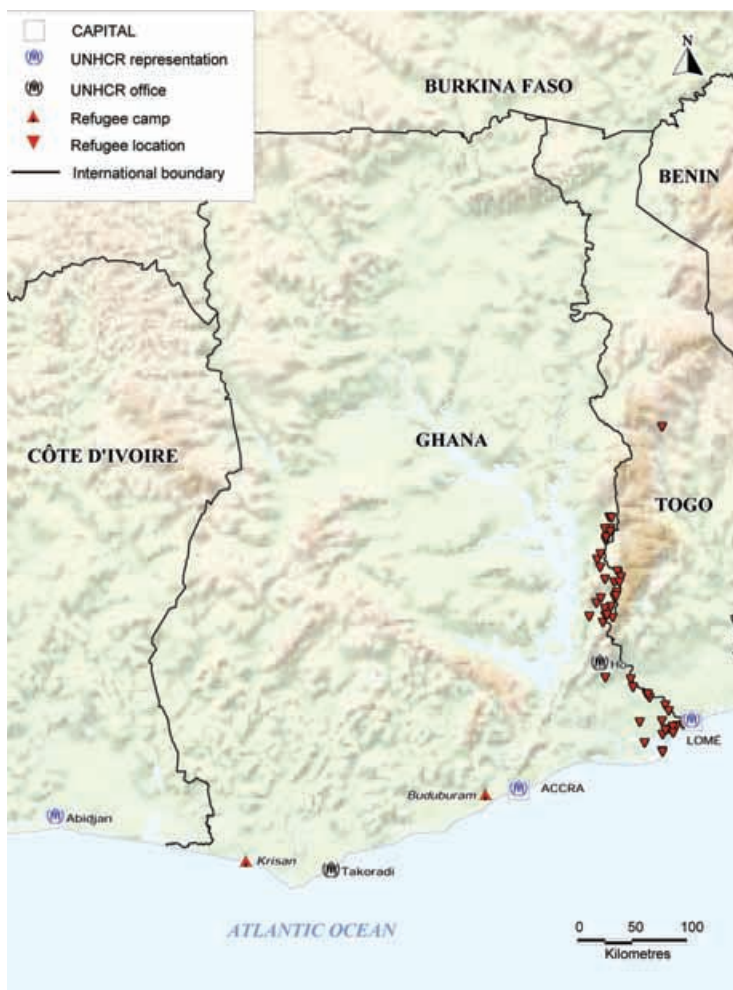


GHANA



- Decisions were made regarding 89 of 115 asylum applications submitted in 2008.

Working environment

Ghana was generally peaceful and stable throughout 2008. Voluntary repatriation to Togo and Liberia reduced the number of people of concern in the country to some 19,000. The main groups are Liberian refugees in the Buduburam settlement near Accra (79 per cent), camp-based refugees of various nationalities in the remote coastal location of Krisan (7 per cent), Togolese refugees within host communities in the Volta region (7 per cent) and urban refugees and asylum-seekers dispersed in and around Accra and other Ghanaian cities (7 per cent).

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR continued to organize the voluntary repatriation of Liberian and Togolese refugees. It used resettlement in a strategic manner to reduce the number of refugees in Krisan.

In April 2008, in response to protests, the Government arrested and deported a group of 16 Liberians (13 of whom were registered refugees). The Government also reiterated its intention to start consultations to invoke the cessation clause for Liberian refugees pursuant to the 1969 OAU Convention.

The protests disrupted delivery of services and stalled the implementation of durable solutions projects. Subsequently, bilateral meetings between the Governments of Liberia and Ghana led to an agreement on the dispersal of refugees from Buduburam camp. The talks also established a tripartite commission comprising the two Governments and UNHCR to make operational a large-scale programme of repatriation to Liberia.

At a meeting in Accra in April 2008, the commission decided to restart an organized voluntary repatriation programme to cover at least 50 per cent of the Liberian refugee population, or 12,000 refugees, within six months commencing in April 2008.

Operational highlights

- More than 8,800 Liberian refugees repatriated with UNHCR assistance (74 per cent of the target for 2008).
- UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of more than 4,200 Togolese refugees (28 per cent more than planned) within the framework of a tripartite agreement signed in April 2007.
- Resettlement was a durable solution for 264 refugees in Ghana in 2008. The majority of those resettled were from Togo (157) and Sudan (63). The rest were from Liberia (29), Republic of the Congo (13), Sierra Leone (1) and Burundi (1).

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	15,800	15,800	48	37
	Togo	1,800	1,800	45	38
	Various	600	600	21	16
Asylum-seekers	Côte d'Ivoire	140	140	35	12
	Others	350	350	21	21
Total		18,690	18,690		



Wares from the Buduburam refugee settlement at the International Trade Fair in Accra, Ghana

UNHCR/NEEDA JEHU-HOYAH

UNHCR's goals were to complete the return programme for the Liberian refugees; gradually hand over the Buduburam camp infrastructure and services to the Ghanaian authorities; promote the local integration of Liberian refugees unable to return; and continue to assist Togolese refugees with self-reliance projects and voluntary repatriation. The Office also sought to find durable solutions for the refugees in Krisan and help the Government to maintain a positive protection environment.

● *Protection and solutions*

Ghana provides asylum-seekers access and the possibility of remaining in the country until all procedures, including rebuttal, have been fully exhausted. The Government has formally acknowledged refugees' right to apply for residency and citizenship, but thus far the scope for the exercise of such rights has been limited. Discussions with the Government on the local integration of refugees continued, with UNHCR promoting a gradual process based on self-reliance and community development.

● *Activities and assistance*

Community services: Social counselling and psychosocial support, mainly for post traumatic stress disorder caused by rape, child abuse and domestic violence, were provided. Sanitary materials were distributed to all refugee women of reproductive age.

Crop production: More than 300 Togolese refugee households grew crops to supplement their diet, but not enough to ensure self-sufficiency.

Domestic needs and household support: Some 180 people previously engaged in commercial sex work began a rehabilitation programme and were provided with basic domestic items. Subsistence allowances were paid to vulnerable people of concern. Some 125 refugees with specific needs were accommodated in a transit house for short periods and assisted with subsistence allowances.

Education: The voluntary repatriation of school owners resulted in 26 of the 46 privately owned primary schools closing down. As a response, a basic school facility was created for approximately 920 children. The school had a positive impact on relations between the host and refugee communities while providing refugee children with free basic education in line with national policy.

Food: WFP continued to provide food for some 8,000 vulnerable refugees in Buduburam camp (38 per cent of the camp population). More than 1,300 refugees in Krisan camp also received food from WFP.

Health: Some 2,500 refugees were enrolled on the National Health Insurance scheme. The Buduburam clinic was expanded and received certification to operate under the Ghana Health Service.

Malaria continued to be the highest cause of morbidity among the refugees and their host communities. Medical facilities providing assistance to refugees fully implemented the New Malaria Protocol. HIV and AIDS services focused mainly on reducing stigma and encouraging free testing at the settlements. Anti-stigma and voluntary counselling and testing campaigns were conducted in collaboration with the Ghana AIDS Commission and other UN Agencies under the UN Integrated Support Plan. In 2008, more than 18,200 individuals (85 per cent refugees) were reached through HIV and AIDS sensitization activities.

Income generation: UNHCR partnered with the National Vocational Training Institute on an expedited and comprehensive skills training programme to develop the income-generation skills of refugees. Some 780 refugees were enrolled in five skills training programmes, all leading to an internationally recognized diploma.

Legal assistance: Security continued to be of concern and was highlighted in various assessments undertaken jointly with the Government and local communities. The Office provided a fire engine and a police patrol car to the Gomoa East District Police and Fire Department.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR provided material and technical assistance to all its partners.

Sanitation: In collaboration with the District Assembly, the Office provided 30 family latrine units (20 for refugee-hosting communities) as well as 600 metres of drainage systems in the Buduburam area.

Shelter and other infrastructure: To improve the physical safety of refugees and to provide better access to Buduburam, a re-graveling of the major roads was undertaken. Sixty-seven houses in the flood-prone section of the settlement were demolished and their occupants moved to safer areas.

Transport and logistics: More than 8,800 Liberian refugees were assisted to repatriate in safety and dignity by road and air. In addition, some 4,200 Togolese refugees were assisted to return from various locations in the Volta region of Ghana.

Water: UNHCR began to provide water to some refugee-hosting communities.

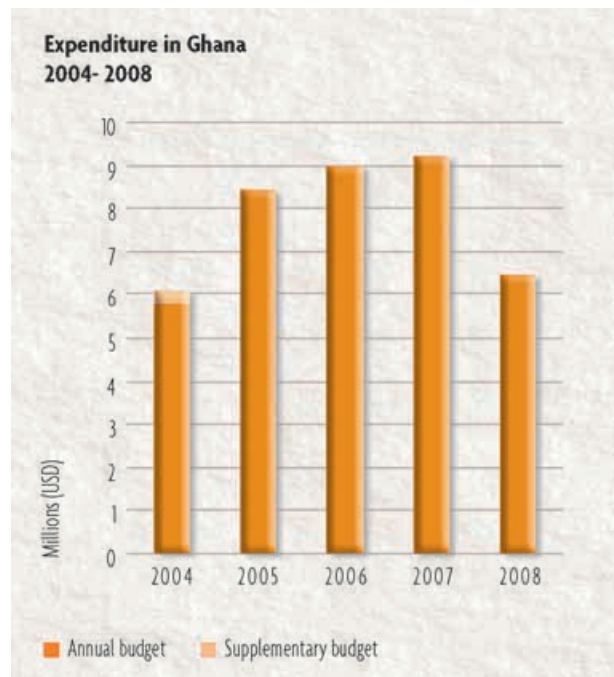
○ Constraints

The refugee demonstrations in the first quarter of 2008 stalled the progress made with the Government of Ghana on providing alternative legal status to the remaining Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees. Threats by the instigators of the demonstrations demoralized aid workers and disrupted the provision of assistance.

| Financial information |

Budgetary adjustments accommodated unforeseen expenses related to the logistics for the reactivated voluntary repatriation exercise.

UNHCR also raised an additional USD 355,500 within the framework of the United Nations Integrated Support Plan, the Human Security Trust Fund and the Programme Accelerated Fund for HIV and AIDS projects benefiting refugees.



| Organization and implementation |

UNHCR maintained a branch office in Accra, a field office in Ho and a field presence in Takoradi, operated by a total of 43 staff (seven international, 34 national, and two UNVs).

| Working with others |

The Office worked with 12 implementing partners. A partnership with UNIDO and FAO under a Human Security Trust Fund project was implemented to enhance the self-reliance of refugees in Buduburam and Krisan.

UNHCR also worked with other UN agencies through the Inter-Agency Programme Group as well as within the Inter Agency Emergency Response Task Force for contingency planning and emergency preparedness.

| Overall assessment |

The number of Liberian refugees assisted to return in 2008 was 25 per cent higher than in the year before. The Togolese repatriation operation exceeded its 2008 target by 28 per cent. More than 95 per cent of resettlement submissions were approved. Meanwhile, the Government of Ghana indicated it would explore alternative legal residential status for the remaining refugee population.

Some refugees who had been rejecting self-reliance support in the hope of being resettled were convinced to enrol in skills-training and income-generation programmes. UNHCR was able to ensure that refugee issues are included in district development programmes. It also raised awareness of refugee concerns at the level of the central Government.

UNHCR encouraged the Government, donor representatives, refugees and civil society organizations to participate in assessments conducted among refugees and their host communities.

Partners
Implementing partners
Government: Ghana Education Service, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Refugee Board, 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, Right to Play - Ghana
Others: IOM, UNV
Operational partners
NGO: World Vision International
Others: FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO, UNIFEM

Budget, income and expenditure in Ghana (USD)					
	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	6,484,913	1,353,875	5,103,858	6,457,733	6,457,729

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level and do not include seven per cent support costs for NAM contributions. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Ghana (USD)		
Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Annual and supplementary programme budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,849,880	0
Community services	344,038	54,760
Crop production	40,875	0
Domestic needs and household support	61,879	17,746
Education	434,097	36,015
Food	42,211	0
Health and nutrition	360,417	149,304
Legal assistance	338,892	30,184
Operational support (to agencies)	408,280	72,322
Sanitation	63,350	73,992
Shelter and infrastructure	156,433	25,174
Transport and logistics	516,301	67,620
Water	58,875	2,936
Instalments to implementing partners	856,374	(530,053)
Subtotal operational activities	5,531,902	0
Programme support	925,827	0
Total expenditure	6,457,729	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure		(25,556)
Instalments with implementing partners		
Payments made	2,929,272	
Reporting received	(2,072,898)	
Balance	856,374	
Outstanding 1st January		667,567
Reporting received		(530,053)
Refunded to UNHCR		(73,558)
Currency adjustment		2,244
Outstanding 31st December		66,200