

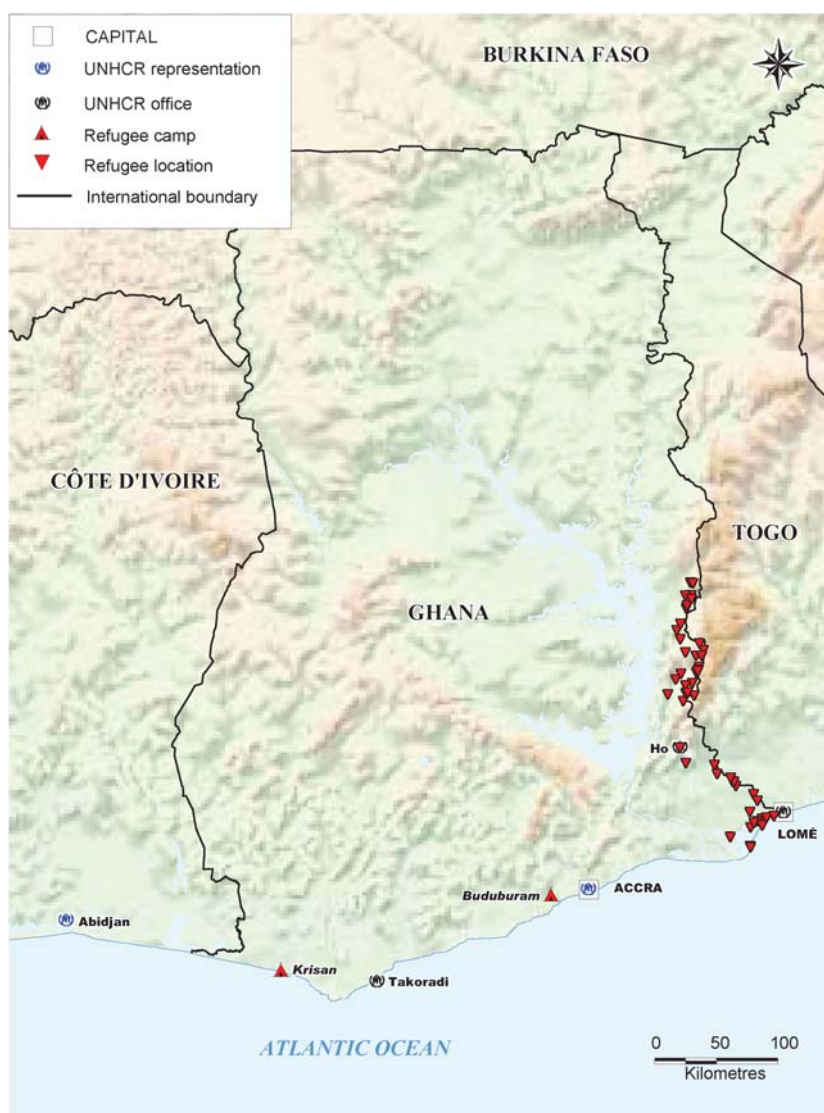
Ghana

Operational highlights

- More than 2,330 Liberian refugees (60 per cent of the revised target for 2007) repatriated with UNHCR assistance.
- UNHCR aided 1,330 Togolese refugees to repatriate voluntarily within the framework of a Tripartite Agreement signed in April 2007.
- The Office helped resettle 330 refugees in need of continued international protection to various third countries. They included Togolese, Sudanese, Liberians and refugees of other nationalities.
- Nearly 90 asylum claims, or more than three-quarters of all applications submitted, were decided by the Ghanaian authorities in 2007.

Working environment

As Ghana awaits presidential and parliamentary elections at the end of 2008, the general situation is one of peace and stability – with the exception of intermittent conflict in the north-eastern part of the country. With more than 35,000 refugees and asylum-seekers on its territory at the end of 2007, Ghana hosts the largest refugee population in West Africa. The main groups were Liberian refugees in the Buduburam settlement (76 per cent), refugees of various nationalities



in Krisan settlement (4 per cent), Togolese refugees with host communities in the Volta region (16 per cent), and urban refugees and asylum-seekers in and around Accra (4 per cent).

Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	27,000	27,000	53	43
	Togo	7,200	7,200	53	48
	Sudan	600	600	14	14
	Various	150	150	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Côte d'Ivoire	160	160	35	16
	Various	280	280	-	-
Total		35,390	35,390		

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

In 2007, UNHCR planned to conclude the return programme for Liberian refugees; hand over the Buduburam camp to the Ghanaian authorities; and promote self-reliance and local integration for those Liberians unable to return. The Office also sought to support self-reliance projects and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Togolese refugees; find durable solutions for refugees in Krisan settlement; and help the Government maintain a positive protection environment.

Protection and solutions

Ghana's refugee legislation, enacted in 1992, provides asylum-seekers of all nationalities equal access to refugee status determination procedures and allows them to remain in the country until all appeals have been exhausted. With the end of the UNHCR-assisted voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees in June 2007, the Government stipulated that any prospects of local integration for the remainder of the Liberians in the country would depend on the size of the group. UNHCR is advocating for the Liberians' gradual local integration,

based on self-reliance and community development. There are prospects for de-facto local integration at the end of organised voluntary repatriation for the remaining Togolese refugees in Ghana.

Activities and assistance

Community services: An implementing partner provided social counselling, psychological support and treatment to nearly 1,000 individuals (84 per cent female) in Buduburam and more than 20 cases in Krisan settlement. In the Volta region, an implementing partner trained some 130 individuals in preventing and responding to sexual, gender-based and domestic violence. Sanitary towels were distributed to all refugee women of reproductive age throughout the year.

Crop production: Technical assistance, tools and seeds were provided to nearly 1,000 Togolese refugee households, exceeding the initial target by 20 per cent. The crop yield in 2007 was 30 per cent greater than in 2006.

Domestic needs and household support: Liberian refugees in Buduburam, Togolese refugees in the Volta region, and urban refugees and asylum-seekers with specific needs in the transit centre received non-food



UNHCR/A. Srirangay

Voluntary repatriation convoy on its way to Togo.

items to sustain basic living standards. UNHCR also contributed to the UN Flash Appeal, providing non-food items worth USD 240,000 for 75,000 flood victims in northern Ghana.

Education: Nineteen schools at the Buduburam site were approved by the Ghana Education Service for inclusion in the national educational system. In Krisan, all refugee children of school age were enrolled in primary school. In the Volta region, more than 1,800 refugee children (or 77 per cent of all refugee children of school age) were enrolled in primary school as of the end of 2007; some 49 per cent were girls. Preventive education on HIV and AIDS reached nearly 2,200 children in the 10 primary schools where the topic was part of the curriculum.

Food: Food was provided to 7,000 refugees with specific needs in Buduburam (25 per cent of total camp population). It continued to provide food in Krisan settlement. In the Volta region, food rations were distributed to 3,000 Togolese refugees. All returning Liberian refugees were provided with cooked meals and drinking water while in transit.

Health and nutrition: All camp-based refugees received basic health care and were referred to hospitals outside the camps when necessary. In 2007 more than 4,000 individuals (an 11 per cent increase over 2006) were treated free of charge in the Buduburam clinic. Malnourished children received supplementary feeding as nutrition surveys revealed high Global Acute Malnutrition (11.9 per cent) and Severe Acute Malnutrition (2.3 per cent) rates in the camps.

HIV tests were made available and those who were HIV positive received treatment. All returning Liberian refugees were medically screened and those unable to travel by sea (960 persons, or 41 per cent) were helped to return by air.

Income generation: More than 20 survivors of violence were helped to engage in self-reliance activities under the Women's Empowerment and Economic Development project. UNIDO staff worked to sensitize refugees on opportunities offered under the 2008-2009 UNIDO/UNHCR/FAO joint programme. Twenty-five refugee students completed computer courses in June, with seven of them receiving certification.

Legal assistance: All repatriating refugees received support and documents such as birth, educational and health certificates. "Go and See" and "Come and Tell" visits were regularly organized to provide updates on developments in Liberia. UNHCR held cross border meetings with Ghanaian and Togolese authorities. A targeted information campaign led to the establishment of practical modalities on repatriation which contributed

to confidence building among Togolese refugees in Ghana who returned in record numbers since the launch of the first repatriation convoy from the Volta Region in October 2007. The traditional leaders in the host communities in Ghana played an important role in the success of the return process.

Five training sessions on child protection and the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence were conducted. The response and prevention mechanism to address such violence led to successful prosecution of perpetrators in all refugee hosting areas. Prevention training sessions on the use of narcotics were conducted at Buduburam settlement in partnership with national law enforcement and relevant UN agencies.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR covered the operational, management and staffing costs of various implementing partners. Vehicles and other assets were made available under right-of-use agreements. Furthermore, partners received technical support, expertise and training on key policy and operational matters.

Sanitation: Sanitation at Buduburam camp remained below acceptable standards. Refugees above the age of 12 and below 60 paid for the use of community latrines. Tractors and trailers provided by UNHCR facilitated the collection and disposal of solid waste in an environmentally sound manner. In Krisan, weekly clean-up campaigns and public health awareness activities ensured the collection and disposal of waste in an environmentally acceptable manner. Sanitation problems represented less than 1 per cent of reported cases at the health clinic in Krisan.

Shelter and other infrastructure: In Buduburam camp, UNHCR helped repair 89 flood-damaged homes of some 540 refugees with specific needs. In Krisan, shelter units affected by floods were rehabilitated and provided with more than 420 pieces of plastic sheeting. In the Volta region all Togolese were sheltered with relatives, host families, or in rented houses.

Transport and logistics: More than 2,300 Liberian refugees repatriated by air and sea. UNHCR also transported Togolese repatriating from the Volta region to their final destination inside Togo.

Water: Access to potable water was limited in Buduburam. Some camp residents procured and sold water of uncertain quality from privately owned tankers. Water quality was tested at eight boreholes at the Krisan camp by officials of the Ghana Water Company. In the Volta region, the handover of six boreholes to host authorities fostered improved relations between refugees and local communities.

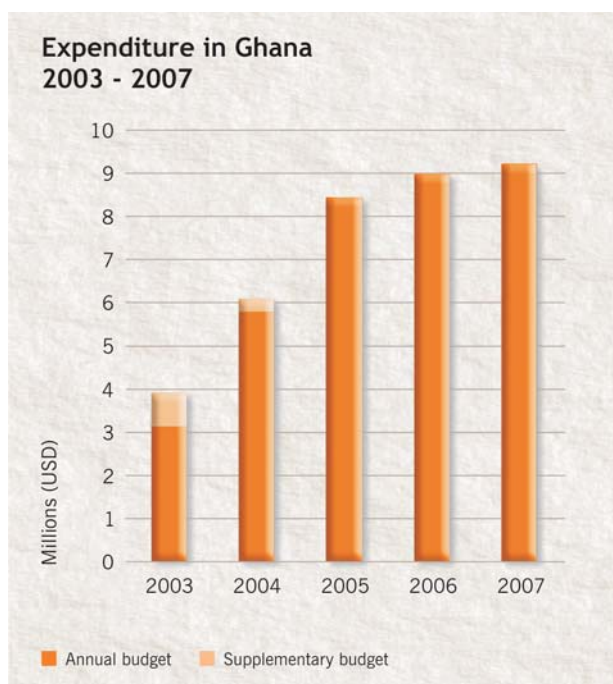
Constraints

As in previous years, the interest of the Liberian refugee community in returning home remained relatively low. Refugees cited lack of an insufficient package in Liberia to cater to the needs of a mostly urban profile of refugees in Ghana. Misinformation fuelling false aspirations of large-scale resettlement to third countries remained an obstacle for Liberian refugees preventing them from availing themselves of voluntary repatriation or engaging in self-reliance activities with their host community which could lead to local integration.

Chartering a ship for repatriation has been difficult due to the limited availability of vessels in the region which meet minimum international safety requirements. As the sea is not passable during certain months of the year, air transport from Ghana was necessary.

Financial information

In 2007, the UNHCR programme in Ghana received 24 per cent of its budget of USD 9.4 million in earmarked funding. There was a need for prioritization and reallocation between appropriations after the mid-year review. Funds from the Liberia repatriation project were shifted to Krisan to maintain minimum living standards and to the Volta region to start the voluntary repatriation of Togolese. UNHCR also raised an extra USD 130,000 for HIV and AIDS projects benefiting refugees through the United Nations Integrated Support Plan and UN Programme Accelerated Funds.



Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR maintained a branch office in Accra, a field office in Ho and a field presence in Takoradi with 44 staff (seven internationals, 34 nationals, two international UNVs and one deployee).

Working with others

UNHCR had sub-agreements with 11 implementing partners, including five national NGOs. A joint programme to enhance self-reliance and facilitate durable solutions for refugees in Buduburam and Krisan camps – as well as local populations in these areas – was developed with UNIDO and FAO.

Overall assessment

UNHCR implemented durable solutions for refugees through the complementary use of voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. All repatriating Liberian and Togolese refugees were transported in safety and dignity. Despite UNHCR's efforts to convince the Government to support local integration, national security concerns about the high number of Liberian refugees remained Ghana's primary preoccupation in the post-repatriation phase. Facilitated voluntary repatriation to Togo began successfully. For those making an informed decision to stay in Ghana, dependence on assistance was replaced by self-reliance through community projects involving host populations. Awareness sessions on age, gender and diversity issues were held in all refugee locations including, for the first time, among urban refugees in Accra.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: Ghana Education Service, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Ghana Refugee Board, National Disaster Management Organization

NGOs: Assemblies of God Relief and Development Service, Christian Council of Ghana, Ghana Red Cross Society, National Catholic Secretariat, Women's Initiative for Self-Empowerment

Others: FAO, OCHA, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHABITAT, UNICEF, UNWFP, WHO

Operational partners

Others: FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, WFP, WHO, IOM

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	9,285,918	1,958,185	7,235,138	9,193,322	9,187,530

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,796,894	0
Community services	343,912	32,090
Crop production	94,636	23,434
Domestic needs and household support	63,985	19,689
Education	144,367	57,025
Food	49,859	5,311
Health and nutrition	212,543	113,572
Legal assistance	390,506	35,201
Operational support (to agencies)	484,968	84,600
Sanitation	26,030	10,255
Shelter and infrastructure	55,100	13,874
Transport and logistics	498,652	129,644
Water	11,223	793
Instalments with implementing partners	602,665	(525,489)
Sub-total operational activities	5,775,339	0
Programme support	3,412,191	0
Total expenditure	9,187,530	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure		(25,451)
Instalments with implementing partners		
Payments made	2,100,191	
Reporting received	(1,497,526)	
Balance	602,665	
Previous years' report		
Instalments with implementing partners		
Outstanding 1st January		658,477
Reporting received		(525,489)
Refunded to UNHCR		(68,087)
Adjustments		0
Balance		64,902