

# Ghana

## Working environment

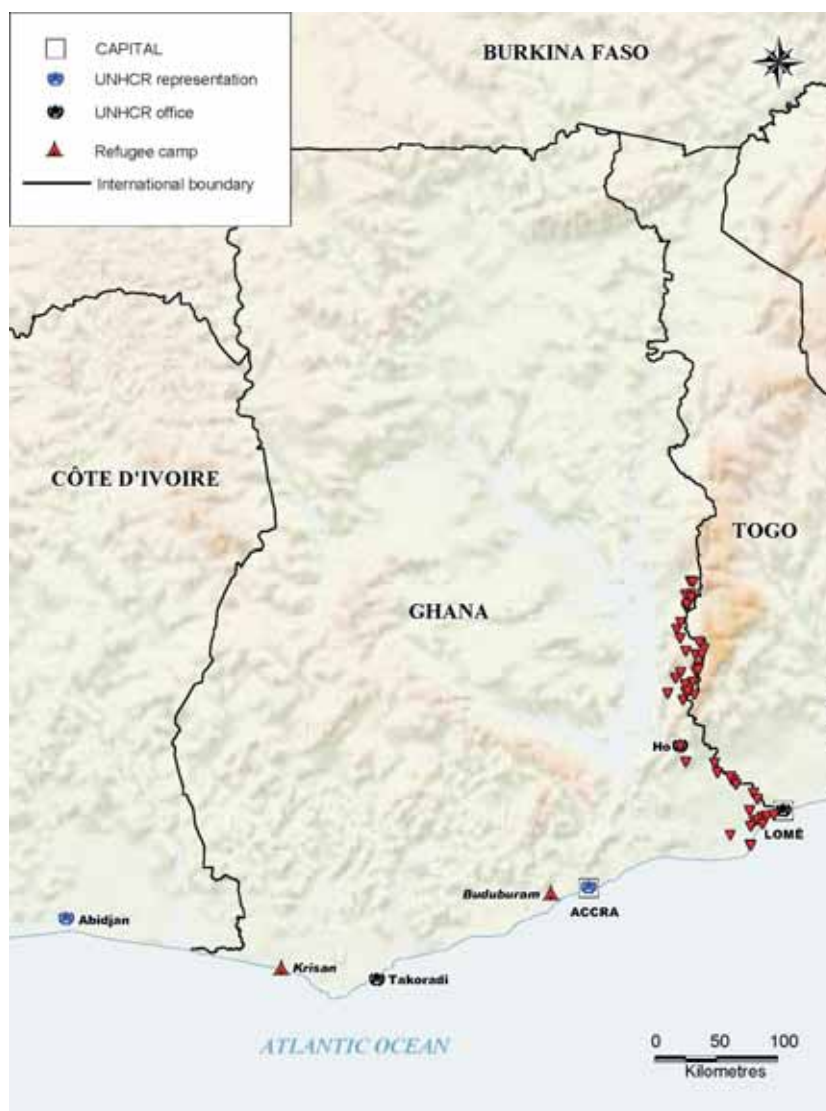
### The context

Presidential and parliamentary elections are expected in Ghana during 2008. The Government has asked all political parties to maintain calm throughout the election period. The general security situation is stable, barring intermittent disputes between traditional community leaders in the north-eastern part of the country. However, insecurity and crime are on the rise in urban areas.

Ghana hosts the largest refugee population in West Africa, numbering some 40,000 people. Approximately 24,000 Liberian refugees live at Buduburam, an urban settlement established near Accra in 1990. Krisan camp, in a remote coastal area 250 kilometres west of Accra, hosts another 1,700 refugees from various African countries. The majority of the Togolese refugees in Ghana live among host communities in the Volta region. Most of this group will repatriate with UNHCR assistance under the framework of a tripartite agreement signed in April 2007. The urban refugee and asylum-seeker population is dispersed in and around Accra. Ghana's refugee legislation, enacted in 1992, provides asylum-seekers the right to remain in the country until they have exhausted all means to gain refugee status.

### The needs

The government has expressed concern about the large group of refugees remaining in the country. One consequence is the authorities' decision to redetermine whether the remaining Liberian refugees still require protection. As it would be premature for UNHCR to invoke the cessation clause and withdraw protection for the Liberian refugees, the Office is promoting local integration as the preferred durable solution for these groups, both in Ghana and the wider region. Funds are needed for self-reliance programmes to help these refugees integrate locally.



Some 3,000 refugees mainly from Togo will need UNHCR's help with transport and documents to repatriate voluntarily. Those opting to stay in Ghana will require assistance to integrate into their host communities.

### Total requirements

2008: USD 6,137,528

2009: USD 5,032,326

### Main objectives

- Pursue self-reliance and legal residence for Liberian refugees.
- Support the transfer of Buduburam camp to local authorities and its incorporation into district development plans in a manner consistent with the needs of refugees and the host population.

- Assess the feasibility of a status redetermination exercise and evaluate its impact on Liberian refugees in Ghana.
- Help up to 3,000 mainly Togolese refugees repatriate voluntarily.
- Find durable solutions to reduce the number of refugees in Krisan camp and ultimately close the camp.
- Help the Ghana Refugee Board process long-pending asylum claims.

## Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

- All Liberian and Togolese refugees who are unable to return to their country of origin integrate locally with UNHCR-aided self-reliance programmes.
- All technical work to prepare for Buduburam camp's transfer is implemented in consultation with Government and the local population.
- Some 3,000 Togolese refugees return home in safety and dignity; UNHCR helps them with documentation, transport, security and medical services.
- Refugees of various nationalities repatriate to their countries of origin through the Dakar-based regional repatriation project for West Africa.
- The *proGres* registration database is used to better assess the protection needs and risks of urban refugees and asylum-seekers.

for the Liberians to local authorities or relevant ministries. The Office will advocate for refugees' legal and socio-economic rights and self-reliance opportunities in Ghana. Projects to provide economic opportunities for refugees and rehabilitate camp structures will be implemented. On the legal side, UNHCR will promote a less restrictive implementation of the ECOWAS free-movement protocols, consistent with the practice of other refugee-hosting countries in the region.

### Refugees from Togo

UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of nearly 3,000 Togolese refugees. They will be transported through official border exit points (Aflao, Menuku and Wli) to reception centres in Togo (Lomé, Badou and Danyi). Returnees will be given voluntary repatriation forms with digital photographs as valid travel documents. Individuals with specific needs will be assisted during and after repatriation. Self-reliance and community projects in agriculture, small business and fisheries will help refugees opting for local integration to remain in Togo. Host populations will also benefit from these projects.

### Refugees of various nationalities in Krisan camp

UNHCR will find durable solutions for complex, protracted cases. In line with priorities set through participatory assessments, the Office will adjust its assistance (security, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, health, food, education and non-food items) to sustain basic living standards. All women of childbearing age will receive sanitary towels.

## Strategy and activities

### Refugees from Liberia in Buduburam camp

The reluctance of Liberian refugees to repatriate can be attributed to their protracted stay and relatively organized life in their settlements. UNHCR plans to hand over management of infrastructure and services

### Urban refugees

Urban refugees find it difficult to become self-reliant and enjoy their socio-economic rights, and require local-integration solutions tailored to their needs. Urban

## Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008 - Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Liberia	32,700	32,700	30,700	30,700	28,700	28,700
	Togo	7,200	7,200	3,200	3,200	3,200	3,200
	Various	760	760	580	580	200	200
Asylum-seekers	Togo	2,500	2,500	1,400	1,400	-	-
	Various	210	210	110	110	100	100
<b>Total</b>		<b>43,380</b>	<b>43,380</b>	<b>35,990</b>	<b>35,990</b>	<b>32,200</b>	<b>32,200</b>

refugees in need of medical assistance will be referred to government hospitals and clinics for treatment. People with specific needs will be accommodated at transit centres where they will be given blankets, cooking utensils and sanitary towels.

## Constraints

The Government's plan to pursue a comprehensive and individual re-examination of the protection status of all Liberian refugees raises concerns about its feasibility and its impact on local integration prospects.

Many refugees in Buduburam and Krisan camps refuse to consider any durable solution other than third-country resettlement.

## Organization and implementation

### UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	2	2
Total staff	41	40
International	7	7
National	34	33

### Coordination

All refugee operations are coordinated with the Ghana Refugee Board. An ad hoc task force on durable solutions for refugees, established within the framework of the UN Country Team, engages the Government on post-repatriation related issues. Since 2007, UNIDO, FAO and UNHCR have cooperated on a two-year programme to empower refugees and their host communities in Buduburam and Krisan.



Liberian refugees making World AIDS Day red ribbons at the Harmony Community Centre in Buduburam camp.



## Partners

### Implementing partners

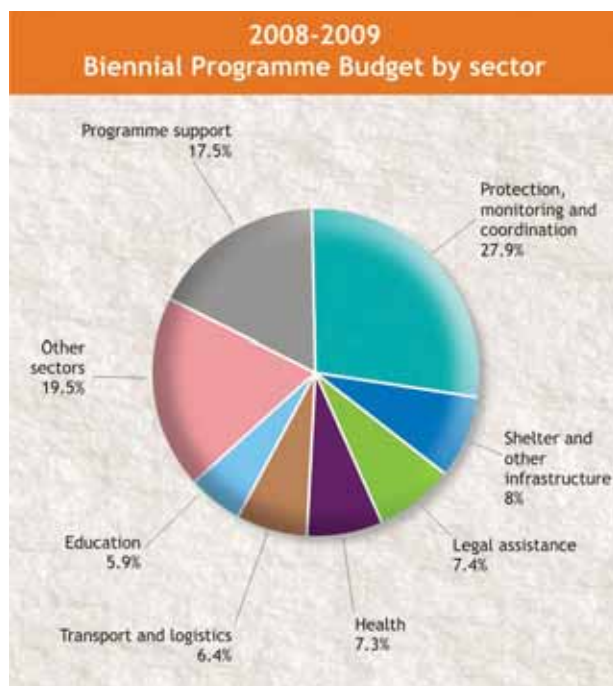
**Government agencies:** Ghana Education Service, Ghana Health Services, Ghana Refugee Board, Ministry of the Interior, National Disaster Management Organization.

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

**Others:** Ghana Red Cross Society.

### Operational partners

**Others:** FAO, IOM, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNDP, WFP, WHO.



## Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget		
	2007	2008	2009
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,622,369	1,712,653	1,399,825
Community services	176,261	296,200	290,000
Crop production	49,918	60,000	60,000
Domestic needs	95,982	64,273	30,000
Education	216,548	394,125	270,000
Fisheries	46,350	0	0
Food	134,572	0	0
Health	261,793	435,885	380,000
Income generation	21,596	20,000	20,000
Legal assistance	144,217	487,375	340,000
Operational support (to agencies)	308,260	386,632	270,000
Sanitation	106,065	223,709	180,000
Shelter and other infrastructure	75,842	514,307	380,000
Transport and logistics	1,737,244	406,936	310,000
Water	29,173	168,677	110,000
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>6,026,189</b>	<b>5,170,773</b>	<b>4,039,825</b>
Programme support	3,616,565	966,755	992,501
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,642,754</b>	<b>6,137,528</b>	<b>5,032,326</b>