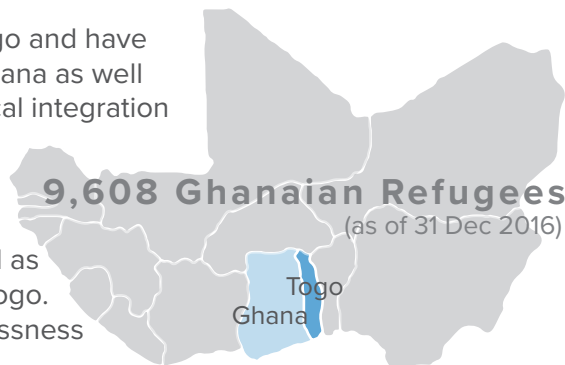


Finding Solutions

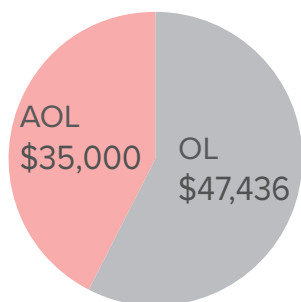
Ghanaian refugees are well integrated in communities in northern Togo and have no intention of returning to Ghana. The Governments of Togo and Ghana as well as UNHCR affirmed the common pathway in 2013 to “facilitate(ing) local integration of Ghanaian refugees arrived in 1982 and 1994 through the issuance of residence permits or their naturalization.”

The population has been receiving protection from the Government of Togo and UNHCR, while they have never been officially recognized as refugees. Many do not possess identity documents from Ghana nor Togo. Lack of legal status and documentation has put them at risk of statelessness and hinder them from fully exercising their rights.

UNHCR conducted a verification and intention survey in 2016. The results shows that nearly 98% of them wish to remain in Togo while maintaining their Ghanaian nationality.



Integration OL+AOL=OP \$82,436



Development

The tripartite meeting is scheduled to take place in the second quarter of 2017 to discuss the matters related to the country of origin documentations.

UNHCR continues to advocate with the Government to ease the 10-year resident permit cost, which currently amounts to 500,000 CFA (over US\$800) per person. Additionally, UNHCR advocates for an alternative legal status based on ECOWAS protocol provisions as a first step towards naturalization.

For the agro-pastoral project, 12 refugees including 11 women are engaged in improved poultry. For the farming, UNHCR just completed identifying beneficiaries: 250 refugees and 350 host community members.

Ways Forward

UNHCR will seek durable solution approaches harmonized between Ghanaian refugees in Togo and Togolese refugees in Ghana.

History

Inter-ethnic clashes caused Ghanaians to flee into rural communities in northern Togo in 1982-1994 and 2010-14. The group has strong cultural and linguistic affinities with local the Togolese population

Achievement

To date, two meetings between UNHCR and the Governments of Togo and Ghana took place in 2013 and 2014 to seek durable solutions. In 2013, the parties issued a joint communiqué on the common pathway. In 2014, all parties visited northern Togo to visit refugees. In 2014, UNHCR sent a memorandum to the Office of the President in Togo to advocate for the naturalization of Ghanaian refugees.

In 2016 the two sectoral groups, the socio-economic group led by the Ministry of Agriculture, and the legal group led by the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection, held meetings to move forward naturalization and an alternative durable legal status. The groups are formed based on the Local Integration Strategy by UNHCR and the Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés.

UNHCR with partners has been implementing agro-pastoral project to bring self-sufficiency to the most vulnerable since 2016. The advocacy led to avail 7ha of land for the group.



Agro-pastoral project



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.