

Ghana

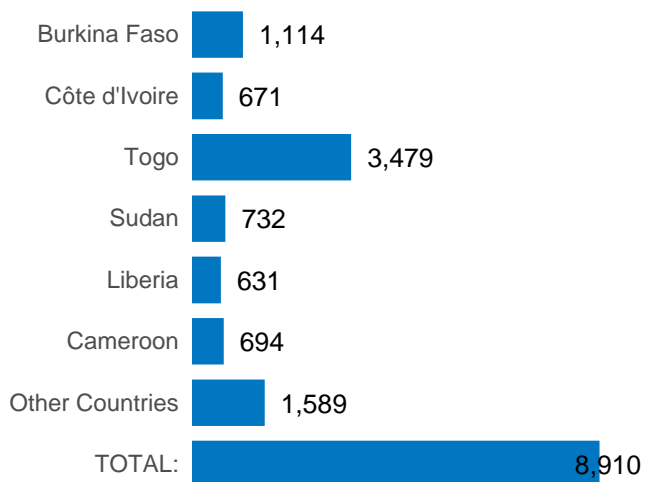
Jan-Feb 2023

UNHCR and GRB hold **high-level government dialogue** to develop a response plan for the **Burkinabe refugee influx** in the North of Ghana.

UNHCR and GRB visit **communities in Bawku West** hosting asylum seekers from Burkina Faso.

265 persons we serve have been interviewed for enrolment onto **livelihood activities** for year 2023

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF FEBRUARY 2023)

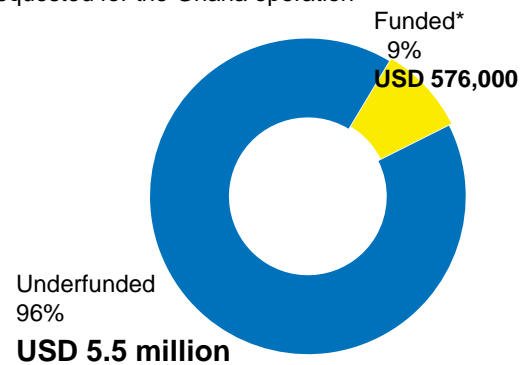


* The total includes 576 Ivorians who opted for Alternative Legal Status whose residence status is pending and are therefore considered to be Persons of concern until the process of attaining residence is completed

FUNDING (AS AT FEBRUARY 2023)

USD 6.1 million

requested for the Ghana operation



* The contributions earmarked for Ghana shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contribution.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 31 National Staff
- 03 International Staff
- 05 UNOPS

Offices:

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



Some participants after the stakeholders meeting on the Burkinabe situation. ©UNHCR/PFolley



UNHCR Country Rep together with the Executive Secretary of GRB and other officials tour hosting communities in Bawku West District. ©UNHCR/PFolley

Working with Partners

- **Government Partners:** 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 expanded partnership opportunities with the Private Sector and other development partners.

Main Activities

Protection

- UNHCR and the Ghana Refugee Board jointly convened a High-Level consultative Dialogue with key government stakeholders on the influx of Burkinabe asylum seekers to Ghana. The aim was to develop a Refugee Response Plan for the Upper East and Upper West Regions – the two regions hosting most of the asylum seekers. This meeting brought together stakeholders from the Ministry of the Interior, Ghana Refugee Board, Regional Ministers and District Chief Executives from the affected areas, the Ghana Immigration Service, the Ghana Police Service, and the National Intelligence Bureau. One of the conclusions was for the need for both the UNHCR and GRB, as the key coordinators in refugee emergencies, to establish a presence in the North of Ghana, in both the Upper East and the Upper West regions. This would facilitate their coordination role, the registration of asylum seekers and prompt provision of assistance to those most in need. The meeting also resolved to provide land for a Reception Centre and for a Settlement for those who have no one to host them. In general, two thirds of the new arrivals have been hosted in the villages and a third are in makeshift shelters near the border. Opening the dialogue, the Interior Minister (whose speech was read by the Chief Director of the Interior Ministry), called for immediate support for the asylum seekers and the hosting communities to ease the burden on social amenities. The two Regional Ministers took the opportunity to present an overview of the situation in their respective regions. UNHCR Representative thanked the government and people of Ghana for their generosity in hosting refugees and facilitating solutions to their plight as has been the case with Sierra Leoneans, Liberians and more recently the Ivorian situation. She was hopeful the Burkinabe situation will not be different.
- In response to the influx of asylum seekers to the Bawku West District of Ghana, UNHCR Country Representative together with the Executive Secretary of the Ghana Refugee Board and other officials visited some of the communities where the asylum seekers are being hosted. Gaps identified included shelter, food, education and health and livelihoods. The Team also interacted with the Chiefs, officials of the Ghana Immigration Service and the National Disaster Management Organisation in the region as well as with the Regional Minister where calls were made for urgent assistance.
- The Ghana Refugee Board and UNHCR convened the first coordination meeting with non-government stakeholders in the reporting period to share the outcome of the High-Level Dialogue with key government stakeholders and general information and observations about the influx of Burkina Faso refugees in the North. It was agreed that these meetings be held bi-weekly to ensure all humanitarian actors were well-informed and aware of developments.

- Meanwhile the influx from Burkina Faso continues to trickle in albeit in much smaller numbers. However, all indications from those that have arrived, most of whom were in IDP-like situations back home, are that more should be expected. In the meantime, there are many asylum seekers pending registration and a mission will be sent out in the coming weeks to register all those outstanding. In general the reported number of arrivals are between 4,000–6,000 persons in total in both the Upper East and the Upper West regions. The registration once completed will confirm the precise numbers.

Livelihoods

- 265 Persons we serve who had expressed interest in participating in various livelihood activities for this year were interviewed in Krisan and Ampain Camps. The aim was to critically assess those who qualify and ought to be targeted for livelihood support for the year. Activities to be implemented this year include poultry production, crop farming and apprenticeship training programmes/skills training. Those selected to undertake apprenticeship or skills training programmes in NVTI schools and with other master tradespersons would also be enrolled in due course. As a way of giving back to the community, some host community members will also benefit from the training sessions.
- A livelihood beneficiary endline survey for 2022 beneficiaries commenced in Krisan camp from in February 2023. The survey is part of the enhanced monitoring tools introduced in 2017 by UNHCR Headquarters to monitor output. Livelihood beneficiaries who were surveyed for the baseline in 2022 are expected to be surveyed for the endline with the aid of the ODK collect app obtaining various socio-economic information including how the assistance received has improved PoC's income and savings as compared to earlier baseline survey. This exercise is also expected to be undertaken for selected PoC in the urban areas as well as in the Volta and Oti regions.

Education

- The Ghana Education Service released the placement of students into Senior High Schools across the country in February 2023. Following this, refugees and asylum seekers placed in various Senior High Schools received essential items from UNHCR for the boarding house. A total of 16 students mainly from Krisan received items which includes chop box, trunk, mattress, pressing iron, bedsheets, electronic calculator etc. In addition to this, the students also received stationery for school.

Financial Information:

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Canada 3.9 million Norway | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 77.6 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million Algeria | Australia | Bulgaria | Canada | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Luxembourg | Malta | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Philippines | Republic of Korea | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Thailand | Türkiye | Uruguay | Private donors

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