

# Ghana

## Operational highlights

- UNHCR protected and assisted 50,400 refugees and asylum-seekers in the country.
- Approximately 2,000 Liberian refugees repatriated voluntarily with UNHCR's assistance.
- More than 1,000 refugees, mainly Liberians, were resettled in third countries.
- Women's participation in committees improved throughout the country, with at least 50 per cent of food distribution committee members made up of women.
- Girls' attendance in refugee schools reached 50 per cent.

## Working environment

The Republic of Ghana stands out as an active democracy in a volatile region. Despite urban crime and local power struggles in some parts of the country, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies enjoy a favourable working environment. Refugees are free to move about and are protected under national refugee legislation. At the end of 2006, the total population of concern to UNHCR in Ghana stood at 50,700 refugees and asylum-seekers. This includes a large group of Liberians at Buduburam refugee camp near Accra; Togolese refugees in towns and villages in the Volta area; and refugees of various nationalities at Krisan camp in the western region. Urban refugees and asylum-seekers are mainly dispersed in and around Accra, although smaller numbers are also present in Kumasi, the second-largest city in the country.



refugees and asylum-seekers; and stabilize the emergency operation set up to respond to the influx of Togolese refugees to the Volta region in 2005. The Office also sought to safeguard the rights of refugees and other persons of concern through advocacy and related initiatives and to improve UNHCR's emergency preparedness and response capacity as part of joint UN-Government of Ghana contingency plans.

## Protection and solutions

In spite of an intensified mass-information campaign, including "go-and-see" and "come-and-tell" visits to and from Liberia, refugees showed little interest in returning home. Meanwhile, a joint assessment mission with WFP in Buduburam refugee camp recommended a progressive phase out of food assistance and subsidized services such as education and health, and a gradual handover of infrastructure to the national authorities.

## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives

In 2006, UNHCR aimed to support the Government to maintain a positive international protection regime; promote the repatriation of Liberian refugees; ensure international protection and humanitarian assistance to

Participatory assessments in each refugee location provided accurate figures and helped establish the profile of those with special protection needs. A verification exercise in April and May 2006 found that approximately 50 per cent of the registered Togolese refugees could no longer be accounted for, leading to the assumption that they may have repatriated spontaneously. Although the drafting of a tripartite agreement on voluntary repatriation to Togo was initiated, it was not signed in 2006.

In Accra, UNHCR provided legal support and limited assistance to urban refugees and asylum-seekers through such means as a transit house and partial payments for medical care.

The backlog of 6,000 asylum applications with the Ghana Refugee Board was not cleared despite UNHCR's efforts to train government officials dealing with refugee status determination. The majority of Sudanese refugees residing in Krisan were granted refugee status by the Ghana Refugee Board in 2005 but no individual decision letters were issued to them.

## Activities and assistance

**Community services:** Counselling and psychological treatment were provided to some 1,700 people (75 per cent female) in Buduburam. Sanitary towels were regularly distributed to all refugee women of reproductive age. In Krisan settlement, efforts were made to increase the percentage of women in the community welfare council to 50 per cent from the current 35 per cent.

**Crop production:** In the Volta region, UNHCR sponsored crop production projects for more than 600 refugee households.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Liberian refugees with special needs in Buduburam camp, Togolese refugees, urban refugees and asylum-seekers

received non-food items on a case-by-case basis to sustain basic living standards. In Krisan, charcoal and kerosene were distributed monthly.

**Education:** At the end of 2006, there were about 10,000 children in school in Buduburam camp, with girls making up half of that number. The Liberian refugee community managed and maintained 50 primary and secondary schools in Buduburam camp with limited UNHCR support. Children in Krisan received free education at the camp's primary school. More than 1,700 Togolese children were enrolled in 40 primary schools in villages in the Volta region and were well integrated into the Ghanaian school system. As in 2005, UNHCR provided textbooks and uniforms.

**Food:** WFP provided food for some 10,000 refugees with special needs in Buduburam camp. In Krisan, UNHCR distributed food to 1,700 refugees throughout the year. In the Volta region, a UNHCR-WFP joint assessment mission recommended a targeted food distribution system, through which 3,000 of the most vulnerable Togolese refugees received a standard ration from WFP. Other refugees received a reduced ration from July 2006 until January 2007. The participation of refugee women in the food distribution process ranged from below 50 per cent in the Volta region to 50 per cent and 63 per cent in Krisan and Buduburam camp, respectively.

**Health and nutrition:** Malnourished children received free health care, nutritional support and follow-up care through the weekly supplementary feeding programme. UNHCR distributed a large number of mosquito nets and, with assistance from the Government, camp clinics began implementing the new malaria protocol. Refugees in Ghana had access to counselling, testing and antiretroviral treatment in all public hospitals. An inter-agency effort permitted the provision of close to one million condoms to refugees. In the Volta region, arrangements were made with the Ghana Health Service to ensure that refugees had access to public health services. Refugees also benefited from mobile medical services which operated in remote villages.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	35,700	35,700	51	35
	Togo	8,500	8,500	53	48
	Sudan	600	600	14	13
Asylum-seekers	Togo	3,700	3,700	38	33
	Liberia	1,100	1,100	48	77
	Sierra Leone	300	300	45	31
	Côte d'Ivoire	300	300	34	20
	Various	200	200	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>50,400</b>	<b>50,400</b>		

**Income generation:** A pilot cassava processing and sewing project was started to the benefit of 25 refugee women. WFP and UNHCR jointly established a pilot fish smoking project in the southern part of the Volta region.

**Legal assistance:** With UNHCR's technical support, the Ghana Refugee Board, in collaboration with the Ghana Immigration Service, registered new asylum-seekers and the births of refugee children, and issued work permits and Convention travel documents to some refugees. All verified Togolese refugees were given individual tokens in preparation for the provision of regular refugee identity cards or attestations. The Office organized training on refugee law for various institutions, NGOs and civil society groups.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR covered various operational, management and staffing costs of its implementing partners.

**Sanitation:** In Buduburam camp, waste disposal tractors and trailers provided by UNHCR facilitated the clearing of solid waste from the camp on daily basis.

**Shelter and infrastructure:** In Buduburam camp, UNHCR contributed to the repair of the houses of more than 300 vulnerable families by providing them with basic shelter material. Shelters left vacant by departing refugees were reallocated to refugees with special needs, such as single mothers, those with physical disabilities and older people. In the Volta region, all Togolese stayed with host families or in rented accommodation. In Krisan, UNHCR provided refugees with plastic sheets.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR and IOM organized the voluntary repatriation of more than 2,000 Liberian refugees either by sea or air. Chartered flights were organized for vulnerable returnees.

**Water:** UNHCR constructed high-yielding boreholes in the Volta region to improve access to clean water in the communities that host refugees. UNHCR's operational partner, in coordination with the Ghana Water Company, completed the construction of a main pipe connecting Buduburam camp with the public network. Refugees in Krisan enjoyed an adequate supply of water from boreholes in the camp, which are checked routinely for water quality and contamination.

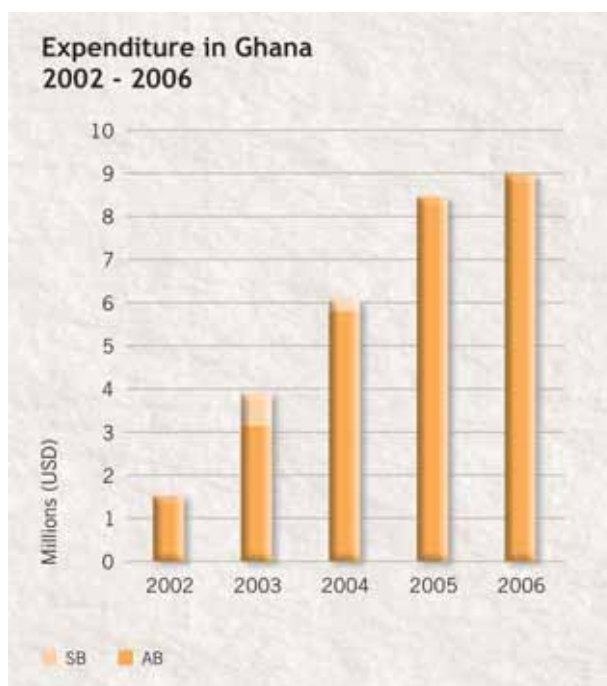
## Constraints

Repatriation overland to Liberia through Côte d'Ivoire was deemed impossible for security reasons. The reluctance of Liberian refugees to repatriate could be attributed to their protracted stay and relatively organized life in Buduburam camp, as well as negative

perceptions of the situation in Liberia. Many Liberian refugees still expect to be resettled, even though the major resettlement programmes, in particular to the United States of America, officially ended. Refugees in Krisan also seem reluctant to accept any durable solutions other than group resettlement.

## Financial information

UNHCR has progressively strengthened its annual programme in Ghana from USD 1.5 million in 2002 to USD 8.5 million in 2006. The overall budget reductions in 2006 prompted UNHCR to strictly prioritize its activities. Savings identified under the project for Togolese refugees – after a verification exercise indicated a reduction in the refugee population – allowed a transfer of USD 250,000 to the Krisan project to maintain minimum levels of support. The low level of returns to Liberia freed up funds for the costly air and sea repatriation movements, which otherwise would not have been adequately funded.



## Organization and implementation

### Management

UNHCR maintained a representation office in Accra, a field office in Ho and a presence in Takoradi. It operated with 45 staff (six internationals, 33 nationals, five UNVs and one secondee).



UNHCR/N. Jehu-Hayah

Krisan refugee camp, where refugees of different nationalities live together.

## Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with the Ghana Refugee Board and international and national partners. The repatriation of Liberian refugees was co-funded and implemented jointly with IOM. A task force on durable solutions for refugees was established within the framework of the UN Country Team. UNHCR played a key role in contingency planning for an eventual exodus from Côte d'Ivoire. Together with UNHCR's Regional Support Hub, close collaboration was maintained with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre and other civil society groups to foster mutually supportive activities in peacebuilding and refugee protection.

## Overall assessment

UNHCR reinforced the implementation of the *Agenda for Protection* in the areas of refugee registration, participatory assessment, refugee empowerment, partnerships for durable solutions and contingency planning. The situation remained stable in Buduburam camp but Liberian refugees were reluctant to repatriate.

Following disturbances in 2005 in Krisan, UNHCR restored dialogue with refugees through initiatives such as regular protection counselling and field visits. In the Volta region, the progressive reduction of direct assistance and the adoption of a community-based approach proved to be the best strategy to guarantee the peaceful coexistence of refugees and host communities. UNHCR offered regular counselling sessions to urban refugees and began profiling this group to better address their needs in 2007.

### Partners

**Government agencies:** Department of Social Welfare, Ghana Education Service, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Refugee Board, Ministry of the Interior.

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

**Others:** IOM, UNV.

### Operational partners

**NGOs:** World Vision International.

**Others:** FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO.

## Budget, income and expenditure (USD) Annual programme budget

Final budget	Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other funds available <sup>2</sup>	Total funds available	Total expenditure
11,226,703	2,319,182	6,856,045	9,175,227	8,993,309

<sup>1</sup> Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

<sup>2</sup> Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

## Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	AB	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,420,358	0
Community services	271,447	138,663
Crop production	63,781	2,899
Domestic needs and household support	116,951	20,364
Education	191,206	168,602
Food	204,559	1,156
Health and nutrition	150,289	46,984
Income generation	4,216	2,777
Legal assistance	261,252	3,088
Operational support (to agencies)	489,591	33,867
Sanitation	34,920	65,126
Shelter and infrastructure	43,724	15,759
Transport and logistics	854,367	32,734
Water	63,517	790
Instalments with implementing partners	658,477	(532,810)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>5,828,655</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	3,164,655	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>8,993,309</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>		<b>(26,042)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Payments made	2,190,339	
Reporting received	(1,531,862)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>658,477</b>	
<b>Previous years' report</b>		
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Outstanding 1st January		537,420
Reporting received		(532,810)
Refunded to UNHCR		(5,291)
Adjustments		681
<b>Balance</b>		<b>0</b>