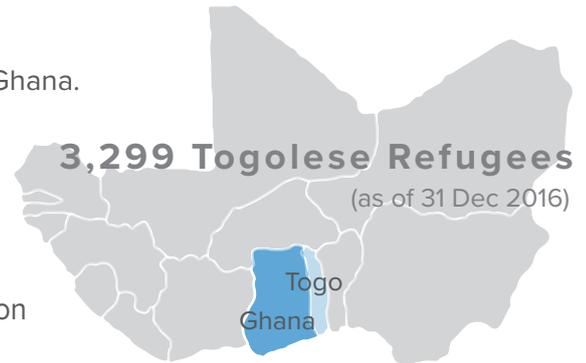


Finding Solutions

The Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) and UNHCR are working toward securing sustainable and durable solutions for Togolese refugees in Ghana.

There are two durable solution options offered: local integration and voluntary repatriation. The former will be supported with obtaining an alternative durable legal status (i.e. indefinite residence status or naturalization) based on the favorable legal and policy framework, coupled with nationality documents to prevent statelessness. They will also receive a cash grant to ease the transition from the refugee status to alternative legal status.



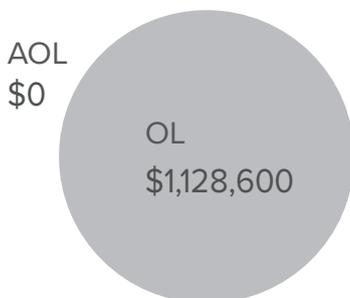
An irrigated farm supported by farm inputs

Achievement

In 2016, UNHCR and the GRB developed a multi-year protection and solutions strategy. The agreement with GRB is to provide an indefinite residence status to locally integrating refugees, instead of an earlier agreed 4-year residence permit. Where possible, the option of naturalization will be explored.

As part of the local integration project launched in 2014, the GRB, UNHCR and partners made achievements in ensuring access to national social services, including education and health. Investments were also made to foster self-reliance through livelihoods interventions targeting 800 refugee families. This included microfinance, small business support and provision of agricultural inputs. Efforts were also undertaken to link development partners with refugees to improve agricultural practices and marketability of products.

Integration OL+AOL=OP \$1,128,600



Development

UNHCR and the Government of Ghana are discussing with the Togolese government regarding the issuance of nationality documentation to allow for local integration. Many Togolese lack valid nationality documents, estimated as high as 70%. In absence of proof of nationality, it may hamper local integration, including for children born in exile, as this will be a prerequisite for attaining the alternative legal status.

Ways Forward

In the 2nd quarter of 2017, UNHCR will commence discussions with the new Government regarding the legal component of the local integration. More specifically this will include clarity on practicalities around the provision of an indefinite residence status and where possible naturalization. Following agreement on legal options for local integration, the cessation clauses for Togolese refugees will be invoked.

Meanwhile, consultations and verification will take place to inform the refugees about their available options to ensure they are able to benefit from the most adequate legal solution pathway. For those refugees who wish to voluntarily repatriate, transportation and a cash grant will be provided.

History

Togolese refugees arrived in 1993-94 and 2005 in the Volta Region amid post-electoral crises and are recognized as refugees on a prima facie basis. They have strong ethnic, cultural and linguistic affinities with the local Ghanaian population. They largely settled in the Volta region, living amongst the local population.



UNHCR is committed to fully engage in the 2030 Agenda processes in the West Africa region to leverage the SDGs for increased protection and solutions for forcibly displaced persons. The Agenda's promise to leave no one behind is pivotal for the inclusion of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in regular development planning.