

Ghana

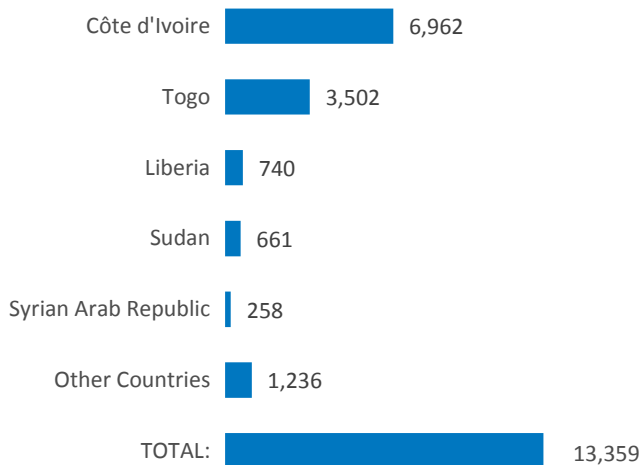
May/June 2019

280 Ivorian Refugees who fled to Ghana in 2011 have been assisted to return home on voluntary repatriation between January-June this year

World Refugee Day marked with a colourful **durbar and livelihoods exhibition** at Ampain

UNHCR collaborates with the Department of Children and other agencies in celebrating this year's Day of the African Child at the Ampain Camp

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS AT APRIL 2019)



FUNDING (AS AT JUNE 2019)

USD 7,158,992 requested

This year there has been no earmarked funding support for the Ghana Operation's identified needs. The country operation is running on limited un-earmarked funds made available to the organization globally which can only meet some of the life-saving needs. There are still **major gaps** in the areas of Education, Livelihoods and Health which are the bulk of unmet needs affecting Persons of Concern in Ghana for which we seek support for, given the very negative impact it has on the well-being of persons of concern.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

30 National Staff
03 International Staff
07 UNOPS

Offices:

01 Country Office in Accra
01 Field Office in Takoradi



Ghana's Deputy Interior Minister visiting exhibition stands mounted by refugees during World Refugee Day



Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of Peru a.i as they presented branded books to Egyekrom children

Working with Partners

- **Government Partners:** The Ministry of the Interior, the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), and other relevant government departments and ministries such as Ghana Education Service, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, and Ghana Police Service to mention a few.
- **Partners:** Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).
- **UN Agencies:** UNFPA, IOM, UNAIDS and UNICEF.
- **Private Sector Partnerships:** UNHCR Ghana is exploring partnership opportunities with the Private Sector and other development partners.

Main Activities

Protection

- A major verification exercise for all refugees and asylum seekers has been held nationwide by the Ghana Refugee Board and the UNHCR to update records of persons of concern in Ghana. A verification exercise is essential as it helps to validate and update vital data on persons of concern and their intentions for durable solutions.
- In support of the Africa Union's 2019 theme on Refugees, Returnees and IDPs, President Nana Akufo-Addo organized a presidential event on the status of African Female Refugees and Displaced Persons. The President noted that Africa has done herself a great disservice by leaving women displaced and out of the agenda for development. He concluded with a 4 point proposal to help transform the African continent including the continent shedding its image of instability and establishing a peaceful atmosphere; the need for the continent to get its politics right; economic transformation and empowerment of those left behind as a result of conflict. Speaking at the event, the UNHCR Country Representative, Ms. Esther Kiragu enumerated the vulnerabilities and strengths of refugee women and girls in the African Continent and pledged to support the President's Championship of the issue at the African Union via his flagship, Gender and Development Initiative for Africa, (GADIA). She also highlighted the importance of the Global Compact on Refugees as the way forward in ensuring a comprehensive response to refugee issues.
- World Refugee Day commemorative durbar was held at the Ampain Camp with the Deputy Interior Minister, Mr. Henry Quartey calling on refugees to be law abiding. Dignitaries took a step with refugees by purchasing items on sale at an exhibition mounted by refugees in the camp. This was to show support for their businesses. There were also durbars in all the other camps to mark the day.
- Day of the African Child for 2019 which was on the theme: Humanitarian action for Africa- Children's Rights first was commemorated on June 14 at the Ampain Refugee Camp by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in collaboration with the Ghana Refugee Board and UNHCR, with support from UNICEF and Plan International. There was a colorful durbar as well as a health screening session for over 500 children in the camp. The Representative, Ms. Esther Kiragu used the occasion to call for concrete empowerment and developmental support for refugees especially in the area of education which is a basic right.
- Two refugees living in the urban area participated in a UNFPA mentoring program for adolescent girls. The session creates a platform for the Chief Justice to interact and mentor adolescents to become responsible citizens.
- In November 2018, UNFPA Ghana launched the Youth Leaders (YoLe) Fellowship Programme to offer young graduates of universities in Ghana an opportunity to undergo professional training and mentorship to develop their careers. UNHCR Ghana hosted 2 of the Fellows for 2 weeks where they learnt about the work of UNHCR and offered support on different areas.

Solutions

Between May and June 2019, 186 Ivorian refugees were assisted to voluntarily return home. Meanwhile between January to June 2019, 297 refugees of different nationalities have been assisted to return home including 280 Ivoirians, 13 Togolese and 4 Central Africans.

Education

- 13 refugees in Ampain who have used the coursera online learning platform to complete various courses graduated at a brief ceremony. An Intelsat Partnership with UNHCR Ghana in 2016 saw the development of an internet access service to provide the refugees and their host community members with low maintenance, solar-powered, VSAT connected Wi-fi facility which paved the way for the refugees to easily access online courses free of charge. Meanwhile currently, there is a gap in the area of internet service provision in all the camps and support is needed in that direction
- Three refugee students who have been beneficiaries of the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI scholarship) attended an International Conference on Refugee Students in higher education in Berlin. This was at the invitation of the German Federal Office and the German Academic Exchange Service. The conference was aimed at expanding access to higher education for refugees.

Private Sector Partnerships

- UNHCR High-Level Influencers (HLIs) in Ghana were engaged in a half-day session by UNHCR's Regional Private Sector Partnership Head, Ms. Needa Jehu-Hoya to share ideas on how best they could use their influence to support refugees. As a follow up, the HLIs visited the Egyeikrom Camp to interact with the refugees there and see the situation on the ground.
- The Embassy of Peru in Ghana as part of their social cooperation programme in support of families forced to flee has presented specially branded notebooks as well as toiletries to children at the Egyeikrom Refugee Camp in the Central Region. The design of the books features the Afro-Peruvian heroine, Micaela Bastidas, one of the most important women during Peru's independence. In a related development, the Embassy also organized an art exhibition dubbed "Afroperu" in an effort to raise funds for UNHCR's LuQuLuQu Campaign. The programmes also formed part of their Afro-Peruvian cultural month.
- Tobinco Group of Companies stepped with refugees this year as they donated items worth over 100,000 cedis to support refugees at the Ampain Camp during the commemoration of World Refugee Day (WRD) on June 20, 2019. The Group also had a party for over 500 children in the camp during the WRD event.
- UNHCR Ghana is still advocating for more private sector support to address critical gaps in the area of education, health and livelihoods.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAJOR DONORS OF UNRESTRICTED REGIONAL FUNDS IN 2019

CONTACTS

Esther Kiragu (Ms.), UNHCR Representative, Ghana
kiragu@unhcr.org, Cell +233 244 319630

Patience Folley (Ms.) Communication and Public Information Associate
folley@unhcr.org, Cell +233 244 313448

LINKS

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