

Ghana

Working environment

The context

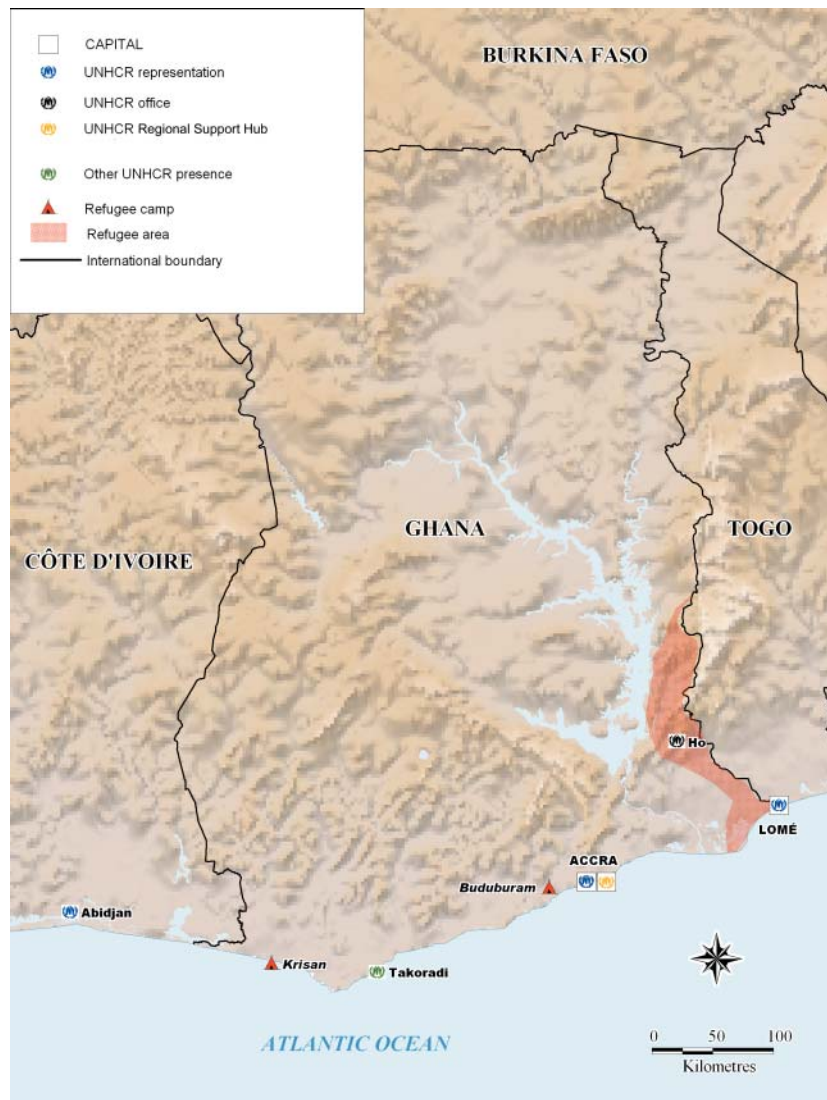
Ghana is a signatory to all key international human rights and refugee protection instruments, and enacted its own refugee legislation in 1992. It conducted free and fair elections in 2004, and stands out as a stable democracy in a volatile region.

Despite a rise in urban crime and local power struggles in some regions, UNHCR continues to enjoy a generally favourable working environment in Ghana. The country is host to a large population of Liberian refugees in Buduburam camp near Accra, Togolese refugees living in the local communities of the Volta Region, and refugees of various nationalities (Sudanese, Liberian, Togolese, Sierra Leonean, Ivorian or Rwandan) in Krisan camp in the western region. The urban population of refugees and asylum-seekers is dispersed in and around the two largest cities, Accra and Kumasi.

The needs

With the land route through Cote d'Ivoire inaccessible for security reasons, the pace of repatriation convoys to Liberia by air and sea will have to be accelerated if organized returns are to be phased out by the end of June 2007 as planned. The information campaign for the promotion of voluntary repatriation needs to be intensified. Those Liberians unable or unwilling to return require assistance for local integration. The Ghanaian Government has indicated it may consider local integration when the number of Liberian refugees is significantly reduced.

A Joint UNHCR-WFP assessment mission to Buduburam camp in July 2006 recommended that food aid and subsidized services such as education and health care be phased out. It suggested that the handover of infrastructure to the authorities begin and humanitarian operations be refocused towards self-reliance. In addition, a verification exercise conducted by UNHCR and its partners in June 2006 found that half the



Togolese refugees who arrived in Ghana in May 2005 have repatriated spontaneously. This exercise also confirmed that progressively reducing dependence on direct assistance while bolstering self-reliance is the best strategy to guarantee peaceful coexistence with host communities.

Total requirements: USD 9,642,754

Main objectives

- Continue the repatriation of Liberian refugees and complete the return programme by the end of June 2007.
- Progressively hand over the Buduburam camp's infrastructure and services to the Ghanaian authorities, while promoting local integration for those Liberian refugees unable to return.

- Continue self-reliance projects and local integration for Togolese refugees in the Volta Region and help them repatriate on a voluntary basis when conditions improve in the country of origin.
- Find durable solutions for the refugees of various nationalities in Krisan camp.
- Help the Government maintain a positive protection environment.

Key targets for 2007

- 15,000 Liberian refugees are assisted to return to their country.
- 100 per cent of Liberian refugees unable or unwilling to return are assisted to integrate locally and gain access to projects and services to foster their self-reliance.
- 100 per cent of targeted vulnerable Togolese refugees receive food assistance.
- All Togolese refugees approaching UNHCR for help with their return make informed decisions and receive adequate support.
- A durable solution is found for 1,000 refugees in Krisan, allowing closure of the camp by the end of 2007.
- The Ghana Refugee Board gains the capacity to conduct refugee status determination (RSD) independently and the backlog of asylum claims is reduced by 60 per cent.

Strategy and activities

Within the framework of the tripartite agreement between Ghana, Liberia and UNHCR, the organized repatriation of Liberian refugees will continue till the end of June 2007 and all Liberian refugees in Ghana will be informed accordingly. The Office will promote local integration for those Liberian refugees unable or unwilling to return.

The prevention of, and response to, sexual and gender-based violence is a priority. Whether in refugee camps or in urban or host-community settings, it will be dealt with through active monitoring and inter-agency coordination. Refugee participation and gender-balanced committees will be promoted and supported in all areas.

UNHCR will continue to build the capacity of the Ghana Refugee Board in RSD and protection.

Refugees from Liberia in Buduburam camp

These refugees will be given information on conditions back home to help them make free and informed decisions on return. Food aid will be phased out by the end of June and subsidized services such as health care and education retained for vulnerable refugees only. However, counselling and psychosocial support for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence will continue, and all women of childbearing age will receive sanitary materials. HIV/AIDS advocacy groups will distribute condoms to refugees and run awareness programmes in schools and other venues. Cleaning the camp and disposing of its garbage are difficult activities that UNHCR will continue to support.

Refugees from Togo in the Volta Region

Small water and sanitation projects will be started to relieve pressure on basic community services in the Volta Region. The self-reliance and local integration of refugees will be pursued through assistance for agriculture, small businesses, fisheries, etc. Refugees will be assured access to health facilities and education. Spontaneous returns to Togo will be closely monitored, while a tripartite agreement for repatriation will be pursued with Togo and Ghana.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2007		Dec 2007	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Liberia	38,680	38,680	26,180	26,180
	Togo	14,140	14,140	10,140	10,140
	Various	720	640	1,190	1,140
Asylum-seekers	Togo	2,550	2,550	2,000	2,000
	Liberia	1,050	1,050	1,050	1,050
	Sierra Leone	340	40	300	20
	Various	950	950	1,200	1,200
Total		58,430	58,050	42,060	41,730



As insecurity in Côte d'Ivoire has rendered land travel through the country inaccessible, UNHCR repatriates Liberian refugees by sea and air from Ghana. *UNHCR / N. Jehu-Nohah.*

Refugees of various nationalities in Krisan camp

UNHCR will make strategic use of the three durable solutions of repatriation, resettlement and local integration for the various groups in Krisan, with a view to closing the camp at year's end. Meanwhile, a standard food basket and non-food items such as charcoal and kerosene will be supplied on a monthly basis to registered refugees to sustain basic living standards. The camp's primary and junior secondary schools will be supplied with books and teaching materials. Community-based solutions will be promoted through workshops on sexual and gender-based violence, crisis response and peace education. All women of childbearing age will receive sanitary materials.

Urban refugees in Accra and Kumasi

Refugees in need of medical treatment will be referred to government hospitals or polyclinics. Vulnerable refugees will receive basic material assistance such as blankets and cooking utensils. A national NGO will provide urban refugees and asylum-seekers with counselling, legal aid and community services, as well as training to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. Financial aid will be granted to 40 students enrolled in secretarial courses or studying electrical and mechanical engineering, marketing and languages.

Constraints

The majority of Liberian refugees in Ghana continue to be reluctant to return to their country. This can be attributed to their protracted stay and relatively stable life in Buduburam and, to some extent, their distorted or excessively negative perceptions of the situation in Liberia. Also, many Liberian refugees still have high expectations of being resettled in a third country despite the official closure of major resettlement programmes, in particular to the United States. Refugees in Krisan too are loathe to consider durable solutions other than resettlement. Both groups will challenge UNHCR efforts to promote voluntary repatriation or local integration in Ghana.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence	Ghana	Regional Support Hub
Number of offices	3	1
Total staff	40	34
International	5	17
National	30	14
UNVs	4	-
JPOs	-	3
Deployees	1	-

Coordination

UNHCR will be working closely with the Ghana Refugee Board and with international and national implementing partners. The voluntary repatriation of Liberians will continue in partnership with IOM. Mechanisms have been put in place to pool UN resources in the event of any new influx of refugees from neighbouring countries. OCHA will oversee regional contingency planning and emergency-response mechanisms in which UNHCR is a key partner at the country and regional level.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Ghana Health Services, Ghana Refugee Board, Ministry of the Interior, National Disaster Management Organization.

NGOs: Assemblies of God Relief and Development Service, Christian Council of Ghana, National Catholic Secretariat, Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment.

Others: Ghana Red Cross Society, IOM.

Operational partners

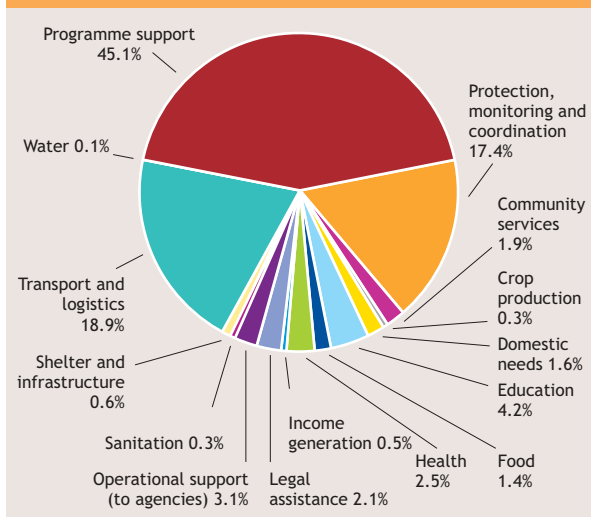
Others: UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP.

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget ¹	
	2006	2007
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,487,787	2,622,369
Community services	158,601	176,261
Crop production	25,000	49,918
Domestic needs	138,633	95,982
Education	358,145	216,548
Fisheries	0	46,350
Food	116,934	134,572
Health	213,353	261,793
Income generation	42,035	21,596
Legal assistance	175,042	144,217
Operational support (to agencies)	267,174	308,260
Sanitation	29,846	106,065
Shelter and infrastructure	50,105	75,842
Transport and logistics	1,613,427	1,737,244
Water	7,794	29,173
Total operations	4,683,876	6,026,189
Programme support	3,847,469	3,616,565
Total	8,531,345	9,642,754

¹ The budget includes costs for the Regional Support Hub in Accra

2006 Annual Programme Budget by sector



2007 Annual Programme Budget by sector

