



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Targeted training for frontline border officials

Border officials from 3 key regions were trained in access to asylum and core international protection principles in preparation for the upcoming elections in neighbouring countries.

### Ministerial Committee on Buduburam land inaugurated

The Ministry of Interior inaugurated a six-member committee to investigate and make recommendations to resolve land dispute issues at Buduburam refugee camp.

### More residence permits issued for Liberian refugees who opted for LI

The Ghana Immigration Service issued another batch of residence permits for Liberians locally integrating in Ghana.

### WFP and UNHCR Reps on visit to Ivorian camps

UNHCR and WFP Representatives have paid a joint visit to the Ivorian camps to assess the situation on the ground as we move towards the September 2015 deadline for discontinuation of general food assistance to Ivorian refugees in camps

## Population of concern

A total of **21,088** people of concern

### By country of origin

Ghana	Total PoC
Liberia	5,262
Cote d'Ivoire	11,262
Togo	3,212
Others	1,352
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,088</b>

## Funding

**USD 11,135,473million** requested

**0%** funded

## UNHCR Presence

### Staffing:

**39** national staff

**03** international staff; **03** UNV

### Offices:

**01** Branch Office at Accra

**02** Field Offices at Takoradi and Sunyani



## WORKING WITH PARTNERS

UNHCR works with the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of Interior, the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), Ghana Immigration Services (GIS) and other relevant government Departments and Ministries in ensuring asylum seekers and refugees have full access to international protection and enjoy access to basic services. UNHCR Ghana also works with partners including the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), the National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) and the Adventist Relief and Development Services (ADRA). Operational support is provided in partnership with the WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, IOM and UNAIDS.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

### Durable Solutions

- Issuance of residence permit by GIS for Liberian refugees:** The Ghana Immigration Service has issued another batch of 332 passports endorsed with residence permits for some Liberian refugees locally integrating in Ghana. The passports will be distributed by GRB and UNHCR shortly. Issuance of the residence permit and work permits for adults is in line with the local integration strategy agreed with the Government of Ghana for refugees who opt to locally integrate in the country. The additional 332 passports completed, will greatly facilitate clearance of the backlog of Liberian refugees waiting to receive the documentation so as to complete the legal process of their local integration. **3, 750 Liberian refugees opted to locally integrate in Ghana and have been going through the local integration process since 2013. 1, 419 residence permits and passports issued so far, it is anticipated that the process will be completed by the end of 2015.**
- Resettlement Interviews:** Resettlement caseworkers were in the field to conduct resettlement interviews for identified refugees of various nationalities. In Ghana, resettlement is predominantly used as protection tool to find an adequate durable solution for refugees with heightened protection needs.

### Protection

- Training of Border Officials:** In an effort to ensure preparedness of border officials in view of the upcoming elections in neighboring countries, UNHCR in collaboration with the Ghana Refugee Board organized a one day training session in the Volta Region for frontline border officials. Similar training is envisaged in the Western and Brong Ahafo regions in the coming months
- Ministerial Committee on Buduburam:** A six-member Inter-Ministerial Verification Committee was recently inaugurated by the Ministry of Interior to investigate and make recommendations on resolving disputes with regards to the land hosting the Buduburam Refugee camp (Settlement). The Committee held its inaugural meeting with various stakeholders on 15th April. The Committee is chaired by Chairman of the Ghana Refugee Board, with members of the Committee drawn from the Interior Ministry, the Ghana Refugee Board, Attorney General's Department, Lands Commission, National Disaster Management Organization and the Gomoa East Assembly. Participants at the inaugural meeting included, the UNHCR representative, representatives of families or stools laying claim to the lands, Liberian refugee representatives and the media. Surveyors were tasked with to the responsibility of demarcating portions of the land which holds state properties. The Committee will hear from various stakeholders and recommendations will be made to government. Resolution of the land dispute issue is a key step in the closure and final hand over of Buduburam to the government.
- Voluntary repatriation resumed for Ivoirian refugees:** Voluntary repatriation has resumed for Ivoirian refugees, with 12 Ivoirian refugees from Ghana returning to Cote d'Ivoire in April 2015 facilitated by UNHCR. Voluntary returns were suspended in August 2014 as a result of the Ebola outbreak and its resultant travel restrictions. UNHCR will continue to facilitate the return to Cote d'Ivoire for refugees who express the interest to repatriate

### Community Empowerment and Self-reliance

- Monitoring of Julia Taft projects:** An official from the US Embassy in Accra, Ms. Zainabu Williams, was on mission to the Egyekrom camp to monitor and evaluate the level of implementation of projects being undertaken by UNHCR Partner, AGREDS with funding from Julia Taft Foundation. She visited the three (3) project sites (Poultry, Cassava Processing, and Agriculture) and expressed satisfaction with implementation of activities thus far.

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