

## 3.8.2. Refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs

### 3.8.2. Refugees, asylum seekers and IDPs

UNHCR indicated that by the end of 2024, Nigeria hosted over 127 000 refugees and asylum-seekers from 41 countries, with 19 % in settlements and 81 % in host communities, along with 3.5 million IDPs.[1233](#) According to UNHCR, the country maintained strong protection standards for refugees, offering access to jobs, education, healthcare, and social services; some states integrated refugees into social registers and development plans and allocated land for agricultural activities to promote economic inclusion.[1234](#) The same source indicated that refugees in Nigeria enjoy various rights, such as access to education for refugee children, freedom of movement and the right to live and work, although they occasionally face challenges like employment discrimination.[1235](#) 48.41 % of refugees and asylum seekers were employed at the end of 2024.[1236](#)

UNHCR indicated that Nigeria has not incorporated into domestic law the Kampala Convention,[1237](#) a regional instrument for the protection of IDPs.[1238](#) However, Nigeria has an IDP policy, which is aligned with the Kampala Convention, to assist IDPs.[1239](#) The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), a website of information and analysis on food insecurity created by the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the US Department of State, indicated that in the Northwest and Central states, most IDPs lived in makeshift camps and worked mostly in menial jobs to earn a limited income; others resorted to begging, prostitution and foraging.[1240](#) According to FEWS Net, in the North-East, the purchasing power among displaced households has plummeted due to increasing staple food prices and high reliance on market purchases.[1241](#) At the same time, growing competition for income-generating opportunities is pushing more households into urban areas, where they continue to face significant consumption gaps.[1242](#) Some households engage in limited agricultural labour to earn limited income and increase food access.[1243](#)

In 2024, Boko Haram activity in the border between Nigeria and Cameroon led to the displacement into Adawama state of over 27 000 asylum-seekers; Nigerian authorities granted a three-year Temporary Protection Status (TPS) to over 10 000 claimants, and a two-year TPS to over 4 000 claimants.[1244](#)

UNHCR indicated that in Benue and other southern states, the limited presence of UN agencies and humanitarian actors hindered protection delivery to Cameroonian refugees and IDPs as access remained difficult due to insecurity, poor roads, mountainous terrains, and limited resources, worsened by floods. Additionally, economic inflation in 2024 reduced purchasing power and affected project delivery. The same source indicated that the proportion of people that received cash transfers and/or non-food items in 2024 was 35.71 % among IDPs and 47.84 % among refugees and asylum seekers.[1245](#) Additionally, 69 443 IDPs and 55 855 refugees and asylum seekers received cash assistance, an overall increase of 85 % from 2023 (from 34 000 people in 2023 to over 63 000 in 2024). Around 58 700 IDPs and 32 500 refugees and asylum seekers received non-food items.[1246](#) UNHCR indicated that the proportion in 2024 of people with a bank account among IDPs was 0.42 % and refugees and asylum seekers, 29.22 %.[1247](#)

UNHCR indicated that in 2024 the proportion of children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority was 29.7 % for IDPs and 40.23 % for refugees and asylum seekers, and that the proportion of people with legally recognised identity documents or credentials was 51.78 % for IDPs and

46.01 % for refugees and asylum seekers.<sup>1248</sup> About 94 % of returnees in 2024 had legally recognised identity documents.<sup>1249</sup> As of December 2024, the government issued around 126 000 civil status documents in the North-East, including 52 000 birth certificates, 37 000 national identity cards, as well as marriage, divorce, and death certificates.<sup>1250</sup> In the South-South region, around 1 950 refugees were enrolled in state social registers, granting them access to services such as the Nigerian Identification Number (NIN) and bank accounts.<sup>1251</sup> In Benue state, over 39 000 IDPs were assisted with civil registration status; however, only about 13 000 certificates could be issued due to technical issues with digital registration.<sup>1252</sup> UNHCR indicated that the proportion of refugees and asylum seekers undergoing asylum procedures who have access to legal representation was 84.18 %.<sup>1253</sup> The same source noted, however, that the proportion of people undergoing asylum procedures who have access to an effective appeal mechanism after first instance rejection of their claim was 0.3 %.<sup>1254</sup>

[1233](#)

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 4

[1234](#)

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 4

[1235](#)

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 12

[1236](#)

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 6

[1237](#)

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 12

[1238](#)

African Union, Kampala Convention: African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internationally Displaced Persons in Africa, 2012, [url](#), Art. III

[1239](#)

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 13

[1240](#)

FEWS NET, Nigeria - Food Security Outlook, June 2025 – January 2025, 9 July 2024, [url](#), p. 8

[1241](#)

FEWS NET, Nigeria - Food Security Outlook, June 2025 – January 2025, 9 July 2024, [url](#), p. 11

1242

FEWS NET, Nigeria - Food Security Outlook, June 2025 – January 2025, 9 July 2024, [url](#), p. 11

1243

FEWS NET, Nigeria - Food Security Outlook, June 2025 – January 2025, 9 July 2024, [url](#), pp. 11-12

1244

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 11

1245

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 18

1246

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), pp. 18-19

1247

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 24

1248

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 10

1249

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 25

1250

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 10

1251

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 11

1252

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 11

1253

UNHCR, Annual Results Report 2024: Nigeria, 29 May 2025, [url](#), p. 11

1254

