



GHANA FACTSHEET

July-August 2016

HIGHLIGHTS

7,531 refugees & asylum-seekers physically verified in Multi-Purpose Enhanced Registration Exercise (MERE) conducted in refugee camps and for urban refugees, while MERE continues

393 refugee and host community children benefit from school feeding at Fetentaa Camp under sponsorship of Catholic Church

Danish Ambassador visits Egeyikrom Camp with Danish State Auditors to assess impact of Denmark's Contribution to refugee program

Low interest in Voluntary repatriation among Ivorian Refugees, as only 40 PoCs have returned from January 2016 to date

Population of concern

A total of **18,457** people of concern

By country of origin

Country	Total PoC
Côte d'Ivoire	11,725
Togo	3,732
Others	3,000
Total	18,457

Funding

USD 9,444,755 requested

6% funded

UNHCR Presence

Staffing:

40 national staff; 02 UNOPS

04 international staff; 02 IUNV

Offices:

01 Country Office in Accra, 02 Field Offices located in Takoradi and Sunyani

WORKING WITH PARTNERS

- UNHCR works with the Government of Ghana through the Ministry of the Interior, the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), the Ghana Immigration Services (GIS), and other relevant government departments and ministries in ensuring asylum seekers and refugees have full access to international protection and basic services. UNHCR cooperates with other State agencies such as the Department of Social Development, Legal Aid Services, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, the Births and Deaths Registry in the provision of services to refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR Ghana works with partners including the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), the National Catholic Secretariat (NCS), and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Operational support is provided by UNFPA, IOM and UNAIDS.

GHANA
Reference Map
as of 10 Aug 2016



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
Creation date: 10 Aug 2016 Sources: UNHCR Feedback: mapping@unhcr.org

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Protection & Solutions

- Multi-purpose Enhanced Registration Exercise (MERE) 2016:** The MERE for solutions jointly organized by UNHCR and GRB took place from 22 June to 26 August 2016, and it covered refugees and asylum seekers living in all the camps, and in urban areas including Accra except Togolese refugees and other smaller refugee groups such as exempted Liberians, Rwandans and Sierra Leoneans for whom a specific exercise is envisaged next year aimed at finding solutions. The objectives of the exercise were to update and enhance data on individuals, including on their livelihoods, family composition and solution intentions. About 7,531 refugees and asylum-seekers were physically verified in five different locations where a registration center was set up. Mop up sessions will be organized in various locations over the next weeks for those who missed the MERE. Preliminary results of the solution intention survey show a very low interest for voluntary repatriation amongst refugees, most notably Ivorian refugees, as well as weak interest in local integration. The final part of the exercise which entails a socio-economic household survey is currently being undertaken and results are expected in October. The exercise will provide a socio-economic profile of refugee households and assist in improved targeting to vulnerable refugees in Ghana to ensure access to social safety nets and the ability to meet certain basic needs.
- Voluntary Repatriation:** A total of 32 PoCs returned to Côte d'Ivoire with the assistance of UNHCR on 25 August 2016. This brings the total number of Ivorian Refugees who have embarked on Voluntary repatriation from January to date to 40.
- Local integration:** Development and implementation of a multi-year solutions and protection strategy for refugees in protracted situations (Togolese, Liberian (exempted), Rwandan, and Sierra Leonean). The focus is on local integration as more than 80% of refugees of Togolese origin have expressed interest in remaining in Ghana.

Food Security and Nutrition

- Catholic Church sponsors school feeding program in Fetentaa Camp:** Since March 2016, 393 refugee and host community children in Fetentaa Camp have been benefiting from a hot meal per day under the sponsorship of the Catholic Church. The aim of the intervention is to improve upon the nutritional status of the children especially now that general food distribution has been ceased, and to encourage enrollment in school. The intervention ends in December 2016, after which there is no assurance of continuity.

External Relations

- Visit of Danish State Auditors to the Egyeikrom Refugee Camp:** Following an initial preparatory mission to Egyeikrom Refugee Camp held in July 2016, the Danish Ambassador to Ghana, H.E Tove Degnbol, on 16 August 2016, led a 14-member delegation, comprised of 11 State Auditors from the Danish Parliament, and 2 staff from the Denmark Embassy in Accra on a visit to the Egyeikrom Camp. The objective of the visit was to assess the impact of Denmark's contribution towards addressing challenges and prospects in the protection and solutions for refugees, and the impact of Denmark's contribution to the Ghana Health Service over the past 20 years. The visit of the Danish Delegation gave rise to a lot of discussions about the Danish priorities and the importance of continuing their support to UNHCR.

Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Limited support for socio-economically poor refugee households, including those in Ivorian camps affected by the cessation of food rations since Sept-2015, for ensuring access to social safety nets and meeting certain basic needs.
- Challenges to secure sustainable livelihoods due to lack of employment, business opportunities, start-up capital, and difficulties for PoC to access markets and financial services at a level similar to nationals.
- Low quality of shelter in the Ivorian camps (over 50% of refugees still reside in emergency plastic sheet tents since 2011).
- Challenges to provide school feeding for children in camp primary schools run by Ghana Education Services in order to maintain enrolment.
- Difficulty in securing more scholarships for refugee youth in particular for senior secondary education.
- Lack of affordable legal assistance and representation to refugees and asylum-seekers tailored to their needs in the field of refugee status determination (RSD), Child Protection and GBV.
- Lack of effective access for refugees and asylum-seekers, especially those in camps, to national social protection programs such as the livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) and the National School Feeding Program.

UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of donors who have given un-earmarked funding to UNHCR worldwide as well as donors who have contributed directly to UNHCR's programmes in West Africa in 2016:

| [Private donors Spain](#) | [Denmark](#) | [UN Program on HIV/AIDS](#) |

Contacts:

Ms. Ioli Kimyaci, UNHCR Ghana Country Representative, kimyaci@unhcr.org, Tel: +233 244 319630
 Mr. Nii Ako Sowa, Public Information and Communications Associate, Email: sowanii@unhcr.org, Tel: +233 544 340747
 Website: <http://unhcr-ghana.org/> | Twitter: @unhcrghana | Facebook: www.facebook.com/unhcrghana