

Ghana

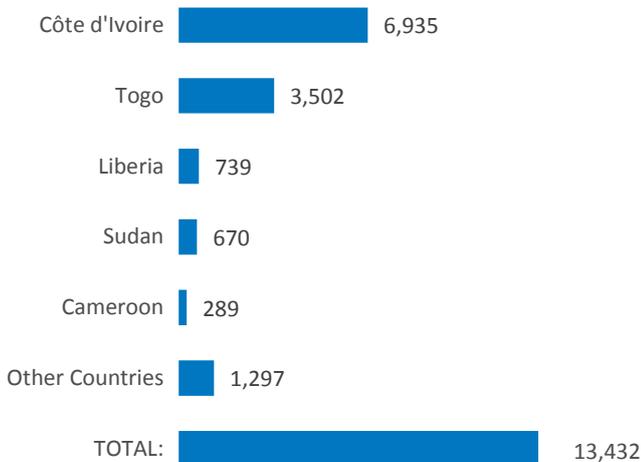
Jul/Aug 2019

71 Ivorian Refugees who fled to Ghana in 2011 have been assisted to return home on voluntary repatriation in August this year

69 Refugee adolescents and some parents trained on Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

UNHCR engages with the Private Sector and Government Agencies at a forum for the economic inclusion of refugees.

POPULATION OF CONCERN (AS AT AUGUST 2019)



FUNDING (AS AT AUGUST 2019)

USD 7,158,992 requested

This year there has been no earmarked funding support for the Ghana Operation's identified needs. The country operation is running on un-earmarked funds made available to the organization globally. There are still **some constraints** in the areas of Education, Livelihoods and Health affecting Persons of Concern in Ghana for which we seek support for, given the very negative impact it has on the well-being of persons of concern.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Staff:

- 30 National Staff
- 03 International Staff
- 07 UNOPS

Offices:

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



Panelists during the Employment and Entrepreneurship forum



Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ms. Cynthia Morrison with Juliet, one of the children from Krisan Camp who participated in the National Children's Day commemoration

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 partnership opportunities with the Private Sector and other development partners.

Main Activities

Protection

- The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) collaborated with UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency in Ghana to organize a 3-day training programme on Comprehensive Sexuality Education for 69 refugee adolescents including some parents. The objective was to equip participants with necessary skills to enable them serve as peer educators for other young people in the camps and for the parents to be empowered on how to effectively communicate with their wards on sexual and reproductive health issues. The joint programme was funded by the Canadian government.
- 10 Refugee children from different refugee camps in Ghana participated in a National Children's Day event organized by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection. The 2019 celebration of the National Children's Day which was under the theme '40 Years of Child Rights Promotion and Protection; charting the way forward' marks 40 years of the establishment of the Government machinery for implementing children's rights. It also marks the 30th Anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). A refugee child participated in a children's panel discussion as part of activities for the day.
- UNHCR joined other sister UN Agencies in Ghana and the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) in commemorating World Humanitarian Day on 19 August which this year was on the theme: 'Women Humanitarians'. In Ghana the day was marked with a panel discussion on 'the achievements, challenges and "the Unfinished Business" with regards to humanitarian situations in Ghana'. An Ethiopian Refugee living in Ghana who also works as a humanitarian was on the panel to share her experiences

Livelihoods

- UNHCR in collaboration with the Ghana Refugee Board engaged with the Private Sector and relevant Government Agencies in a forum to advocate for economic inclusion of refugees. This is in line with the tenets of the Global Compact on Refugees which calls for burden and responsibility sharing in the management of refugees; as well as the Sustainable Development Goals which has a central transformative promise of 'leaving no one behind'. The Employment and Entrepreneurship Forum, the first of its kind in Ghana, attracted an excellent turn-out of different Government Agencies dealing with labor and employment matters, Parliamentarians, UN, Civil Society, Media and the Private Sector. A cross-section of refugees in Ghana participated actively in the forum. Concrete pledges were made that will enhance/facilitate the inclusion of refugees including scholarships for tertiary education, employment opportunities, skills training and apprenticeship opportunities to name a few. This stakeholder forum will continue to meet on a systematic basis to follow through on these recommendations.

Solutions

- In August, 72 Persons of Concern (PoC) including 71 Ivorians and one Central African from the Central African Republic were assisted to return to their country of origin on voluntary repatriation. Between January to August this year, 369 POCs from different nationalities have been assisted to return home. This included 351 Ivorians, 13 Togolese and 5 Central Africans.
- As part of measures to promote voluntary repatriation among the Ivorian refugee population in Ghana, an eleven-member delegation from Cote D'Ivoire undertook a Come-And-Tell visit in July (which is the second for this year) to 3 camps hosting Ivorian refugees- Ampain, Egyeikrom and Fetentaa Camps. The Team also met with Ivorian refugees living in Accra and other urban areas. The purpose was to interact and share information about the improved security conditions back in their home country and the mechanisms the government of Cote d'Ivoire has put in place to properly re-integrate Ivorian refugees who will voluntarily return back into their various communities in Cote d'Ivoire. The delegation gave opportunity for the refugees to ask questions. The delegation which was led by the Director of "Direction d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Refugies et Apatrides" (DAARA) and UNHCR staff members included representatives from the Ministries of Defence (Restitution of Public and Private Property); Justice and Human Rights; Youth and Employment amongst others. A returnee from Ghana who was part of the team shared his positive experience in Cote d'Ivoire since his return at the beginning of the year. The main concerns raised by the refugees in all the meetings, and which they claim is an obstacles to their return to Cote D'Ivoire revolved around insecurity in parts of the country.

Education

- Thirty-one refugees who had been shortlisted this year for DAFI scholarship took an aptitude test followed by a competitive interview. Members of the panel included representatives from the German Embassy in Accra, Ghana Refugee Board, UNHCR and the Christian Council of Ghana. At the end, 9 refugees out of the 31 shortlisted received the scholarship- one full and 8 partial. Significant gaps still remain in the area of higher education for refugees in Ghana as available scholarships are limited.

Private Sector Partnerships

- UNHCR Ghana is still advocating for more private sector support to address critical gaps in the area of education, health and livelihoods.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE MAJOR DONORS OF UNRESTRICTED REGIONAL FUNDS IN 2019

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