Efforts are underway to establish a statelessness determination procedure, strengthen legal safeguards, and increase birth registrations to prevent statelessness, especially among children.

In line with the strategic approach, UNHCR is diversifying its funding sources by engaging new donors and the private sector while advocating for development programming in both IDP and refugee-hosting areas. UNHCR is supporting the Nigerian Government to track and ensure the realization of its existing roadmap in fulfilling its pledges from the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to improve national services like education, health, and water for refugees and host communities.

Furthermore, UNHCR will collaborate with development partners, including United Nations agencies, the European Union (EU), the World Bank (WB), the African Development Bank (AfDB), and other development partners, to advocate for the inclusion of forcibly displaced populations in development strategies and ensure their long-term protection. As refugees are included in Nigeria's 2021-2025 National Development Plan, UNHCR will continue playing a key role in building on these efforts and is a member of the Nigeria Development Partners Working Group co-chaired by the World Bank and the European Union.

UNHCR's evolving strategy in Nigeria emphasizes a holistic approach to displacement that integrates forcibly displaced populations into national systems and enhances their access to development and social protection services. The expansion of cash-based interventions and the strengthening of partnerships with community-based organizations, including IDP and refugee-led groups, are pivotal to this strategy. These efforts not only support the immediate needs of displaced populations but also contribute to long-term resilience and self-reliance, reinforcing UNHCR's commitment to protection, inclusion, empowerment and sustainable solutions in a dynamic and rapidly changing environment.

1.2 Situation Analysis

The humanitarian crisis in Nigeria is closely linked to the broader Lake Chad basin crisis, encompassing Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Nigeria, where 10.6 million people need aid. Persistent violence over 13 years has undermined basic social services and depleted natural resources. Some, 3.3 million people face severe food insecurity, the worst in four years. The region is also experiencing a severe protection crisis with displacement, abductions, killings, and rights violations. The enduring impact of climate change further complicates the conflict dynamics in the area.

According to the 2024 Nigeria Humanitarian Response Plan, some 7.9 million people in Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states in the North East will likely require humanitarian

assistance. Of these, 2.1 million are internally displaced, 1.9 million are returnees who lack essential services and livelihoods, and 3.9 million are members of communities hosting internally displaced people.

In the North-East, protection monitoring in 2023 indicated additional concerns related to freedom of movement, gender-based violence, child protection, restricted access to services and employment due to lack of documentation, arbitrary detention, family separation due to abductions and involuntary disappearance for long periods, as well as housing, land and property (HLP) related issues.

The displacement in the Northwest and Northcentral continues to be on the rise, with IOM reporting over one million displaced persons as of June 2024. The communal clashes, armed banditry and other types of violence affect the displacement, which is expected to continue in 2025.

UNHCR will continue to provide solution-driven protection services for all forcibly displaced and stateless people. In collaboration with other humanitarian and development agencies, targeted interventions, critical protection and assistance needs of forcibly displaced persons, shall be extended to support the Government in finding solutions for those affected. Emphasis will be on the five core organizational directions: protection, response, inclusion, empowerment, and solutions. Cash-based interventions to targeted populations will be the core modality for assistance. Engagement with the Government at all levels will be the key priority for the agency in 2025 to achieve solutions.

Safe and dignified return of displaced individuals is a cornerstone of UNHCR's advocacy and strategy in Nigeria for the forcibly displaced individuals within the country and Nigerians who have sought asylum in neighbouring countries. UNHCR will seek to facilitate voluntary repatriation through Tripartite Agreements with the Governments of Niger, Chad, and Nigeria where conditions allow. The agency will emphasize the importance of informed and voluntary returns, particularly under challenging conditions such as inadequate security, lack of basic services, or no civilian administration.

UNHCR will also continue to advocate for the adoption and implementation of a Regional approach to durable solutions within the Lake Chad Basin (LCB) Region, calling on regional institutions such as the LCB Commission to play a central role in the process. UNHCR will also continue to advocate for the implementation of the Government's pledges, including the Abuja declaration.

UNHCR will advance the implementation of the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement in Nigeria, coordinated by the Resident Coordinator. The agency will also collaborate with Durable Solutions Working Groups and key stakeholders at the state level to integrate returnees into both existing and new humanitarian and

development programs. This effort will include government-led initiatives like resettlement cities, urban IDP integration, and social investment programs, alongside mobilizing donor support for effective and sustainable reintegration.

The ongoing violence in North-West and South-West Cameroon continued to drive Cameroonians to Nigeria, with the influx of some 4,000 individuals in 2024, bringing the total Cameroonian refugee population to 69,500 by September 2024 in South-South and South-East Nigeria. Among them, 70% live in host communities, and 30% live in settlements. Cameroonian refugees enjoy a two-year temporary protection status (TPS), which was renewed in June 2024.

At all levels, the Nigerian Government continues to welcome Cameroonian refugees, maintaining a protection-friendly environment with no reports of refoulement. UNHCR is committed to promoting sustained access to asylum and adherence to the principle of non-refoulement. It advocates for integrating refugees into national systems, enabling access to healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities. Further efforts include the domestication of the Kampala Convention, the implementation of GRF pledges, and the adoption of the National Action Plan to eradicate statelessness in Nigeria.

Protection assessments indicated that refugees continued to adopt negative coping mechanisms to make ends meet, with women and girls becoming increasingly vulnerable to gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual exploitation due to limited access to livelihood opportunities. Most refugees continued to live under the poverty line and remained highly dependent on humanitarian assistance. With 57 per cent of the population being female-headed households and 51 per cent being children, living conditions were especially harsh for refugees.

In line with Nigeria's pledges at the GCR, a GCR Roadmap was adopted by the Government. UNHCR advocated for the integration of all refugees in the National Development Plan 2021-2025, social safety net programmes and, succeeded in having refugees issued with National Identification Number(s) (NIN) by the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC). This is expected to ease refugees' access to essential services, including SIM cards, banking services, registration of examinations, and other social services.

The UNHCR-UNICEF joint Strategy for Addressing Childhood Statelessness was put into action, resulting in the successful implementation of birth registration initiatives in three states. Additionally, significant progress has also been made in healthcare by providing health insurance to refugees and improving infrastructure and resources in various primary health centers. Cash assistance was provided, supporting a significant portion of the population to purchase food. Education has also been a focus, with increased support for school attendance and scholarships. Despite improvements in water supply, challenges still persist in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). Efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence continue to be ongoing.

UNHCR is committed to enhancing collaboration and coordination with other UN agencies, including international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In the North East region, UNHCR will work closely with relevant government authorities and stakeholders, maintaining its role as the lead agency in the protection, shelter and camp coordination, and camp management sectors. Furthermore, UNHCR will prioritize the integration of protection measures in all sectors to provide comprehensive assistance to those in need.

UNHCR will continue to explore and fully utilize opportunities for strategic partnerships with the State Ministries of Humanitarian Affairs, State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAS), and other Ministries, Departments and Authorities such as education, health, and agriculture at both federal and state levels, as well as development partners and UN sister agencies such as FAO to integrate programmes into strategy development and embark on activities that are beneficial to both refugees and host communities.

UNHCR will continue to refine its protection and solutions strategy in collaboration with partners, including various government levels, NGOs, and community representatives, focusing on innovative and proactive methods. The agency will strengthen inter-agency partnerships and coordination at state and local levels, enhancing synergies with development stakeholders to secure long-term benefits and durable solutions for displaced populations. Efforts will leverage existing coordination frameworks to plan and implement timely, accountable humanitarian responses, engaging a broad network of partners, including government bodies, enhanced partnerships with refugee-led organizations, and community-based groups.

UNHCR will strengthen its interventions in the Middle Belt and the North-West regions through protection monitoring and strengthening the capacities of organizations led by forcibly displaced persons and government systems.

In 2025, to achieve its protection and solutions in line with sustainable programming, UNHCR will make significant shift from individual assistance to community-based assistance, will implement more robust displacement monitoring systems, will enhance engagement with the Government, community-led organizations and development partners and will increase its advocacy efforts to include forcibly displaced persons into Government provided services.

1.3 Vision and Strategic Orientation

UNHCR' s 2023-2025 strategy focuses on enhancing the protection environment and ensuring that refugees, IDPs, IDP and refugee returnees, and stateless people have increased opportunities for comprehensive and sustainable solutions. By 2025, UNHCR would like to see forcibly displaced and stateless people in Nigeria better protected,

forcibly displaced persons having more sustainable solutions, with returnees receiving the right identity and civil documentation and having more equitable and inclusive access to quality basic services and livelihood opportunities.

All the interventions in 2025 will be aligned with the Regional Bureau's strategy on sustainable programming and its 3D (data, dialogue, development) approach. In 2025, UNHCR will lay the foundations to shift towards increased engagement with the Government and more proactive partnership with local actors and community-led organizations. UNHCR aims to achieve this through enhanced advocacy with and identification of key stakeholders with a development focus, a rethinking of engagement with federal and state authorities to strengthen national systems, and a further strengthening of civil administration in return areas through a focused area-based approach, further strengthening the socio-economic inclusion of refugees and other forcibly displaced or stateless people. Furthermore, the expansion of cash-based interventions and the strengthening of partnerships with community-based organizations will help achieve the vision.

UNHCR will continue to actively support the implementation of the Government of Nigeria's GRF pledges and to play a catalytic role in ensuring the inclusion of forcibly displaced populations into Government programming. Refugees have been included in the 2021-2025 National Development Plan.

The Nigerian Government has already made progress with respect to the GCR, avoiding the creation of parallel services and promoting local integration of refugees. Refugees are able to register with the national identity management system and get access to services such as bank accounts, driver's licenses and SIM cards, which facilitates productive engagement. UNHCR will continue to encourage this approach and support the Government in taking further steps to advance inclusion and self-reliance by ensuring Government programmes include refugees. Using state and local development plans as a basis, UNHCR Nigeria will promote area-based approaches and advocate for the local integration of refugees into host communities, equally supporting national services and host communities.

Education remains a priority, and UNHCR will work collaboratively with the Nigerian Government to strengthen refugee access to formal education at all levels.

In 2025, the data collection in all areas will be strengthened in line with the Regional Bureau's priorities on data. More robust common protection monitoring systems on displacement will be established to ensure evidence-based programming and advocacy.

In line with the guidance on sustainable programming to maximize partnership opportunities, to achieve its strategy, UNHCR will closely coordinate with a wide range of partners to advocate for the inclusion of refugees, displaced populations and stateless persons in development strategies and programmes, and to ensure that their needs are addressed comprehensively. This also includes proactive engagement with key development actors in the Nigeria context, such as UN agencies, the EU, the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), Germany, UK FCDO and USAID.

UNHCR will increase advocacy to ensure the protection of forcibly displaced and stateless people. To ensure accountability, transparency and enhance protection and solutions, age, gender, and diversity (AGD) approaches will be mainstreamed in all sectors. Given the potential protection risks associated with the temporary nature of the protection status accorded to Cameroonian refugees, UNHCR will increase advocacy with the Government to ensure a more permanent refugee status for the population and to ensure that the humanitarian and civilian character of asylum is maintained. UNHCR will further work with the Government of Nigeria to strengthen asylum processes with specific attention to greater capacity enhancement on refugee status determination. Within the UNSDCF, UNHCR will also ensure synergy and cross-pollination of collective UN impacts for mandate populations.

In 2023-2025, UNHCR will continue working together with the Government to achieve continuous registration of urban refugees and ensure issuance of proper documentation.

To support the Government's GCR approach, UNHCR will support national institutions and structures through area-based interventions in host communities. The country strategy will prioritize the local area-based approach, aiming at sustainable durable solutions, recognizing the different needs and vulnerabilities of forcibly displaced and stateless people, and setting up contingency plans in case of emergency or for hard-to-reach areas.

UNHCR will increase its fundraising interventions and strengthen local fundraising mechanisms to ensure adequate implementation.

By 2025 UNHCR's strategy to promote local solutions for Cameroonian refugees will be reinforced by supporting the Government's ongoing issuance of National Identification Cards to refugees. UNHCR will continue advocating with the Government, especially at the State level, to include refugees in the National Social Register. This

would enable refugees to access social and financial services, formal and semi-formal employment and address the current challenges relating to their freedom of movement. This approach will facilitate the socio-economic and legal integration of Cameroonian refugees in Nigeria.

Given the increased risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) as a result of chronic underfunding of the Cameroonian response, UNHCR will work towards preventing GBV by embedding a gender equality lens in all aspects of its work, make efforts to reduce the risks of GBV and SEA, strengthen accountability to affected populations and ensure that all survivors have adequate and timely access to services. UNHCR will build on its existing experience and strengthen community-based structures to ensure better protection and referrals for individuals in need. Partnerships with other GBV actors and agencies will also be broadened.

UNHCR recognizes the pivotal role of localization in our strategic direction for 2025. Hence, the agency will collaborate closely with community-led organizations. By actively engaging these grassroots organizations, UNHCR will ensure that its interventions are rooted in local contexts, culturally sensitive, and responsive to the diverse needs and priorities of affected populations, including both refugees and IDPs.

Moreover, this approach fosters greater community ownership, participation, and empowerment, amplifying the impact of its initiatives and fostering sustainable change.

UNHCR's involvement in the Middle Belt will focus on protection, child protection, gender-based violence prevention and response, monitoring, as well as provision of life-saving targeted assistance to the most vulnerable.

UNHCR will invest in capacity building of national partners, community structures and community-based organizations to establish community networks that will ensure sustainability in the interventions.

In the North-East, UNHCR is the Protection lead organization and will provide leadership at all levels working together with other stakeholders. Furthermore, the Government and private sector are major players whose potentials are going to be harnessed. Furthermore, as the lead protection agency, UNHCR will strengthen the Protection Sector by working with the government to coordinate the assistance of various partners, including the UN, INGOs, NGOs, and communities, ensuring a prompt and appropriate response to emergencies.

The Protection Sector is committed to enhancing the localization and nationalization of coordination efforts within the Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe states (BAY states). This will be achieved by seeking to direct more resources toward national and local stakeholders, thereby strengthening the capabilities of the coordination mechanisms in place

Despite the active participation of the affected populations, there is a need to strengthen their engagement and their ability to support decision-making processes that affect their lives and their future, taking into consideration the high potential of women and girls to support their families and contribute to the decision-making for their families and communities.

UNHCR will strengthen its emergency response capacity and facilitate access to durable solutions. Where possible, cash interventions will be scaled up in terms of sectors and locations.

By 2025, UNHCR will continue its advocacy with the Government and development actors to improve access to services and the re-establishment of civil authority in return areas, to ensure availability and access to durable solutions for refugees and IDPs. Within the framework of the GCR, UNHCR will strive to make sure a significant proportion of assistance to forcibly displaced and stateless people is delivered by, or in collaboration with, the Government. UNHCR will provide support to Government plans where feasible, in line with the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO).

With regards to civil documentation interventions (birth certificates, indigenous certificates, ID), coordination will be enhanced with UNICEF and Government partners National Population Commission (NPC) and National Identity Management Commission (NIMC) to reduce risks of statelessness. UNHCR will also make efforts to improve coordination with the State Judicial Officers and academia on access detainees for the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Increased coordination with the Government on return processes will ensure the sustainability of durable solutions. Robust advocacy implementation of other durable solutions, such as resettlement and local integration in safer areas, will reduce the risk and vulnerabilities faced by forcibly displaced and stateless people.

Building on the review of existing interventions, ways of working, and global and regional UNHCR livelihoods and economic inclusion (LEI) strategies, the approach for LEI in Nigeria will be drastically shifted to rely on the Government available

opportunities, partnerships with the private sector and development actors to create sustainable job opportunities for the displaced populations.

UNHCR will pursue its 2022-2025 multi-year health strategy, which aligns with UNHCR's Global Public Health Strategy 2021-2025 and national plans.

UNHCR will continue to strengthen engagement with Government, national actors and UN agencies to include forcibly displaced persons in ongoing programmes and activities across all sectors, including education, WASH, health and social safety nets.

1.4 Fair Access and Representation

UNHCR will mainstream the age, gender and diversity (AGD) approach in all sectors and interventions and target various age groups for the meaningful participation of affected populations, inclusive programming, and a comprehensive response. UNHCR will strengthen its engagement, communication and accountability frameworks with refugees, IDPs, returnees, host communities and the Government. Vulnerability screening of forcibly displaced and stateless populations will allow for better prioritization, including to benefit women heading households or those with specific needs.

Participatory assessment exercises remain a critical component of UNHCR's AGD and community-based protection approaches, which will be implemented in all locations to ensure the inclusion of under-represented groups such as women and girls, children, adolescents, the elderly and people with specific needs such as those living with disabilities.

Counselling of populations will be improved and extended to forcibly displaced people in out-of-settlement settings to ensure that no group of refugees or IDPs is excluded. In the North East, UNHCR will collaborate with partners working on camp coordination and camp management to reach IDPs, returnees (IDP and refugee returnees) and host communities in camps and urban locations across Borno, Adamawa, and Yobe States. It is expected that mechanisms such as complaint boxes, toll-free lines, protection desks and other strategies will be in place as avenues for two-way communication with persons of concern. Additionally, community ownership and Accountability to Affected People (AAP) will be improved by involving forcibly displaced and stateless people in the development and implementation of programmes, and by systematically using information received from them in participatory assessments and through other means.

UNHCR will continue to ensure improved communication and feedback with forcibly displaced and stateless people through annual participatory assessments mainstreamed into programming by partners and UNHCR. In the 2023-2025 strategy, Connect with Communities activities will be prioritized to ensure that refugees receive

the right information in a timely manner, to preserve their protection, access to services, well-being, and to prevent fraud and protection risks. Participation of forcibly displaced population will be at the centre of decision-making, by engaging all groups within the refugee population disaggregated by age, gender and other under-represented groups. In 2021, UNHCR introduced Town Hall meetings with Cameroonian refugees, and this best practice will be replicated for forcibly displaced and stateless people in all locations by 2025.

UNHCR will progressively expand partnerships with stakeholders that support gender-based violence prevention and response and child protection. The quality of prevention and response interventions will be improved by widening the network of relevant actors involved in Best Interest procedures, which aim at supporting UNHCR and partner staff in improving the protection outcomes for refugee children. The Government is a recognized key stakeholder in ensuring that child protection is mainstreamed in national structures and systems. To facilitate this, UNHCR will strengthen engagement with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development to support assessments and actions aimed at ensuring the best interests of both refugee and host community children at the level of the local government. UNHCR will actively introduce interventions to combat the incidence of child trafficking and other forms of trafficking or exploitation of forcibly displaced and stateless people. In 2021-2022, the refugee and IDP protection response in collaboration with partners was expanded to include activities to prevent trafficking of persons, with particular attention to women and children. This has required a closer partnership with the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) and an alignment of multiyear plans with the National Action Plan on Human Trafficking in Nigeria (2022-2026).

In collaboration with protection partners, UNHCR will strengthen the capacity of gender-based violence prevention and response and child protection stakeholders by rolling out relevant trainings with a focus on data and case management. UNHCR drafted Standard Operating Procedures for Best Interest Procedures to guide partners and all stakeholders to effectively address challenges facing unaccompanied or separated minors, and cases of abuse, abandonment or neglect.

UNHCR's multi-year strategy will improve accountability to affected persons. As a key priority, the needs of persons living with disabilities will be reflected in the interventions across all sectors, WASH, shelter, health, education, livelihoods and community participation.

Findings from participatory assessments revealed that facilities such as toilets, water points, health care centres, school infrastructure and access to other basic services needed to be constructed with rails and ramps to support access by persons living with disabilities. As UNHCR shifts to providing more targeted support, persons living with disabilities, persons with specific needs such as female-headed households and older persons will remain prioritized groups for targeted support interventions, including

distribution of core relief items, cash-based interventions (for food security) and livelihood interventions.

The comprehensive verification exercise, which commenced in the second half of 2022 and ended in October 2023, gathered socio-economic data that will facilitate targeted self-reliance interventions as a key priority.

2. Impact Statements

Impact statement

1. By 2025, affected populations enjoy a favourable protection environment and access to basic human rights.

Impact area: Attaining favourable protection environments

Outcome statements

1.1. *By 2025, the efficiency and quality of status determination processes is improved.*

Outcome area: Refugee status determination

1.2. *By 2025, access to legal assistance and legal remedies is improved*

Outcome area: Safety and access to justice

1.3. *By 2025, quality of data of forcibly displaced people is improved.*

Outcome area: Access to territory, registration and documentation

1.4. *By 2025 access to territory and individual registration is improved*

Outcome area: Access to territory, registration and documentation

1.5. *By 2025, forcibly displaced people have better access to justice and freedom from arbitrary arrests.*

Outcome area: Safety and access to justice

1.6. *By 2025, best interest determination processes and community-based child protection structures are improved and effective in line with national standards.*

Outcome area: Child protection

1.7. *By 2025, use of resettlement as a protection tool is strengthened.*

Outcome area: Resettlement and complementary pathways

1.8. *By 2025, institutions are able to issue civil documentation to forcibly displaced people.*

Outcome area: Access to territory, registration and documentation

1.9. By 2025, policy framework is improved to enable better access to protection services

Outcome area: Protection policy and law

1.10. By 2025, implementation of the National Action Plan for eradication of statelessness is improved.

Outcome area: Protection policy and law

1.11. By 2025, UNHCR engagement in mixed movements is strengthened.

Outcome area: Well-being and basic needs

Impact statement

2. By 2025, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and returnees receive improved services and have improved quality of life

Impact area: Realizing rights in safe environments

Outcome statements

2.9. By 2025, UNHCR supply chain and operational support is timely and effective

Outcome area: Operational support and supply chain

2.1. By 2025, access to primary and secondary national education systems is improved.

Outcome area: Education

2.2. By 2025, refugees have improved access to health services.

Outcome area: Healthy lives

2.3. By 2025, refugees to UNHCR enjoy minimum standards of nutrition

Outcome area: Healthy lives

2.4. By 2025, refugees to UNHCR have access to improved WASH services.

Outcome area: Clean water, sanitation and hygiene

2.5. By 2025, food security status of forcibly displaced people is improved.

Outcome area: Well-being and basic needs

2.6. By 2025, forcibly displaced people have improved living conditions.

Outcome area: Well-being and basic needs

2.7. By 2025, forcibly displaced people can access habitable and affordable housing.

Outcome area: Sustainable housing and settlements

2.8. By 2025, resources are mobilized in line with needs and response priorities and results are appropriately communicated

Outcome area: Local integration and other local solutions

Impact statement

3. By 2025, affected populations have improved capacity and livelihoods to achieve self-reliance.

Impact area: Empowering communities and achieving gender equality

Outcome statements

3.1. By 2025, gender-based violence response services are available and accessible to forcibly displaced people, and follow clear standard operating procedures.

Outcome area: Gender-based violence

3.2. By 2025, number of gender community structures is increased and their capacity improved

Outcome area: Community engagement and women's empowerment

3.3. By 2025, socioeconomic situation of forcibly displaced people is improved.

Outcome area: Self-reliance, economic inclusion and livelihoods

Impact statement

4. By 2025, refugees, asylum seekers, internally displaced persons and returnees have better access to comprehensive durable solutions.

Impact area: Securing solutions

Outcome statements

4.1. By 2025, conditions in areas of origin allow for return in safety and dignity and UNHCR is supporting an increasing number of internally displaced people and refugees opting for voluntary return.

Outcome area: Voluntary repatriation and sustainable reintegration

4.2. By 2025, systems for coordination, leadership and governance are improved.

Outcome area: Well-being and basic needs

4.3. By 2025, systems for coordination, leadership and governance are improved.

Outcome area: Well-being and basic needs

4.4. By 2025, Forcibly displaced people to UNHCR are integrated in the national social protection system.

Outcome area: Local integration and other local solutions

4.5. By 2025, implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees framework is improved

Outcome area: Local integration and other local solutions

3. Nigeria 2025 Indicators and Targets

Country	Results Level	Result Area	Indicator	Population Type	Baseline	Target 2025
Nigeria	Impact	IA1: Protect	1.1 Proportion of people seeking international protection who are able to access asylum procedures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA1: Protect	1.2 Proportion of people who are able to move freely within the country of habitual residence	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	86%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA2: Respond	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	IDPs	60%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA2: Respond	2.2 Proportion of people residing in physically safe and secure settlements with access to basic facilities	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA2: Respond	2.3 Proportion of people with access to health services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	51%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA3: Empower	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	IDPs	42%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA3: Empower	3.1 Proportion of people who have the right to decent work	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA3: Empower	3.2a Proportion of children and young people enrolled in primary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	36%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA3: Empower	3.2b Proportion of children and young people enrolled in secondary education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41%	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA3: Empower	3.3 Proportion of people feeling safe walking alone in their	Refugees and	18%	Not applicable

			neighbourhood after dark	Asylum-seekers		
Nigeria	Impact	IA4: Solve	4.1 Number of refugees who voluntarily return in safety and dignity to their country of origin	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	20	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA4: Solve	4.2a Number of people who departed on resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	0	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA4: Solve	4.2b Number of people who departed through complementary pathways	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	5	Not applicable
Nigeria	Impact	IA4: Solve	4.3b Number of refugees for whom residency status is granted or confirmed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	63,198	Not applicable
Nigeria	Outcome	OA1: Access/Doc	1.1 Proportion of refugees and asylum seekers registered on an individual basis	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33%	100%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA1: Access/Doc	1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	IDPs	24%	25%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA1: Access/Doc	1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	30%	70%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA1: Access/Doc	1.2 Proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority	Returnees	43%	To be confirmed
Nigeria	Outcome	OA1: Access/Doc	1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	IDPs	48%	62%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA1: Access/Doc	1.3 Proportion of people with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100%	100%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA1:	1.3 Proportion of people with	Stateless	To be	50%

		Access/Doc	legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Persons	confirmed	
Nigeria	Outcome	OA2: Status	2.1 Average processing time (in days) from registration to first instance asylum decision	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	120	90
Nigeria	Outcome	OA2: Status	2.2 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100%	100%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA2: Status	2.3 Proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100%	100%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA3: Policy/Law	3.1 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol	None	Broadly aligned: ≥90 points	Broadly aligned: ≥90 points
Nigeria	Outcome	OA3: Policy/Law	3.2 Extent national legal framework is in line with the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness	None	Broadly aligned: ≥90 points	Broadly aligned: ≥90 points
Nigeria	Outcome	OA4: GBV	4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	IDPs	8%	6%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA4: GBV	4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54%	35%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA4: GBV	4.1 Proportion of people who know where to access available GBV services	Returnees	To be confirmed	15%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA4: GBV	4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	IDPs	8%	6%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA4: GBV	4.2 Proportion of people who do not accept violence against women	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	77%	30%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA4: GBV	4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case	IDPs	67%	100%

			management services			
Nigeria	Outcome	OA4: GBV	4.3 Proportion of survivors who are satisfied with GBV case management services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	75%	100%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA5: Children	5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	IDPs	83%	5%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA5: Children	5.1 Proportion of children at heightened risk who are supported by a Best Interests Procedure	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	11%	35%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA5: Children	5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	IDPs	83%	45%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA5: Children	5.2 Proportion of children who participate in community-based child protection programmes	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	24%	45%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA5: Children	5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	IDPs	40%	65%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA5: Children	5.3 Proportion of unaccompanied and separated children who are in an alternative care arrangement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	9%	60%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	IDPs	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	To be confirmed
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	To be confirmed
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.1 Extent participation of displaced and stateless people across programme phases is supported.	Returnees	Extensive: ≥ 70 points	To be confirmed
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback	IDPs	33%	80%

			and response mechanisms			
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	85%	60%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.2 Proportion of people who have access to safe feedback and response mechanisms	Returnees	To be confirmed	15%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	IDPs	43%	50%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	41%	50%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA7: Community	7.3 Proportion of women participating in leadership/management structures	Returnees	40%	50%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA8: Well-being	8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	IDPs	12%	65%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA8: Well-being	8.1 Proportion of people that receive cash transfers and/or non-food items	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	37%	60%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA8: Well-being	8.2 Proportion of people with primary reliance on clean (cooking) fuels and technology	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33%	48%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA9: Housing	9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	IDPs	64%	67%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA9: Housing	9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	54%	48%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA9: Housing	9.1 Proportion of people living in habitable and affordable housing	Returnees	100%	To be confirmed

Nigeria	Outcome	OA9: Housing	9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	IDPs	4%	10%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA9: Housing	9.2 Proportion of people that have energy to ensure lighting	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33%	40%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA10: Health	10.1 Proportion of children aged 9 months to five years who have received measles vaccination	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	47%	95%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA10: Health	10.2. Proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	100%	100%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA11: Education	11.1 Proportion of young people enrolled in tertiary and higher education	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	2%	2%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA11: Education	11.2 Proportion of children and young people enrolled in the national education system	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	45%	39%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA12: WASH	12.1 Proportion of people using at least basic drinking water services	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	70%	48%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA12: WASH	12.2 Proportion of people with access to a safe household toilet	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	62%	48%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA13: Livelihood	13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	IDPs	0%	20%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA13: Livelihood	13.1. Proportion of people with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	28%	60%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA13: Livelihood	13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	IDPs	1%	10%

Nigeria	Outcome	OA13: Livelihood	13.2. Proportion of people who self-report positive changes in their income compared to previous year	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	80%	10%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA13: Livelihood	13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	IDPs	92%	86%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA13: Livelihood	13.3 Proportion of people (working age) who are unemployed	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	25%	70%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA14: Return	14.1 Proportion of returnees with legally recognized identity documents or credentials	Returnees	0%	70%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA15: Resettle	15.1 Number of refugees submitted by UNHCR for resettlement	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	89	To be confirmed
Nigeria	Outcome	OA16: Integrate	16.1 Proportion of people with secure tenure rights to housing and/or land	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	33%	48%
Nigeria	Outcome	OA16: Integrate	16.2 Proportion of people covered by national social protection systems	Refugees and Asylum-seekers	To be confirmed	10%