

Ghana

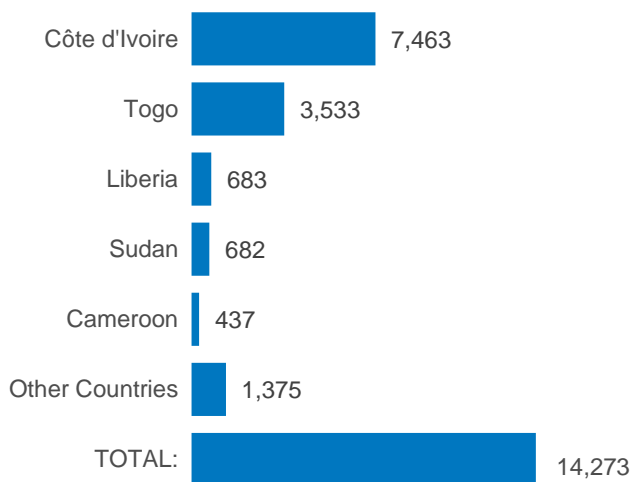
May/June 2021

Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau for West and Central Africa visits Ghana

Two Day High-Level Dialogue on refugee protection organised with key stakeholders

New Community Centre for refugees opened in Accra

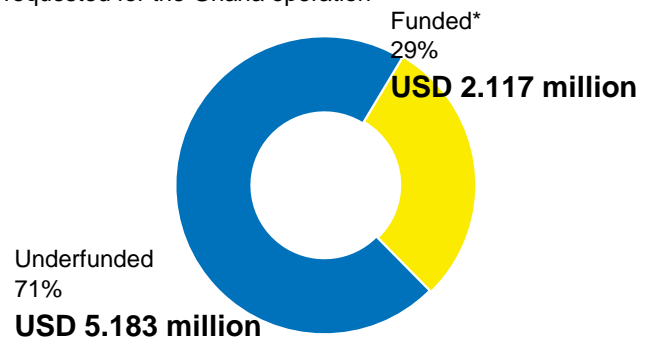
POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS OF JUNE 2021)



FUNDING (AS AT JUNE 2021)

USD 7.3 million

requested for the Ghana operation



* The contributions earmarked for Ghana shown above are combined with an indicative allocation of the softly earmarked and unearmarked contribution. No contribution earmarked to the Ghana operation was received so far.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 31 National Staff
- 02 International Staff
- 07 UNOPS
- 01 Refugee Point Deployee

Offices:

- 01 Country Office in Accra
- 01 Field Office in Takoradi



Minister of the Interior, Ambrose Dery with some participants of the dialogue session on refugee protection in Accra. © UNHCR Ghana/Patience Folley



A refugee exhibitor at the refugee exhibition fair organized by UNHCR at the refugee community centre-Blue Oasis. © UNHCR Ghana

Working with Partners

- **Government Partners:** The Ministry of the Interior, the Ghana Refugee Board (GRB), and other relevant government departments and ministries such as Ghana Education Service, Ghana Health Service, Ghana Immigration Service, Commission for Human Rights and Administrative Justice, and Ghana Police Service to mention a few.
- **Partners:** Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), National Catholic Secretariat (NCS) and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA).
- **UN Agencies:** UNFPA, IOM, UNAIDS and UNICEF.
- **Private Sector Partnerships:** UNHCR Ghana is exploring expanded partnership opportunities with the Private Sector and other development partners.

Main Activities

Protection

- The Director of UNHCR's Regional Bureau of West and Central Africa, Ms. Millicent Mutuli, paid a three-day working visit to Ghana as part of UNHCR's consultations related to UNHCR's recommendation for the invocation of cessation for Ivorian refugees. UNHCR's position is premised on the fact that the situation that prompted the flight of Ivorians to neighbouring countries, namely the post-election related violence had ceased, and that the situation had substantively improved to the extent that over 287,000 former refugees from diverse asylum countries, including high profile individuals, had already voluntarily repatriated back to Cote d'Ivoire. UNHCR will be recommending the invocation of the Ceased Circumstances Clause and if endorsed by Member States, this would mean that refugee status for Ivorian refugees around the globe would cease save for those for whom exemption would be deemed appropriate. Solutions such as voluntary repatriation as well as local integration, in particular, alternative legal status will be actively pursued before the "final finisher" in the process, which is exemption.
- Ms. Mutuli was accompanied by the Head of Protection at the Bureau, Mr. Xavier Creach and the Senior Protection Coordinator at the Bureau, Ms. Yvette Muhimpundu. As part of her mission, Ms. Mutuli met with the Minister of the Interior, Hon Ambrose Dery, to discuss the perspective of UNHCR on the cessation of refugee status for Ivorians and to seek the support of Ghana on the cessation, the promotion of voluntary repatriation and to provide a pathway for those who seek alternative legal status should some refugees opt for local integration. The Director also met with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration's Supervising Director, Ambassador Sammie Eddico, the Ambassador of the Ivory Coast to Ghana, H.E. Tiemoko Moriko, and the Ghana Refugee Board's Executive Secretary a.i., Tetteh Padi as well as officials of the US Embassy in Accra and the UN Country Team. There was consensus in these meetings that it was appropriate to move forward on cessation. The Director also made a field visit to the Ampain Refugee Camp where she engaged refugees on voluntary repatriation and the future in terms of cessation. She also paid a courtesy visit to the traditional Chief of Ampain, Nana Nyameke Fofole II and his Council of Elders.
- To foster discourse on asylum processes and management in Ghana, a two-day High-level Dialogue session on International Protection of Asylum Seekers and Refugees was organised jointly by UNHCR, Ghana Refugee Board (GRB) and Ghana Immigration Service (GIS). The dialogue officially opened by the Hon Minister of the Interior, Ambrose Dery, brought together almost all the Regional Immigration Commanders and senior members from the Accra Headquarters. It created an opportunity for 30 representatives from the GRB, GIS, Ministries of Interior, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Ghana Police Service, NADMO and UNHCR to have a

structured discussion on their roles and responsibilities as well as brainstorm on solutions to the challenges identified in asylum seeking and refugee process in Ghana.

- To enhance cooperation and coordination between the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS) and UNHCR in the response and protection of refugee situations in Ghana, UNHCR Country Representative, Ms. Esther Kiragu paid a courtesy call on the Comptroller-General of the Ghana Immigration Service (GIS), Mr. Kwame Asuah Takyi. She used the opportunity to present some office items including laptops, desktop computers, printers with scanner and photocopier, office cabinets, office chairs and desks to enhance the work of the Refugee and Asylum Unit of GIS at the headquarters and its auxiliary office at the Elubo Command post. UNHCR re-emphasized the critical role of the Ghana Immigration Service in access to territory for all Persons of Concern seeking International Protection, particularly since the outbreak of the Corona Virus pandemic.
- World Refugee Day was observed in Ghana with the opening of a new Refugee Community Centre-Blue Oasis- for refugees, particularly those living in the urban areas. The Community Center is to complement the Urban Refugee program facilitated by partners to promote the socio-economic inclusion of refugees through language training, business incubation programmes and vocational skills training. Additionally, the center will promote and enhance strong community ties among the refugees considering the scattered nature of the population and build strong leadership networks.
- UNHCR Ghana together with the Ghana Refugee Board have commenced the Biometric Identity Management System (BIMS) enrolment of asylum-seekers and refugees living in Camp. Fingerprints, iris scans and new digital photographs of refugees were taken. The benefits associated with using BIMS includes ensuring that each refugee has a unique record which will prevent multiple registrations, counter fraud, and streamline the provision of assistance. Out of a targeted population of 5990, 4739 representing (79%) were enrolled. The Ghana Refugee Board has continued to enrol persons of concern unto BIMS.
- Three urban refugee children at the Senior High School level joined Ghanaian children in various activities to mark the 2021 AU Day of the African Child in Ghana. This included a Panel discussion by children which highlighted the achievements of the 10 Aspirations in Agenda 2040 as well as the gaps; A meeting with the Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection where a selected group of children discussed the concerns of children in Ghana with the Minister and a radio programme where the children were given the opportunity to discuss issues affecting them and propose solutions.

Livelihoods

- As part of the official opening of the new refugee community center- Blue Oasis- in Accra, there was an exhibition of livelihood activities of refugees. The one-day exhibition showcased various items that refugees make to earn a living. This included clothing, fashion accessories, jewelry, interior décor, cosmetics, liquid soap and bleach, face masks, briquettes, paintings, crafts, and flowers/plants.
- A 10-day craft/product development training has been held for about 30 PoCs from Ampain and Krisan who are part of the Made 51 programme (UNHCR's design and craft programme) in Ghana. A resource person from The Design Niche, a craft company based in Ghana led the training and guided in the production of various products in basketry, embroidery as well as developed various products from coconut, bamboo and wood some of which were exhibited at the World Refugee Day event.

Shelter

- Julia Taft Foundation, an initiative of the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration funded the renovation of 48 shelter units and a lower primary school block in Krisan through UNHCR's Partner, the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG). Mr. Christopher J, Gunning, Political Officer, US Embassy has handed over the completed project to the Krisan Camp Management. Present at the brief

ceremony were the General Secretary of CCG, Rev. Dr. Cyril Fayose ; Mr. Tetteh Padi, Acting Executive Secretary of Ghana Refugee Board and Hon. Kwasi Bonzoh, District Chief Executive for Ellembelle District.

Education

- To ensure that all safety protocols relating to Covid-19 are continuously observed, the Ghana Education Service has supplied some Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to the camp schools. The PPEs include paper tissues, sanitizers, face masks and liquid soap. The PPEs were supplied to replenish the school stock.

Financial Information:

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

United States of America 3.5 million

SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Germany 62.7 million | United States of America 46.8 million | United Kingdom 24.8 million | Denmark 14.6 million | Private donors Australia 11.4 million | Canada 10.2 million | Private donors USA 8.7 million | Private donors Japan 4.5 million | France 4 million | Private donors Germany 3.9 million | Spain 3.4 million | Ireland 3.3 million | Sweden 3 million | Private donors United Kingdom 2.6 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 2.5 million | Private donors Lebanon 2.1 million | and other donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 88.2 million | Private donors Spain 73.5 million | United Kingdom 45.7 million | Norway 41.4 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 37.5 million | Netherlands 36.1 million | Denmark 34.6 million | Private donors Japan 27.8 million | Germany 25.9 million | Japan 23.8 million | Private donors Italy 17.6 million | Switzerland 16.4 million | France 14 million | Private donors Sweden 12.8 million | Private donors USA 10.8 million | Italy 10.6 million | and other donors

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LINKS

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