



Ghana – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 4 September 2014

Information the treatment of failed asylum seeker.

Current information on the situation for unsuccessful asylum seekers returned to Ghana was extremely scarce among sources available to the Research and Information Unit.

A BBC News report states:

“Ghana's government has said it is ‘scandalised’ after 200 Ghanaian World Cup fans asked for asylum in Brazil, saying they were Muslims fleeing religious conflict. A government statement said there was no religious violence in the country. The group are believed to be part of a government-sponsored delegation, mainly comprising supporters of the governing party. Ghana is seen as one of West Africa's most peaceful and prosperous countries.” (BBC News (11 July 2014) *Ghana 'scandalised' by World Cup fans' Brazil asylum bid*)

A 2009 report published by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), in a chapter titled “Part D: Factors driving migration”, states:

“In relation to economically motivated migration, forced migration from Ghana is insignificant and has been declining over the past decade. The number of Ghanaian asylum seekers and recognized refugees under UNHCR's protection has drastically decreased from 15,879 in 2003 to only 6,717 in 2007.” (International Organization for Migration (2009) *Migration in Ghana: A Country Profile 2009*, p.72)

A country fact sheet published by the IOM, in a section titled “Unemployment Assistance”, states:

“Currently there is no unemployment assistance or insurance package for Ghanaians and also for Ghanaian returnees.” (International Organization for Migration (October 2013) *Country Fact Sheet: Ghana*, p.21)

In a section titled “Reintegration And Reconstruction Assistance (paragraph headed “Reintegration Assistance in Kind)”, this fact sheet states:

“The Department of Social Welfare is responsible for reintegration of returnees as well as other displaced people. The department does not have any project that specifically deals with reintegration of returnees.” (ibid, p.23)

See also paragraph headed “Financial and Administrative Support” which states:

“Specifically, there is no institution public or private that provide direct financial and/or administrative support for returnees. However, returnees like all Ghanaians, have equal

access to various venture capital institutions and micro credit programs established by the government to promote entrepreneurship, employment and private sector growth.” (ibid, p.23)

An undated document published on the Refugee Action website, in a paragraph headed “Outcomes for returnees”, states:

“While some returnees reported to Choices that they are planning to start businesses, others said that it is difficult to get employment. Some returnees have moved to Accra to try to find work. People report that family support is important to them, and where it is not available returnees rely on friends.” (Refugee Action (undated) *Countries of Return – Ghana*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

References:

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Google
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
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Institute of Race Relations
Lexis Nexis
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
UK Home Office
UNHCR Refworld
US Department of State