



# UNHCR in Ghana



## PRIORITIES

- Mainstreaming of State basic & social services into camps
- Safe & Sustainable livelihoods
- Nondiscrimination & effective access to services
- Securing durable solutions for refugees
- Prevention of Statelessness in situations of prolonged exile

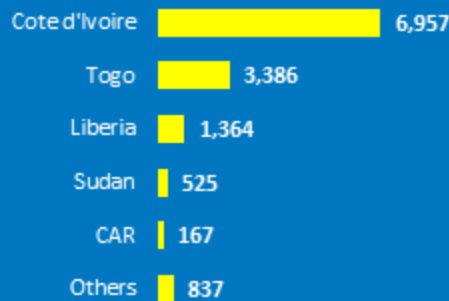
## FUNDING

**USD 8,878,867**

Requested for the operation



## POPULATION OF CONCERN



UNHCR is the global organization legally mandated by the UN General Assembly to lead and coordinate international action to protect, assist and find durable solutions for refugees and stateless persons.

Jointly with its government counterpart, other UN agencies and partners, UNHCR in Ghana provides assistance and protects fundamental rights of refugees, asylum seekers and stateless persons in Ghana.

In Ghana, the total number of Persons of Concern (PoC) to UNHCR at the end of December 2016 was 13,236 comprised of 11,865 refugees and 1,371 asylum-seekers from over 34 different countries of origin.

**Figure 1: Population | By Status**



**Figure 2: UNHCR Ghana | Operational Map of Field Presence**

## Protection and Solutions Strategy

Most refugees have been in Ghana for at least five years, with the most recent influx being that of Ivorian Refugees in mid-2011. Other refugee groups arrived mostly in the 90s or early 2000s. Finding durable solutions is therefore of utmost importance to allow refugees to acquire, or re-acquire, the full protection of a state. This can be achieved through voluntary repatriation, local integration, and - provided the eligibility criteria are met - resettlement. Long-standing displacement situations require reaching out beyond the humanitarian community and developing new ways to help refugees build a better future. Engaging closely with national and local government and development organizations is essential in order to link refugee communities with development and peace building processes, to help them become socially integrated, and economically self-reliant, and to provide them with alternative legal status.

The aim of the UNHCR Ghana Operation Strategy is to achieve the following **5 strategic outcomes** for PoC by end of 2018:

- All PoC in Ghana have effective and equal access to State basic, social and protection services available to nationals.
- Quality, fair and efficient asylum procedures are ensured by a national independent asylum authority that provides PoC with individual documentation recognized countrywide.
- Each refugee household has built solid livelihood assets resulting in conducive conditions for the implementation of adequate durable solutions, particularly voluntary return and local integration.
- Ghana has acceded to both Statelessness Conventions and a comprehensive analysis is undertaken on groups at risk of statelessness, paving the way for the adoption of an adequate legal and policy framework for addressing statelessness causes.
- Implementation of a multi-year solutions strategy under which durable solutions are available to refugees. The emphasis is on promotion of voluntary return, particularly for Ivorian refugees and support for local integration for Togolese refugees and other groups in protracted circumstances.

## Working with partners

Partnership is central to UNHCR's work, in particular in the search for durable solutions and provision of equal access to basic services and fostering sustainable livelihoods. In Ghana, UNHCR works with the Government through the Ministry of the Interior, the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), Ghana Immigration Services (GIS), Commissioner for Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) and other relevant government agencies and departments in ensuring asylum seekers and refugees have effective access to basic and protection services. UNHCR cooperates with other state agencies such as the Department of Social Development, Births and Deaths Registry, National Health Insurance Authority, Ghana Education Service, National Disaster Management Organization, and District/Municipal Assemblies in the provision of services to refugees. Other partners include: 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.



## Refugee Camps in Ghana

In Ghana, 6,651 persons, approximately 50.2 percent of all refugees live in the four refugee camps located in the Central, Western and Brong Ahafo regions. The rest of the PoC live mainly in urban areas such as: Accra, Tema and Takoradi, while about 2,700 Togolese refugees are settled in the Volta region, mainly along the border towns of Aflao, Ho and Hohoe.

### Ampain Refugee Camp

- Location: **Ellembelle District, Western Region**
- Date established: **March 2011**
- Camp population: **3,442**
- Country of Origin: **Côte d'Ivoire**
- Size of camp area: **32 acres**

### Egyeikrom Refugee Camp

- Location: **Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abirim (KEEA), Central Region**
- Date established: **July 2011**
- Camp population: **1,459**
- Country of Origin: **Côte d'Ivoire**
- Size of camp area: **50 acres**

### Fetentaa Refugee Camp

- Location: **Berekum District, Brong Ahafo Region**
- Date established: **June 2011**
- Camp population: **983**
- Country of Origin: **Côte d'Ivoire**
- Size of camp area: **25 acres**

### Krisan Refugee Camp

- Location: **Ellembelle District, Western Region**
- Date established: **September 1996**
- Camp population: **767**
- Country of origin: **Sudan 47%, Togo 19%, Liberia 10%, and 14 other countries of origin 24%** (66% of them in protracted circumstances)
- Size of camp area: **174 acres**

Figure 3: Population of concern | By location type

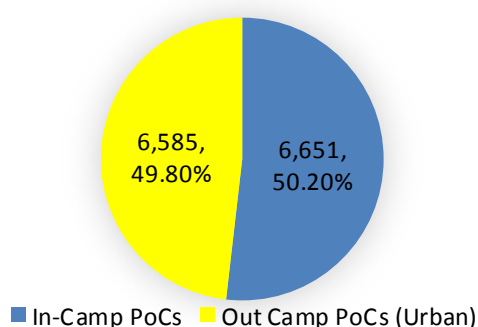
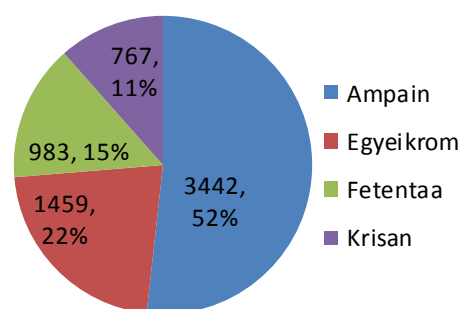


Figure 4: Population of concern | By Camp



## Key operational activities

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### Protection

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- Provision of technical and operational support to Ghana Refugee Board for fair and efficient asylum procedures and issuance of individual protection documentation by national authorities.
- Child protection, assessment and/or determination of the best Interest of the child in particular for unaccompanied and separated children.
- Provision of legal & protection counselling services to asylum-seekers and refugees.
- Prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) and provision of multi-disciplinary support to GBV survivors.
- Facilitation of birth registration by local birth registrar for children of concern born on Ghanaian soil.
- Ensuring peaceful coexistence between host and refugee communities.



### Livelihoods and empowerment

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- Support to foster sustainable livelihoods through apprenticeship, and other market based interventions in e.g. agriculture, agro processing and livestock management.
- Microfinance and access to financial services.
- Provision of vocational and technical skills training and business training (following methodology of ILO in Start and Improve Your Business (SIYB)).
- Provision of language training (English and local languages).



### Durable Solutions

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- Development and implementation of a multi-year solutions and protection strategy for refugees in protracted situations (Togolese, Liberian (exempted), Rwandan, and Sierra Leonean). Focus on local integration as more than 80% of refugees of Togolese origin have expressed interest in remaining in Ghana.
- Promotion of voluntary repatriation to country of origin particularly for Ivorian refugees.
- Use of resettlement to a third country for refugees with heightened protection risks.



### Education

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- Integration of refugee education into the Ghana Education Service Structure.
- Provision of school material to children between the ages of 6 – 13 enrolled in basic education.
- Since 2015, provision of limited scholarships opportunities for 20 brilliant refugees to access Senior Secondary Education.
- For tertiary education, and based on availability, facilitation of access to a limited number of DAFI Scholarship (German sponsored scholarship program for refugees).



### Health

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- Mainstreaming refugee health services into the Ghana Health Service Structure.
- Support to enroll PoC into the National Health Insurance Scheme nationwide (currently 85% of PoC are enrolled).



## Food Security and Nutrition

- Targeted support to extremely vulnerable households.
- Provision of supplementary feeding for chronically ill PoC and children at risk of mal nutrition.



## Water and Sanitation

- Maintenance of water supply and sanitation systems (water tanks, water pumps, latrines) with refugee self-management committees.
- Awareness-raising activities relating to water preservation and hygiene.



## Shelter and NFI's

- Provision of shelter kits and technical training to PoC who are able to construct their shelters in the camp or have difficulty constructing their own shelter.
- Provision of installation kit composed of blankets, jerry cans, mosquito nets, mats, cooking sets, and buckets for newly arrived refugees.
- Provision of hygiene kits and soap to women of childbearing age.



## Access to Energy

- Provision of fuel efficient cook stoves to refugees.
- Training of refugees to manufacture briquettes and fuel efficient cook stoves under the Safe from the Start Project.

## Identified needs and remaining gaps

- Limited support for socio-economically vulnerable 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 canteen for children in camp primary schools in order to maintain enrolment.
- Difficulty in securing more scholarships for refugee youth for senior secondary education.
- Limited legal assistance and representation to refugees and asylum-seekers tailored to the needs in the area of refugee status determination (RSD), Child Protection and GBV.
- Refugees and asylum-seekers do not have effective access to national social protection programs such as the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP) and the National School Feeding Program.

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| [Germany](#) |

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