

Ghana

July/August 2018

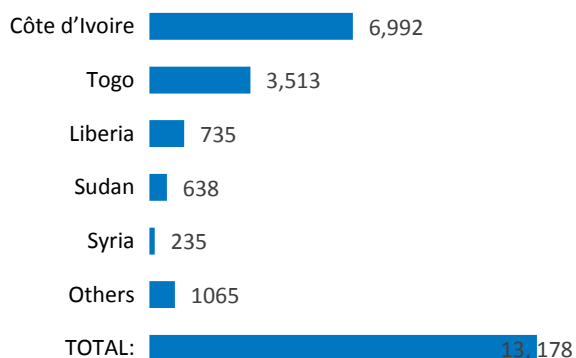
42 Ivorian Refugees who opted for voluntary repatriation assisted to return to Cote d'Ivoire.

"Come and Tell" mission in Ghana to meet with Ivorian refugees

273 refugee children get new school uniforms as the school year begins

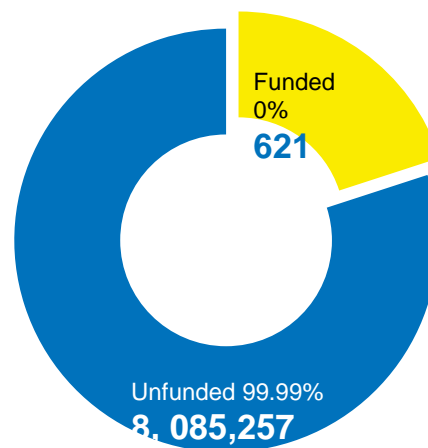
POPULATION OF CONCERN

Host Countries



USD 8,085,878

requested for the Ghana situation



UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 31 National Staff
- 02 International Staff
- 06 UNOPS
- 02 Interns

Offices:

- 01 Country Office in Accra
- 01 Field Office in Takoradi



Country Strategy

Ghana was chosen as one of the pilot operations to carry out a Multi-Year, Multi-Partner Solutions Strategy (MYMP). This strategy guides operational planning to ensure that a durable solution is available to all refugees hosted in Ghana by 2021. Facilitating Voluntary Repatriation, Local Integration and in some cases, Resettlement efforts are a vital component of the MYMP and will continue to address the long-standing needs of the refugee population in Ghana. UNHCR has been present in Ghana since 1993.

Working with Partners

- *UNHCR works with the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of the Interior, the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), and other relevant government departments and ministries in ensuring asylum seekers and refugees have full access to international protection and basic services. These include the Department of Social Development, Legal Aid Services, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, Births and Deaths Registry.*
- *UNHCR Ghana also works with NGO partners including the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Operational support is provided by UNFPA, IOM and UNAIDS. UNICEF provided funding to rehabilitate the Ampain camp school. UNHCR Ghana is exploring partnership opportunities with the Private Sector and other development partners. In 2017, Intelsat in partnership with its Comsys Ghana Ltd provided free wireless internet access to refugees in Ampain Camp for a two-year duration.*

Main Activities

- UNHCR remains an active organisation within Ghana, advocating for the rights of all refugees within the country. The country has enjoyed ongoing stability and remains economically viable, which makes it an attractive and secure location to host refugees who have fled war, violence, and a variety of other crises. A large majority of the refugees hail from bordering Togo and Cote d'Ivoire, and have been hosted in Ghana for years, making their situation a protracted one.
- In order to effectively address the needs of the protracted refugee population in Ghana, UNHCR and its partners have developed and commenced implementation of a Multi-Year, Multi-Partner Protection and Solutions Strategy (MYMP) which outlines strategic objectives that are incorporated directly into programming and activities. These strategic objectives are not only aligned with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights among others, which the United Nations Global Compact were derived, but also elements of the Millennium Development Goals and Ghana's National Development Plan. In February 2018, the distinct strategy

for 2019 was further elaborated through consultations with relevant Stakeholders, including Persons of Concern.

Protection

Voluntary Repatriation to Cote D'Ivoire :

- As the key UN agency with the mandate to lead and coordinate international protection for refugees and find effective solutions, the UNHCR in Ghana on September 4, 2018 assisted some 42 Ivorian refugees (comprising 25 females and 17 males) who opted for voluntary repatriation to return to Cote D'Ivoire. This would be the 9th repatriation convoy from Ghana to Cote d'Ivoire in 2018.

In a related development, UNHCR Ghana also facilitated the return of 118 Ivorian refugees based in Togo to Cote D'Ivoire (CDI) on the same day. Both convoys after successfully going through departure formalities at the Elubo border were led by officials of the Ghana Immigration Service to the Noé border where they were received by the UNHCR Representative in Cote D'Ivoire, the Sous-Prefet of Noé, Director of the Direction d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides (DAARA) and other Ivorian officials. From January to August 2018, 212 persons of concern have been assisted to return to their country of origin from Ghana.

“Go-and-See Visit” vs “Come-and-Tell Visit”:

- In April this year, UNHCR Ghana in collaboration with the Ghana Refugee Board organized a 'Go-And-See' mission for representatives from the Ivorian refugee community living in Ghana. The purpose was to provide the representatives the opportunity to assess the current situation in Côte D'Ivoire in order to demystify some concerns they have about security in their home country. The participating refugees on their return to Ghana after the visit, briefed their counterparts on their findings to enable them make informed decisions regarding voluntary repatriation. As a follow up, a “Come-and-Tell” mission took place in July which included a visiting team of officials from Cote D'Ivoire. They met with Ivorian refugees in Ghana (both in the camps and urban setting) to inform them of prospects back home and urge the refugees to return. Discussions were centered on security, integration, education, youth employment as well as what was included in the return package. The lingering concern of most of the refugees centered on political detainees and security issues that they believed continued to exist in their country of origin.

Education

■ Distribution of school uniforms:

UNHCR Ghana has supplied a total of 273 refugee children in Egyeikrom and Krisan camps with school uniforms ahead of the commencement of the new school year in September. This is in an effort to facilitate access to basic education as part of the integration of refugee children in their host countries and to make life easier for children in school. School children in Ampain were however excluded as there were plans to pilot a Cash Based Initiative (CBI) for uniforms in Ampain starting from September 2018. School helps to keep children safe and protected from risks including child labor and gender based violence amongst others.

■ Pilot of Cash Based Initiative (CBI) for School Uniforms:

A total of 582 PoC have been registered for the procurement of school uniforms through Cash Based Initiative in the Ampain Refugee Camp. This is the first batch of students registered for the exercise. Parents of the children are expected to receive cash grants

which is to be used to purchase school uniforms for their wards. The registration will continue until the end of the year. Since the CBI for uniforms in Ampain is being piloted, school children in Fetentaa, Egyeikrom, and Krisan camps will continue to receive uniform for this year.

■ **WASSCE results**

The West African Exams Council (WAEC) has released the results of students who sat for the WASSCE exams in June 2018 with 9 out of 28 refugee children who sat the exams passing in all 8 subjects. Some of the students who applied to various public universities have gained admission. Funding is however a challenge for those who have gained admission to public universities. Meanwhile a few of them will have to re sit for core subjects (Mathematics, English language or integrated Science).

Community Services

- **Presence of Social Welfare Officers at the camps:** The government of Ghana has extended the services of social welfare to 3 refugee camps by assigning Social Welfare Officers for the camps. The 3 staff of the Social Welfare Department have visited the Ampain, Egyeikrom and Krisan camps to begin work. Their role mainly is to seek the welfare of children and families in the camps as a whole.

Mosquito net distribution: UNHCR has distributed three hundred (300) insecticide treated nets were distributed to the refugee population to help reduce incidents of malaria in the camp. The nets were distributed on tent bases. Priority was given to pregnant women to reduce incidents of anemia among them.

External Relations and Public Information

- **Outdoor of Ready Coal (Briquettes) in Egyeikrom Camp:** Ready Coal briquettes produced by the Unity Biomass Briquette Foundation at the Egyeikrom Camp was launched at the Camp on Wednesday 08 August, 2018. Highlights of the programme included a message by the Environmental Health and Safety officer from the district on the need to protect the forest and the harmful effects of inhalation of smoke from burning charcoal. There was an inter-zonal cooking competition as part of the launch where contestants used the Ready Coal briquettes. The briquettes was well received and contestants testified that they were much more efficient than the regular charcoal.
- **Livelihood Rapid Evaluation Mission:** A joint UNHCR-TANGO team were in Accra and Takoradi to conduct a rapid evaluation exercise. The purpose of the mission was to review livelihood activities implemented by UNHCR Ghana and partners for the past five years. Findings from the evaluation will provide important lessons learnt and evidence to inform programmatic decisions moving forward for UNHCR Ghana. These findings will also be incorporated into the centralised evaluation on global Livelihoods Programming, contributing to learning at the corporate level with the goal of ultimately strengthening UNHCR's Livelihoods strategy and approaches to improve the self-reliance of Persons of Concern.
- **UNHCR West Africa Regional Representative visits the Northern Region:** UNHCR's Regional Representative, Ms Liz Ahua has paid a courtesy call on the Northern Regional Minister, Hon. Saeed Salifu in Tamale to discuss issues concerning Ghanaians from the Northern Region who have fled to Togo due to traditional conflicts. The purpose of her visit was to identify the root causes and how the government and

traditional leaders can help resolve such conflicts as well as prevent them from happening. It was also to find ways of ensuring that family members who have fled due to such conflicts feel safe to return. Ms Ahua was accompanied by officials from the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB). Ms Ahua also called on the Chief of Nankpanduri, Naba David Kansuk Na Golbil where she reiterated the need to find local solutions to conflicts.

UN Country Team

- The Government of Ghana and the United Nations System in Ghana have jointly signed the UN Sustainable Development Partnership 2018-2022 (UNSDP). The document is a five-year strategic framework that sets out the collective vision and response of the UN system to national development priorities. The partnership framework brings together the efforts of UN Agencies in Ghana to provide coherent, effective and efficient support in keeping with the principle of “Delivering as One” for Ghana. The UNSDP was signed by the Minister of Finance, Honourable Kenneth Ofori-Atta, and the Minister of Planning, Honourable George Yaw Gyan-Baffour, on behalf of the Government of Ghana, and by Ms. Christine Evans-Klock, UN Resident Coordinator for Ghana, and the heads of UN Agencies working in Ghana.

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