

# Ghana

## Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Ghana were to support the Government to maintain a positive international protection regime; work with the Government and build effective partnerships with other stakeholders to ensure protection and assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers; facilitate the repatriation of Liberian refugees; seek durable solutions for refugees through the coordinated use of voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement and seek to safeguard the rights of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR through advocacy and related initiatives.

## Organization and implementation

### Impact

- UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of almost 1,200 Liberians, but the majority of Liberian refugees in Ghana remained very reluctant to return.
- With the support of the Regional Resettlement Hub, some 1,770 refugees were resettled in third countries (over 1,220 Liberians and 500 Sierra Leoneans, as well as smaller numbers of Togolese, Ivorians, Rwandans, Sudanese and Congolese).
- At the Buduburam camp, where 38,700 Liberian refugees are settled, 10,000 vulnerable people were identified and subsequently received food assistance, while malnourished children received vital supplementary food.
- The Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) examined the cases of 826 asylum-seekers and found in favour of 300 (all Sudanese), rejecting 238 (nearly all Sierra Leoneans). The rest were still pending by the end of the year.
- A comprehensive registration exercise completed in September established the Togolese refugee population at 14,100, with 12,400 in the Volta region alone.



## Working environment

### The context

Despite a rise in urban violent crime and local chieftaincy power struggles in various parts of the country, UNHCR enjoyed a generally favourable working environment throughout 2005. Peaceful presidential elections in Liberia, followed by a smooth transition towards the establishment of the new Government, prompted UNHCR to accelerate its strategies for the return of Liberian refugees. Unfortunately, the Liberian refugees in Ghana proved unreceptive. In neighbouring Togo, the April presidential elections sparked widespread violence and generated a refugee emergency situation in the Volta region. The creation of refugee camps was not required but the presence of Togolese refugees put a strain on existing resources and structures within Ghanaian host

communities. Coordinated contingency plans had to be maintained in case of a deterioration in the volatile political and security environment in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire.

## Constraints

The emergency response to the new influx of Togolese refugees necessitated the diversion of material and human resources from regular programmes. The distribution of refugees in 114 locations within ten districts in the Volta region posed a complex challenge in terms of access and coordination. It proved impossible to evaluate cross-border movements since most Togolese refugees were in villages on or within a few kilometres of the border.

The increased number of Sudanese asylum-seekers from Darfur and their detention in Accra for several months put a further strain on the resources and indeed the scope of the urban project.

A group of refugees demanding resettlement in a third country was responsible for violent incidents in Krisan camp in November 2005, including the destruction of UNHCR assets and property valued at over USD 100,000. This represented a serious setback in the search for durable solutions for the 1,700 residents of the camp.

As the majority of Liberian refugees in Ghana remained very reluctant to return, by the end of the year, UNHCR fell short of its objective of repatriating 20,000 Liberian refugees in 2005.

## Funding

UNHCR's programme for Ghana was adequately funded to meet the basic needs of refugees thanks to adjustments made after the mid-year review. The low level of return to Liberia allowed a reallocation of funds to address refugee needs which would otherwise not have been adequately funded. From May to December 2005, UNHCR resorted to emergency funds (USD one million) to set up the new programme for Togolese refugees in

the Volta region, establishing a field office in Ho, with staff on temporary assignment to run a multifaceted assistance programme.

## Achievements and impact

### Protection and solutions

The GRB and other Government entities such as the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) took an increasingly active role in the refugee status determination process. Legal services were provided to asylum-seekers in the form of legal counselling, community services and prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). UNHCR supported 271 Sudanese asylum-seekers who were kept for five months at Usher Fort, a former prison in Accra, and then relocated by the Government to Krisan refugee camp in August following the intervention of the Office.

All 1,168 Liberian refugees who opted to return to their country of origin made a free decision to do so and were assisted to return by air and sea. Over 1,700 refugees benefited from resettlement opportunities, mainly in Australia, Canada and the United States.

The Togo crisis had a marked effect on operations in Ghana. After an initial delay, the Government agreed to recognize the Togolese as *prima facie* refugees, while local authorities of the Volta region supported the incoming refugees from the onset of the influx. UNHCR responded by rapidly deploying staff and establishing a field office in Ho to provide protection and assistance to the refugees. In September, mobile teams established jointly by the Government and UNHCR completed the registration of refugees in the Volta region.

### Activities and assistance

**Community services:** Social counselling and psychosocial support were provided to some 4,000 vulnerable refugees and some 4,500 SGBV survivors respectively in Buduburam. Community-based solutions were also promoted in Buduburam through training of

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	38,700	38,700	51	44
	Togo	14,100	14,100	53	45
	Sudan	600	600	14	13
Asylum-seekers	Togo	3,700	3,700	37	33
	Liberia	1,000	1,000	51	43
	Sierra Leone	300	300	45	25
	Côte d'Ivoire	300	300	36	21





More than 15,000 people fled Togo to Ghana when violence erupted after the election in April 2005. Here, new arrivals talked to immigration officials before proceeding to transit centres set up by UNHCR. *UNHCR / D. Kamphuis*

refugees on SGBV issues (500 trainees), crisis response (76 trainees) and peace education (150 trainees). All women of childbearing age received sanitary materials and were assisted by community health nurses.

**Crop production:** In Buduburam, small-scale gardening activities were encouraged through the provision of seeds, fertilizers and tools to 350 heads of household. In rural areas of the Volta region, Togolese refugees were involved in agriculture, either independently or with local farmers. UNHCR distributed seeds and tools to refugees who managed to access land and/or work with local farmers.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Liberian and Togolese refugees in the Volta region, as well as vulnerable categories of asylum-seekers and refugees in urban areas, received non-food items such as blankets, mattresses, and cooking utensils to help sustain basic living standards. In Krisan, charcoal and kerosene were also distributed on a monthly basis.

**Education:** A library, a teachers' resource centre and new classroom facilities were provided in Buduburam. The camp's "Kofi Annan Centre" trained 440 refugees in information technology, architectural craftsmanship, construction and electrical works. Six of the best students received an internship for a "training of trainers" learning course.

UNHCR also awarded the Houphouët-Boigny Trust Fund scholarship to 55 secondary school students (38 per cent female) from Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Togo. The DAFI scholarship programme benefited 71 refugee students (50 per cent female) and eight students graduated in 2005. In Krisan, further to the resettlement of a significant number of families, attendance at the camp's primary and junior secondary school dropped by 25 per cent (311 pupils) towards the end of the year. In the Volta region, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service (GES) and UNICEF, worked on the integration of over 1,000 Togolese refugee children into state schools, and promoted peaceful co-existence between the refugees and the host population through the Peace Education

Programme. Some 50 Togolese refugee teachers were employed by Ghanaian schools and UNICEF donated 14 "School-in-a-Box" and 15 recreational kits, each equipped for 80 and 40 children respectively.

**Food:** WFP continued to provide food to 10,000 vulnerable refugees in Buduburam, representing 25 per cent of the camp population. In the Krisan settlement, UNHCR distributed a standard food basket to 1,700 refugees and organized supplementary food for children under the age of five.

A total of 87 food distribution points were established in the Volta region in order to provide the standard food basket of 2,100 kcal per person per day to 12,400 Togolese refugees under the WFP Regional Emergency Operation. However, frequent interruptions to the food pipeline affected the delivery of a full and regular ration to the refugees.

**Health and nutrition:** The Buduburam clinic recorded close to 20,000 consultations and 3,300 children were vaccinated. The clinic recorded 540 births and a supplementary feeding programme was established for malnourished children. Several HIV/AIDS advocacy groups promoted community-based approaches, provided training for health staff and distributed condoms to 15,000 camp refugees. These activities were complemented by school programmes for 1,800 children (42 per cent girls) in Buduburam. Post-exposure prophylaxis services were established on this site, following the training of 19 medical practitioners on the management of rape survivors. In Accra, 169 medical cases were referred to government hospitals or polyclinics for treatment. In the Volta region, arrangements were made with the Ghana Health Service (GHS) to ensure that refugees had access to health services. WHO and UNHCR provided emergency health kits and basic drug boxes to cater to the needs of 60,000 people until the end of the year.

**Income generation:** In Krisan, the efforts made jointly by UNHCR, UNIDO and FAO to promote self-reliance (a socio-economic survey, the construction of training facilities, and a microfinance project) were rejected by some refugees during the November riots on the grounds that local integration initiatives amounted to a denial of chances to secure resettlement in a third country. In the Volta region, fabric was made available to refugee women for clothes manufacturing, especially uniforms. This helped refugee children to attend local schools.

**Legal assistance:** Fifteen immigration officers were identified and were teamed up with six GRB officers to develop refugee status determination (RSD) skills. UNHCR provided them with training on registration of asylum-seekers and RSD interview techniques to ensure compliance with international standards. The Births and Deaths

Registry conducted a comprehensive verification exercise and provided birth certificates to all Liberian refugee children born in Ghana, an important step forward in terms of refugee documentation.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR covered various components of the operational, management and staffing costs incurred by implementing partners. Office premises were set up in the Volta region, and vehicles and assets were purchased in the context of the Togo emergency. UNHCR also extended technical support and training to implementing and operational partners on key policy or operational matters.

**Sanitation:** Budumburam camp failed to meet sanitation standards. Cleaning of the camp and garbage disposal for a population of close to 40,000 remained a challenge. An incinerator, with a capacity of 2,700 cubic metres of waste per week was constructed on the edge of the settlement. In Krisan, volunteers were mobilized for routine cleaning as well as awareness programmes within the camp. The shelters and warehouse facilities were fumigated on a quarterly basis.

**Shelter and infrastructure:** In Buduburam and Krisan, shelter activities focused on support to vulnerable households. A total of 122 houses were renovated on behalf of over 800 people, 15 per cent of them elderly women. In the Volta region, vulnerable Togolese refugees in need of shelter support were provided with basic materials to rehabilitate modest accommodation facilities within the host community.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR gave a transportation allowance to those refugees called for an RSD interview. New vehicles were procured and dispatched to UNHCR and implementing partners operating in the Volta region. The costs of handling and transporting food were also supported by UNHCR.

**Water:** Buduburam settlement did not meet the minimum standard for availability of drinking water. An operational partner explored the feasibility of connecting the camp supply to the public network several kilometres away. Meanwhile, the camp residents themselves paid for deliveries of water by privately owned mobile tankers. This system made it difficult to evaluate the exact quantity of water available to, and used by refugees, since they paid for their water by the bucket on an *ad hoc* basis. In Krisan, the Ghana Water Company tested and treated water from the existing eight boreholes on a quarterly basis, ensuring a safe and clean year-round supply. In the Volta region, UNHCR funded water projects in villages hosting refugees in order to reduce the strain on existing facilities.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

UNHCR maintained a representation in Accra and opened a field office in Ho, Volta region, in May 2005. The total number of staff in Ghana was 51 including six internationals, 37 locals, seven UNVs and one secondee from the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC). The inspection mission conducted by the Inspector General's Office in April highlighted the progress made since UNHCR restructured its programme in 2002.

### Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with international and national partners. The voluntary repatriation of Liberians by air and sea was conducted in partnership with IOM. In the Volta region, multifaceted assistance was coordinated by UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF in partnership with the National Disaster Management Organization, the National Catholic Secretariat, GHS, GES and the Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment. UNHCR also had a lead role in the elaboration of contingency plans for possible new emergencies in Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.

### Overall assessment

The Government of Ghana was able, with the support of UNHCR, to manage asylum procedures in conformity with international standards. Early preparedness mechanisms helped UNHCR, in coordination with other UN entities, the Government and NGOs, to intervene without delay and provide humanitarian assistance to Togolese refugees in the Volta region. Liberian refugees had undergone multiple displacements in the past and continued to be very cautious about return. Additionally,

many refugees in Buduburam were living on remittances from relatives abroad and had reached some degree of self-sufficiency. The high number of Liberians benefiting from resettlement in third countries also served as a deterrent to voluntary return.

The security situation remained stable in Buduburam, as a result of the effective work of neighbourhood watch teams. In Krisan, by contrast, the limitations of existing security mechanisms became all too apparent during the outbreak of violence in November 2005. Durable solutions need to be reconsidered in Krisan, where protection, assistance and self-reliance activities came temporarily to a complete standstill.

#### Offices

Accra  
Ho

#### Partners

##### Government agencies

Ghana Education Service  
Ghana Health Service  
Ghana Immigration Service  
Ghana Refugee Board, Ministry of the Interior  
National Disaster Management Organization

##### 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

UNV  
WFP



## 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
9,075,796	2,394,523	6,310,445	8,704,968	8,446,235

<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	Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Annual and supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,087,703	0
Community services	89,802	3,209
Crop production	8,336	1,337
Domestic needs and household support	116,141	23,535
Education	398,731	169,762
Food	190,645	575
Health and nutrition	359,587	50,019
Income generation	10,854	13,896
Legal assistance	366,880	110,303
Operational support (to agencies)	413,938	55,076
Sanitation	130,993	80,035
Shelter and infrastructure	91,424	12,841
Transport and logistics	549,387	27,937
Water	4,813	502
Instalments with implementing partners	537,420	(549,027)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>5,356,654</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	3,089,581	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>8,446,235</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on prior years' expenditure</b>		<b>(51,355)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Payments made	1,853,540	
Reporting received	(1,316,120)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>537,420</b>	
<b>Prior years' report</b>		
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Outstanding 1st January		555,115
Reporting received		(549,027)
Refunded to UNHCR		(23,588)
Adjustments		17,500
<b>Balance</b>		<b>0</b>