

GHANA

Operational highlights

- Two verification and profiling exercises conducted for Liberian refugees established that there were some 11,100 people remaining in the Buduburam settlement near Accra and approximately 2,600 refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas.
- Almost 1,000 refugees were trained in various skills and provided internationally recognized certificates to help them become self-reliant and integrate locally.
- The dissolution of the Ghana Refugee Board hurt local integration efforts.
- More than 700 Liberian refugees and 140 Togolese refugees were assisted to return home. Some 240 refugees, mostly from Sudan (56 per cent) and Togo (23 per cent) were resettled in third countries.
- The cessation clause was applied to some 130 Sierra Leonean refugees residing in the Krisan camp, after which almost 70 were exempted. Although the cessation clause for Sierra Leonean refugees was invoked in 2008, it was determined that some 70 refugees from Sierra Leone living in Krisan camp in Ghana would be exempted for protection reasons, and able to continue to seek refuge in Ghana.

Working environment

Ghana held successful elections in 2009, which saw the National Democratic Congress take power from the New Patriotic Party. The country has been peaceful and stable, with the exception of sporadic conflict in the north-east. As a result of voluntary repatriation to Togo and Liberia, the refugee population numbers have come down from some 18,200 to 14,300, comprised mainly of Liberians (81 per cent) in the Buduburam semi-rural settlement.

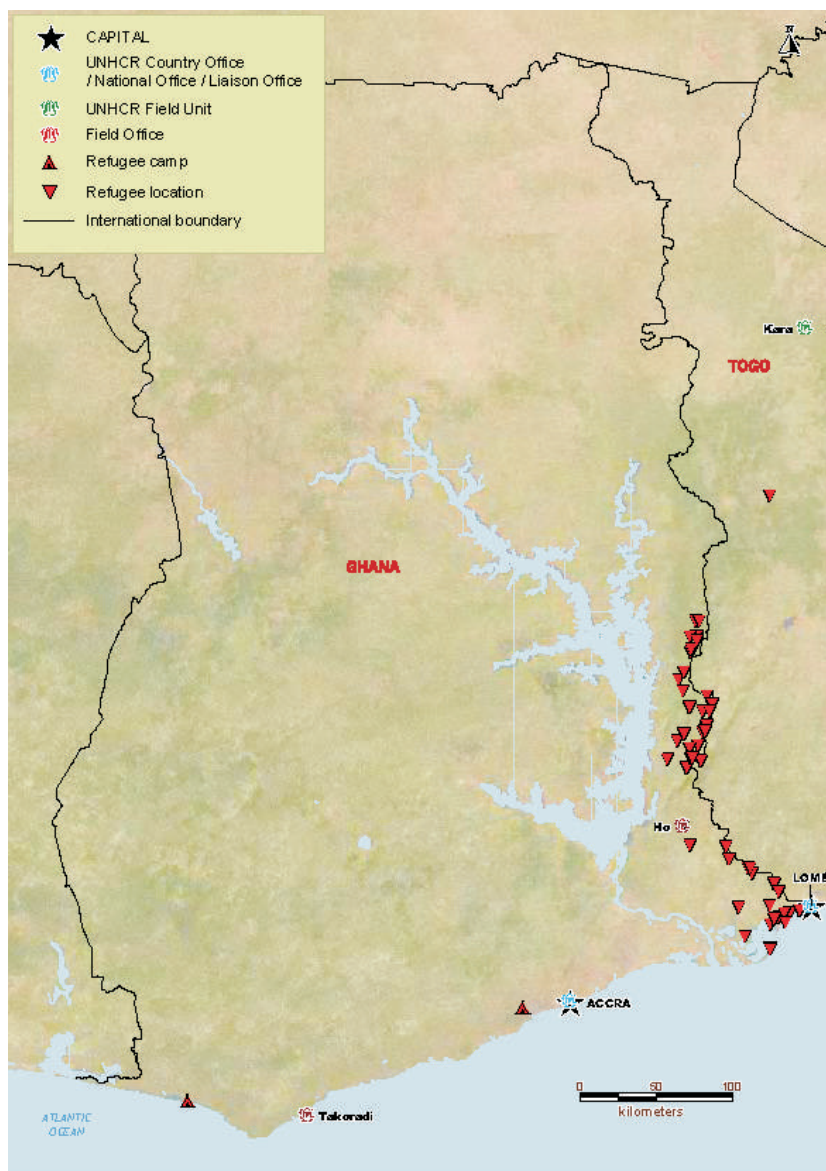
Ghana's refugee legislation provides asylum-seekers of all nationalities equal access to procedures and the possibility of remaining in the country until any appeal has been denied. Upon the assumption of power in January 2009, the new Government dissolved the Ghana Refugee Board, which was

primarily responsible for providing international protection to refugees and asylum-seekers.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

In 2009, UNHCR's main objective was to help the Government maintain a favourable protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers. The Office also sought to engage the Government in ensuring the local integration of refugees. Other priorities were to facilitate voluntary repatriation and to use resettlement strategically as a protection tool.



Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	11,500	11,500	49	35
	Togo	1,700	1,700	48	46
	Various	500	500	29	26
Asylum-seekers	Côte d'Ivoire	270	270	40	24
	Various	330	330	31	23
Total		14,300	14,300		

The Office also pursued self-reliance opportunities and activities for refugees with a view to equip them with marketable skills and improved livelihoods.

○ Protection and solutions

Ghana has a favourable protection environment in which asylum-seekers of all nationalities are able to remain in the country until all procedures, including rebuttal, are fully exhausted.

The Government has indicated that its decision to approve local integration (alternative legal residential status) for refugees would depend on the size of the remaining Liberian refugee population and their socio-economic situation. UNHCR therefore worked to ensure that refugees were equipped with marketable skills to further their self-reliance.

○ Activities and assistance

Community services: Some 240 refugees in the Volta region and the Krisan and Buduburam settlements were provided with psychosocial support, counselling and treatment. Seminars on sexual and gender-based violence and ways to address it were held to sensitize refugees and their host communities. The Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service was also provided with a training session on the subject. All refugee women of child-bearing age received sanitary towels throughout the year.

Crop Production: Some 170 households undertook cash crop production for the major planting season. Refugees

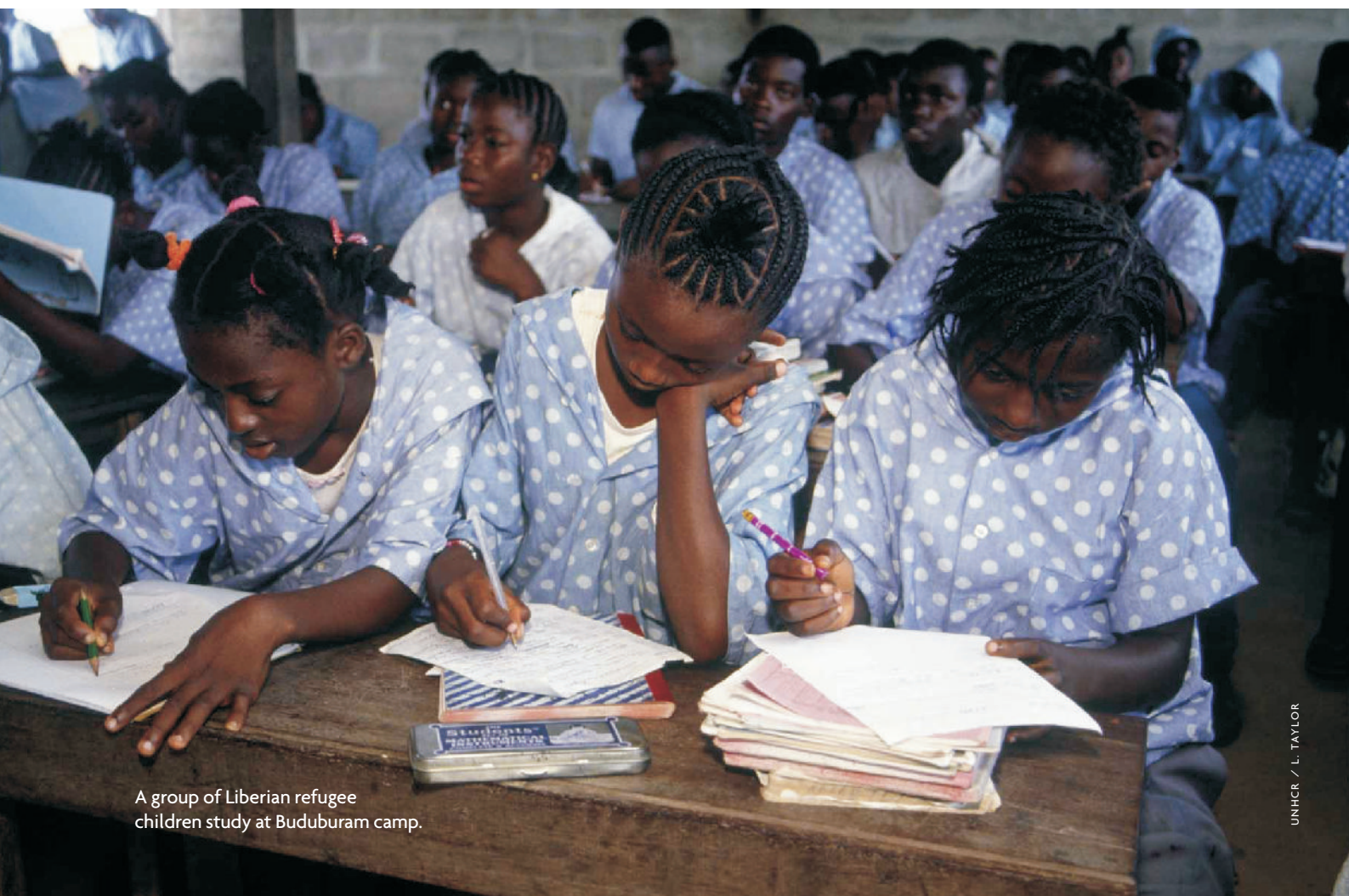
involved in crop production were supplied with planting materials, farm tools, herbicides and technical advice. Some 160 households received vegetable seeds and agrochemicals.

Domestic needs and household support: Basic domestic items such as blankets, mattresses, cooking utensils, sanitary towels and mosquito nets were provided to asylum-seekers and refugees to support their basic needs.

Education: Access to basic education was facilitated for all refugee children and some 5,500 were enrolled in school, approximately half of them girls. One school was constructed, supplied with furniture for 500 children and handed over to the Ghana Education Service. Another two schools were constructed in 2003 and 2004 by UNHCR and managed by an implementing partner until 2009, when they were also handed over to the Education Service.

Sixteen vulnerable refugees (eight boys and eight girls) were assisted with education. Some 70 students were sponsored by the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) and three students were supported at the post-graduate level under the DAFI scholarship programme. More than 60 refugees were helped to pursue vocational training. In Buduburam, a capacity building workshop was organized for some 60 teachers in collaboration with the Ghana Education Service.

Food: Food assistance was provided to approximately 6,000 vulnerable refugees and their families. Targeted food assistance to this population ended in September 2009 but severely malnourished children continued to receive assistance as part of the supplementary feeding and growth monitoring programme.



A group of Liberian refugee children study at Buduburam camp.

Health and nutrition: Some 5,200 refugees were enrolled in the national health insurance scheme (1,200 Togolese in the Volta Region, 1,000 persons in the Krisan camp and 3,000 persons in the Buduburam settlement). The Buduburam community clinic was handed over to the Ghana Health Service and continued to receive both refugees and members of the local community. Persons living with HIV and AIDS received anti-retroviral treatment.

Malaria remained the highest cause of morbidity, but its incidence was reduced due to intensified education, a vector control system and the distribution of treated mosquito nets. Following the appearance of AH1N1 influenza, contingency plans were put in place to deal with any large-scale outbreak among refugees.

Income generation: Almost 1,000 refugees were trained in various professional skills and refugee-managed training facilities were assessed and used for the training programmes. Those who passed examinations and received certification were provided with start-up tools and equipment as well as small business management training to help them become self-reliant and improve their livelihoods.

Legal assistance: Individual refugee and asylum-seeker certificates were issued upon request to some 70 asylum-seekers and 40 refugees. UNHCR used a national identification programme to begin registering all refugees and asylum-seekers with a view to providing refugees with national ID cards. Positive discussions with the National Identification Authority resulted in the registration of 300 Togolese refugees as part of a pilot exercise. All cases of sexual and gender-based violence involving minors received legal representational support. UNHCR provided training in child protection, refugee rights and methods to counter domestic violence to all stakeholders.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR provided technical support and financial and material assistance to its partners. Training was provided in operations and financial management, including an introduction to the new results-based management framework and software. The Ghana Judicial Service received support to participate in consultations of the International Association of Refugee Law Judges in Dublin, Ireland.

Sanitation: Local authorities were assisted to become actively involved in environment and sanitation management. They were provided with sanitation and waste management equipment in refugee hosting communities, thereby enhancing the supervision of sanitation activities.

Shelter and infrastructure: All registered refugees were provided with shelter in Krisan camp and refugees living in unacceptable conditions in urban areas were relocated to the camp. Refugees in Krisan were provided with electricity supplied through the national grid at no cost to UNHCR.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR contributed trucks as part of a collective UN response to the Government's call to support humanitarian efforts in the northern region of Ghana.

Water: In Buduburam camp, the number of stand pipes was increased from 20 to 32, making potable water available to the whole settlement. Refugees in Krisan were provided with adequate quantities of clean water that was available within walking distance from the camp. Water quality tests were conducted on a quarterly basis in Krisan to ensure the early detection of any contamination and provide treatment where necessary.

○ Constraints

The Ghana Refugee Board, mandated to manage the refugee programme, was dissolved. This had a negative impact in the areas of protection and local integration.

The Liberian refugee community showed little interest in returning home. Despite considerable efforts to convey the fact that large-scale resettlement had finished, many in this group continue to hold on to hope for resettlement. The perception among some refugees that resettlement and other durable solutions cannot run concurrently resulted in the disruption of humanitarian assistance and threats to implementing partners.

| Financial information |

The main source of funding for the refugee programme in Ghana was the Annual Programme Budget. UNHCR Accra received additional resources from the Human Security Trust Fund. UNHCR also assisted an implementing partner to develop a proposal for funding to address migration issues in refugee-hosting areas.

| Organization and implementation |

UNHCR maintained a country office in Accra, a field office in Ho and a presence in Takoradi. The Office operated with 43 staff (four international staff, 34 nationals, and five UNVs).

| Working with others |

UNHCR worked with nine implementing partners (five national NGOs and four government agencies). It also worked with other UN agencies, such as FAO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNIDO, OCHA and WFP in the context of thematic interventions and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) as well as in contingency planning and emergency preparedness. Close collaboration was also maintained with donor missions.

| Overall assessment |

UNHCR's operation in Ghana aimed to maintain a favourable protection environment by safe-guarding asylum and pursuing local integration simultaneously with facilitated voluntary repatriation and the strategic use of resettlement. The multifaceted approach employed by the Office in the pursuit of local integration, as well as the active engagement of civil-society organizations and local government structures, ensured that although the Ghana Refugee Board was non-functional, progress was made in expanding the self-reliance of refugees.

Partners

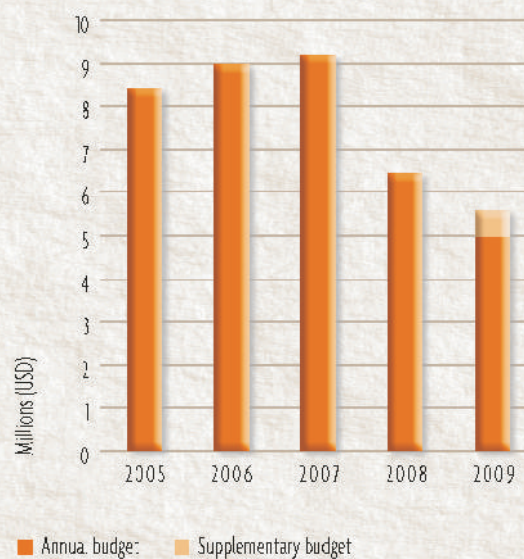
Implementing partners

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

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

Others: FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNIFEM, UNV Programme, WFP, WHO

Expenditure in Ghana 2005 - 2009



Budget, income and expenditure in Ghana (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	5,410,570	112,275	5,025,296	5,137,571	5,000,843
West Africa - Local integration of Liberian refugees SB	2,354,878	497,908	85,964	583,872	583,872
Total	7,765,448	610,183	5,111,260	5,721,443	5,584,715

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level and do not include seven per cent support costs for NAM contributions. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Ghana (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,467,190	6,429	1,473,619	0
Community services	90,013	0	90,013	51,673
Crop production	23,724	0	23,724	8,397
Domestic needs and household support	13,506	0	13,506	18,045
Education	295,620	214,268	509,889	123,674
Food	5,467	0	5,467	1,310
Health and nutrition	202,063	0	202,063	197,421
Income generation	0	41,926	41,926	0
Legal assistance	575,137	0	575,137	75,580
Operational support (to agencies)	279,984	51,972	331,956	91,336
Sanitation	93,316	0	93,316	35,237
Shelter and infrastructure	287,332	0	287,332	104,012
Transport and logistics	159,757	0	159,757	104,626
Water	36,241	0	36,241	20,351
Instalments to implementing partners	617,523	269,276	886,799	(831,662)
Subtotal operational activities	4,146,872	583,872	4,730,743	0
Programme support	853,971	0	853,971	0
Total expenditure	5,000,843	583,872	5,584,715	0

Cancellation on previous years' expenditure

(467)

Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	2,268,962	483,545	2,752,507
Reporting received	(1,651,440)	(214,268)	(1,865,708)
Balance	617,523	269,276	886,799

Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			922,574
Reporting received			(831,662)
Refunded to UNHCR			(19,586)
Currency adjustment			1,299
Outstanding 31st December			72,625