UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON

GHANA’S MANAGEMENT OF REFUGEES’ ISSUES

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JULY, 2018
DECLARATION

I Amemmasor-Doe Gifty, do hereby declare that this long essay is the result of my own research work carried out in the Centre for Migration Studies, School of Humanity, University of Ghana under the supervision of Professor Joseph Kofi Teye. References cited have been duly acknowledged.

............................................. .............................................

AMEMASOR-DOE GIFTY PROFESSOR JOSEPH KOFI TEYE
(STUDENT) (SUPERVISOR)

DATE ......................... DATE .........................
DEDICATION

This Project work is wholly dedicated to the Almighty God for his immeasurable protection and support throughout my course of study. I also dedicate this project to all Refugees in Ghana.

Last but not the least goes to my friend Honourable Dr. Axel Adolf Berg, Godwin Ametor and my beloved daughter, The Blessed Princess Erica Worlanyo Ametor, my lovely mother Madam Beatrice Tofah, my Auntie Nanasi Tofah, Celestine Amemasor, Rita Amemasor, Solomon Tofah, Vera Tofah, Belinder Ahiabor and Edith Ahiabor. To Professor Joseph Kofi Teye for his assistance and supervision.
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Also to my siblings Rita, Celestine, Belinda, Solomon, Edith and Vera for your encouragement. Not forgetting my Aunt, Madam Nanasi Tofah and my late Grandmother Madam Dadzengor Aflanusi alias Ndavitor.

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studies. I am very grateful to Godwin Ametor, he is a dependable friend. My warmest appreciation to my Colleagues especially Mr. Tetteh Padi, Mr. Charles Attah Yorke, Miss Seli Sunu all at Ghana Refugee Board and Madam Vinolia at United Nations High Commission for Refugees for their assistance in giving me information concerning the refugees. I am really grateful to everybody that allowed me to interview him or her.

I am personally responsible for all mistakes and omissions in this work.

God bless you all!
ABSTRACT

This long essay examines the Ghana’s management of Refugees’ issues. It looked at the total number of persons of concern in Ghana and their demographic characteristics. It also look at the Ghana’s strategy in managing refugees crises at the various Refugee Camps and urban areas in the country. The study specifically investigate three main questions, the number of PoCs in the country and their countries of origin. The socio-demographic characteristics of the PoCs. The strategies Government of Ghana is using to manage the refugees’ situation in the country and the challenges the GoG is facing managing the refugees and the asylum seekers in the country.

The problem is that Ghana has been hosting refugees and asylum seekers from over 38 countries across the globe since the influx generated by the political crisis of the West Africa sub-region in the early 1990s. Refugee management in Ghana is mandated by the PNDC Law 305 (D) of 1992, the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. By the end of 2016, almost 80 percent of the total refugee population from the sub-region had returned to their various countries of origin. However, there remains in the country a sizeable number of refugees and asylum seekers who have declared intentions not to go back to their countries of origin, (and are also not in a position to be weaned off humanitarian assistance which has been increasingly curtailed and unable to meet growing needs and challenges).

The country currently hosts about thirteen thousand, one hundred and thirty-two (13,132) refugees and asylum seekers. The largest group of six thousand, nine hundred and eighty-four (7042)
Persons of Concern (PoC) are Ivorians. There are also people considered to be living in refugee-like situations; and former refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone no longer covered or were granted exemption from Cessation Clauses residing in the urban areas especially at the Buduburam camp. About half of the total PoC live in camps with the remaining living in urban and semi-urban areas. Presently, there are three (3) Ivorian camps: Ampain in the Western Region, Egyeikrom in the Central Region and Fetentaa in the Brong-Ahafo Region and one (1) mixed population camp at Krisan in the Western Region. This is the main reason why I have decided to carried out the research on the PoCs.
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**Glossary of Acronyms**

**Refugee**  "owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it."

**Asylum Seeker**  Person seeking refuge is referred to as Asylum-seekers, and the countries in which they seek refuge as Countries of Asylum.

- **ECOWAS**  Economic Community of West African States
- **ECRE**  European Council on Refugees and Exiles
- **GRB**  Ghana Refugee Board
- **UN**  United Nations
- **UNHCR**  United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- **OAU**  Organization of African Unity
- **AU**  African Union
- **DRC**  Democratic Republic of Congo
- **ECOWAS**  Economic Community of West African States
- **GES**  Ghana Education Service
- **GPS**  Ghana Police Service
- **GIS**  Ghana Immigration Service
- **JHS**  Junior High School
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<tr>
<td>NADMO</td>
<td>National Disaster Management Organization</td>
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<td>OAU</td>
<td>Organisation of African Unity</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNDCL</td>
<td>Provisional National Defence Council Law</td>
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<td>SHS</td>
<td>Senior High School</td>
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<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>United Nations High Commission for Refugee</td>
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<td>GoG</td>
<td>Government of Ghana</td>
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<tr>
<td>CCG</td>
<td>Christian Council of Ghana</td>
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<td>NCS</td>
<td>National Catholic Secretariat</td>
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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This century, Millions of refugees have been produced as a result of the two world wars, numerous civil wars, ethnic and political confrontations, and massive violations of human rights. According to UNHCR, the Refugee Agency, in May, 2018, an unprecedented 68.5 million people around the world have been forced from home or displaced within their own countries. Among them are nearly 25.4 million Refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18 worldwide. One person is forcibly displaced every two seconds as a result of conflict or persecution. In response to the size and complexity of the refugee problem, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1951 with a mandate to ensure the safety and the well-being of refugees throughout the world, the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of refugees came into being for the guidance of the nations in the management of refugees.

Africa has the misfortune of having the greatest number of refugees and displaced persons in the world. About 30% of world’s displaced people are hosted in Africa, 26% in Middle East and Northern Africa and 15% both in America and Europe. Only 11% of displaced people are hosted in Asia and Pacific (The UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 2017).

Twenty-four years ago, Mrs. Sadako Ogata, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees by then said in Ethiopia on world Refugees crises seminar that the refugee situation is particularly bad in Africa. She said Africa is producing almost one-third of the total world refugee population. According to her, the upheaval in the Central African Republic, Rwanda and Burundi
alone generated 2.4 million refugees”. She warned that a large-scale population displacement causes a serious threat to regional peace and security, what she said came to pass. (UNHCR and Ghana Refugee Board, June, 1998). As at April, 2018, there are over 18 million Refugees produced by Sub-Saharan Africa alone.

Ghana has been hosting refugees for decades and migration to and from Ghana especially within neighbouring countries has always been active (Ghana Refugee Board, 2017). Most of the refugees in Ghana have been living in Ghana for more than ten years. Ivoirian refugees who came in 2010 and 2011 have been the most recent influx of refugees to Ghana. Before that, the major influxes were in the 1990’s and in the beginning of 2000s by Togolese and Liberian refugees. (UN High Commissioner for Refugees, 2017).

The aim of this project work is to bring to all and sundry the unknown facts about the forced migrants, “The Refugees”. Also to find out how Ghana as a country is managing the educational and health issues for the refugees especially those living in the four Refugee Camps. Its principal purpose is to touch the hearts of all of us and to sensitize us to our responsibilities towards the welfare of fellow human beings.

1.1 Problem Statement

Ghana has been hosting refugees and asylum seekers from a lot of countries across the globe especially since the influx generated by the political crisis of the West Africa sub-region in the early 1990s. Refugee management in Ghana is mandated by the PNDC Law 305 (D) of 1992, the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees; and the 1969 OAU Convention Governing Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. By the end of 2016, almost 80
percent of the total refugee population from the sub-region had returned to their various countries of origin. UNHCR and Ghana Refugee Board, 2017. However, there remains in the country a sizeable number of refugees and asylum seekers who have declared intentions not to go back to their countries of origin, and are also not in a position to be weaned off humanitarian assistance which has been increasingly curtailed and unable to meet growing needs and challenges.

The country currently hosts over thirteen thousand, (13,000) refugees and asylum seekers. There are also people considered to be living in refugee-like situations; and former refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone no longer covered or were granted exemption from Cessation Clauses residing in the urban areas especially at the Buduburam camp. About half of the total PoCs live in camps with the remaining living in urban and semi-urban areas. Presently, there are three (3) Ivorian camps: Ampain in the Western Region, Egyeikrom in the Central Region and Fetentaa in the Brong-Ahafo Region and one (1) mixed population camp at Krisan in the Western Region. (United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees and Ghana Refugee Board, June, 2017).

Management of migrants have been a very difficult task all over the world, although there have been a number of studies on refugees and refugee families in Ghana, many of them have been on Liberians who are culturally different from other Refugees. Thus, findings from the Liberians cannot be used to generalize to other refugees in Ghana. Moreover, hardly any of the previous refugee studies in Ghana focused on Ghana’s management of refugees in spite of the fact that many refugees fled into exile with their families from different countries both English speaking and other languages. A cursory literature review indicated that there have not been studies on Ghana’s Management of Refugees’ issues in general. Thus, this study seeks to fill this
knowledge gap in order to support the rest of the Refugees. Therefore, I will like to find out about how refugees’ issues are managed in the Four Refugee Camps and urban areas in Ghana. I will look at management of education of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers especially those from the non-English speaking countries, health and protection issues of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers, in both Camps and the urban areas.

1.2 Aims and Objectives

- My aim of choosing this topic is to find out how refugees’ issues in general are managed in Ghana. This will help to create awareness of key issues and challenges of refugee management in Ghana.

This study seeks;

- To describe socio demographic characteristics of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana.
- To analyze the causes of any movement of Refugees in Ghana.
- To examine Ghana’s strategies for managing Refugees’ crises in Ghana in area of education, health, livelihood and protection in both refugee camps and urban areas.
- To investigate the challenges of Ghana Refugee Board and the challenges facing Refugees and Asylum seekers in Ghana.

1.3 Research Questions

- How many asylum seekers and refugees are in Ghana currently?
- Which countries are they coming from?
• What are the socio demographic characteristics of the asylum seekers and the refugees in Ghana?

• How is Ghana managing the educational issues of the Refugees in the various Refugees Camps?

• How is Ghana managing the health issues of the Refugees in the various Refugees Camps?

• What are the challenges Ghana is facing managing the refugees?

1.4 Significant of the Study

• The study is intended to find out about the socio demographic data of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana. It will find out how the country is managing the educational and health issues of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the country. It will also find out about the challenges the country is facing with the refugees’ issues management and create the awareness.
CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction

Chapter two reviews the existing literature related to this research, Ghana’ management of Refugees issues. It looked at the literature already written by Researchers about refugees. It looks at migration and refugees, Refugees in Ghana, in Africa and the world at large.

2.1 Migration and Refugees

Migration as a term covers all the movement of a person or a group of people within a country or from one country to another crossing a geographical boundary permanently or semi-permanently. A person, who is part of this kind of population movement as an individual or as a member of a bigger group, irrespective of their legal status, length of stay in a new location or reasons behind migration is referred to as a migrant. (International Organization for Migration, 2018.) The term international migrant is used to describe people who move from one country to another and the term migrant to describe all the people migrating from one place to another across a geographical boundary over a period of time.

It was estimated that in 2017 there were 258 million people living outside the country they were born, and we can assume that the number is only growing. In terms of percentages, these 258 million people made up 3.4 % of the global population. Stated in another way, nearly four out of every 100 people is a migrant. In seventeen years, from 2000 to 2017, the total number of international migrants has increased from 173 million up to 258 million people. (United Nations,
Reasons to live somewhere else but in one’s own home country vary a lot. The most common reasons are moving because of family reunion, for studying, better working condition etc. However, the number of people fleeing from a war or natural disasters is growing. Migration can also happen within a country (referred to as internal migration) and it can either be short-term, long-term or permanent (Bhopal, 2014, p. 9; International Organization for Migration, 2018). Most of the international migration happens within the same area or region that a person is from, quite often from neighbouring country to another (United Nations, 2017).

Not all the migration is voluntarily, some are forced migration. A person who is fleeing from his or her home owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it is known as a Refugee.

Before gaining the official status as a refugee a person who seeks safety from another country is called an asylum seeker (International Organization for Migration, 2018). Approximately 10 % of international migrants are Refugees and Asylum Seekers and from year 2000 the number of them has increased from 16 million up to 26 million people (United Nations, 2017). The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee has estimated that in 2016, 65.6 million people were forcibly displaced from their homes around the globe. About 30% of world’s displaced people are hosted in Africa, 26% in Middle East and Northern Africa and 15% both in Americas and
Europe. Only 11% of displaced people are hosted in Asia and Pacific (The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2017).

In the early 1960’s, when significant numbers of African countries were struggling for their independence from colonial rule, the refugee population stood at around 400,000 rising steadily to around 750,000 in the 1970’s. By the 1980s when many African countries had attained self-rule, it was expected that these numbers would decrease. However, the number of refugees continued to increase at an alarming rate. As at the end of 1993, the refugee population on the continent was reported to have exploded to about 6,000,000 (Nmoma, 1997). This rising trend, has been the result of renewed conflicts, which assumed new dimensions in the form of civil wars and state struggles. As a result, Africa, considered the poorest continent in the world, continues to be plagued with conflicts and its accompanying effect of refugee flows (Essuman-Johnson, 2011).

According to (Nmoma 1997), Africa make up one of the significant producers and hosts of refugee populations in the world. The continent is faced with natural catastrophes, such as droughts, famine, wars and conflicts, all of which, contribute to generating large numbers of refugee flows. However, among these causes, civil wars, ethnic strife, human rights abuses, coup d’états and oppressive governments have been pointed to be responsible for producing the majority of refugees on the continent. Between the 1960’s and early 80’s, conflicts over decolonization served as a major cause of refugee flows in Africa (Rutinwa, 2002)
2.2 Genesis of the Refugee Phenomenon in Ghana

Geopolitics is largely the “progenitor” of the present-day refugee phenomenon in Ghana. Ghana has been and remains the preferred choice of destination for people displaced by internecine conflicts and civil unrests in the West Africa sub-region and beyond. Persons seeking asylum in Ghana are assured of protection by the state and its agencies under the International Refugee Convention and mandate. The country has therefore experienced influxes from at least three countries in the sub-region as a result of generalized violence. In the 1990s, a total of over 50,000 Liberians sought refuge in Ghana during the civil war in their country. More recently, over 20,000 Ivorians have sought asylum here. Togolese and Sierra Leoneans have also benefitted from prima facie refugee status in Ghana during the same period. There are presently three (3) active Ivorian camps: Ampain in the Western Region, Egyeikrom in the Central Region and Fetentaa in the Brong-Ahafo Region and one (1) mixed population camp at Kriasan in the Western Region. p

2.3 Profiles of the Refugee-Hosting Communities

2.3.1 Egyeikrom Refugee Camp was opened on July 20, 2011 to serve as one of the camps hosting Ivorian Refugees in Ghana. Egyeikrom is a rural community in the Central Region with a population of about 1,400 people, situated in the Komenda, Edina, Eguafo, Abirem Constituency (KEEA) of the Central Region. There are approximately 69,665 males and 75,040 females constituting about 6.6% of the total population of the Central Region. The local community is mainly into farming; growing oil palm, pineapple, citrus, acacia and cassava. Some are also engaged in fishing. The camp which occupies an area of about 53 acres has a combination of plastic tents and semi-permanent transitional shelters.
2.3.2 Krisan Refugee Camp was established in 1996 is a remote, rural community located approximately 48 kilometers from the Ghana-Ivory Coast border town of Elubo. It is situated in the Ellembelle District of the Western Region of Ghana about 2 kilometers from Eikwe, and a kilometer away from Sanzule. Krisan has an estimated population of 1,500 people majority of whom are of the Nzema tribe. The residents of Krisan are mainly farmers, with raffia being the major crop of economic importance. In recent times, the ongoing Ghana Gas Pipeline Project has injected a lot of alternative employment and economic activities in this area.

kilometers from Kamgbuli. It has an estimated population of 1,100 people with majority being of the Nzema tribe. The local population is traditionally fisher folk and small holder farmers, with rubber and cassava being the major crops of economic importance. In recent times, however, the Ghana Gas Pipeline and ongoing road construction projects have injected a lot of alternative employment and economic activities in this area.

2.3.3 Ampain Refugee Camp was established on 19th March, 2011 is a small community located approximately 57 kilometers from the Ghana-Ivory Coast border town of Elubo. It is situated in the Ellembelle District of the Western Region of Ghana about 7 kilometers from Esiam, and kilometers from Kamgbuli. It has an estimated population of 1,100 people with majority being of the Nzema tribe. The local population is traditionally fisher folk and small holder farmers, with rubber and cassava being the major crops of economic importance. In recent times, however, the Ghana Gas Pipeline and ongoing road construction projects have injected a lot of alternative employment and economic activities in this area.
2.3.4 Fetentaa Refugee Camp was established in June 2011. The Camp of about 25 acres is 1 kilometer away from the Fetentaa Township. Administratively, Fetentaa falls under the Berekum Municipality and it is found between the Berekum and Drobo townships. It has an estimated population of 8,550. The local population are traditionally small holder farmers with maize, cassava and other staples being the major crops of economic importance.

2.4 Refugees in Ghana

Most of the Ivorian refugees in Ghana have been living in Ghana for more than six years. Ivorian refugees who came in 2010 and 2011 have been the most recent influx of refugees to Ghana. (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2017.).

Ivoirian refugee displacement occurred at the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011 because of violence that followed elections in November 2010 in Côte d’Ivoire. More than one million Ivoirians left their home in those years and still more than 70,000 Ivoirians are still living in displacement either within Côte d’Ivoire or in the neighbouring countries (The internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, 2013). In 2017 it was estimated that over 24,000 Ivoirian refugees lived in four neighbouring countries of Cote d’Ivoire: Liberia currently hosting over 11,000 Ivoirian refugees, Ghana currently hosting over 7040 Ivoirian refugees, Guinea 4,500 Ivoirian refugees and Togo 2,000 Ivoirian refugees and rest of the Ivoirians are mainly displaced internally within Côte d’Ivoire (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2017).

Nowadays those three camps are hosting over 6000 Ivoirians and in total, Ghana is hosting over 13,000 refugees and asylum seekers in the refugee camps and urban areas. Ivoirian refugees in Ghana can be found in three camps: The Ampain Refugee Camp in the Western Region of
Ghana; the Egyeikrom Refugee Camp in the Central Region of Ghana and Fetentaa Refugee Camp in the Brong Ahafo Region. The majority of the Ivoirians however reside in the Ampain camp.

Togolese Refugees. Most of the Togolese refugees are living in host communities in the area of the Volta River in the Eastern part of Ghana. Refugees from several other nationalities are hosted in the western region in the Krisan Refugee Camp. About 6500 refugees have also self-settled in urban areas and host communities mainly around the capital in greater Accra region. (Ghana Refugee Board, 2017; United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2017.)

Togolese are the second highest in the country now. The total number of Togolese in the country is 3,532 representing 26.90%. Most of them are in Volta Region. At the peak of the political crisis in Togo in 1993, about 135,000 Togolese entered Ghana at various points along her eastern border. All of them have gone back leaving only 3,532 still in the country.

Liberian Refugees are currently 735 representing 5.60% of the refugee population in Ghana. When the civil war in Liberia started in 1990, a lot of Liberians sought refuge in Ghana. Some passed through la Cote d’Ivoire by road and others arrived by air. The Buduburam Refugee Settlement in the Central Region was established for them. (Ghana refugee Board, 2017; United Nations High Commissioner for refugees, 2017)

In 2012, the international community invoked a cessation clause, which revoked the ‘refugee’ status for all Liberians around the world. This was essentially a decision, which meant that, Liberia after suffering two bloody civil wars, was safe and stable enough for its refugees to return home. As a result, Liberians recognized as refugees around the world were no more to be considered as such, under the protection of the UNHCR. For refugees who were still in exile,
they had to choose between the options of either returning home or getting legal residence in their country of refuge.

In Ghana, this decision led to some refugees returning to Liberia. About 3,669 Liberians have been locally integrated and more 3,500 have gone back to Liberia. About 352 were exempted so they still continue to remain as refugees in Ghana. They have been given Liberian Passport and stamped with Resident permit and work permit inside.

The Sudanese are the 4th largest Refugee population in the country. Currently they are about 624 representing 4.75% of the total Refugee population in Ghana. In the late 1995 and early 1996, many Sudanese nationals arrived in Ghana, having traversed more than four countries, and approached the Refugee Board for recognition as refugees. They were granted refugee status on humanitarian grounds. They have, since April, 1998, been transferred to the Krisan Refugee Settlement. The Sudanese are still coming to seek asylum in Ghana.

In addition, there are 221 representing 1.68% of the total Refugee population coming from Syrian Arab Republic. 190 representing 1.45% Refugees are from the Central Africa Republic, 160 representing 1.22% are from Eritrea and the rest 4.78% are from other 31 different countries etc. (UNHCR-Ghana Fact Sheet, 2017)

2.5 UNHCR – Ghana Refugee Board Co-Operation

The United Nations General Assembly, by a Resolution passed in December 1951, adopted a Statute by which UNHCR was established. The mandate assigned to UNHCR specifically makes
the Organisation responsible to the UN organization for international protection and material assistance to all refugees worldwide.

Consequently, UNHCR has offices in almost all countries where there are refugees. The UN Organisation provides funds for the UNHCR’s administration, but annually, each member country of the UN is requested to make some contribution towards UNHCR operational budget. The headquarters of UNHCR is in Geneva, Switzerland.

At the initial stages of UNHCR operations, its mandate covered persons recognized as refugees in the countries of asylum. Over the years, the circumstances of uprootment have taken new forms requiring UNHCR to widen its mandate to cover other groups of asylum-seekers fleeing combinations of persecution, conflicts and some peculiar forms of violations of human rights. In this light, UNHCR bases its interventions on general assessment of the prevailing conditions in the country of asylum rather than on an assessment of individuals.

As signatories to the UN Refugee Convention, governments are under obligation to grant the Rights of Refugees to those legally recognized. The government of Ghana is one of many developing countries striving hard to meet the developmental needs of their nationals and can ill-afford adequate resources to meet the legitimate needs of refugees. The government felt overburdened with the challenge of hospitality for the thousands of refugees who entered the country. It was at this point in time that the refugee administration reached its peak.

It became necessary for the government to invite the UNHCR to establish a Branch Office in Ghana in 1993 to assist the government in the management of refugees. UNHCR formerly existed in Ghana as a Counselling Service from 1976 and then as an Office of the Charge de Mission in 1990.
In 1992 PNDC Law 305D was promulgated in Ghana and this established the Refugee Board in 1995 under the administration of the Minister for the Interior. The Refugee Board is the official government counterpart of UNHCR in Ghana. Co-operation between the Organization and the Board covers a wide range of activities, from the initial recognition of asylum seekers for refugee status to the time refugees return home, or are settled in another country, or gain citizenship in Ghana.

2.6 The Ghana Refugee Board

The Refugee Board comprises representatives of the following Ministries and Departments.


In order to ensure the effective discharge of its duties, the Refugee Board established the following Committees, Programme, Eligibility/Protection, Durable Solutions, Finance, Social Services

The Refugee Board is responsible for granting refugee status. The individual asylum seeker writes an application to the Board for refugee status. After screening the applicant, the Board decides to recognize or refuse recognition. Any person who is aggrieved by a refusal of the Board to grant him refugee status has the right to appeal in writing to the Minister for the Interior who is responsible for refugee affairs in the country. His decision is final. (www.grb.gh)
CHAPTER THREE

3.0 The Research Methodology

This chapter deals with the methodology that was used in collecting and analyzing the data from the field for this study. Thus the focus of this chapter is the location of the study area and the target group, methodology of data collection, sample size, sampling technique, and tools for data analysis and limitations of the study.

3.1 The Study Area

The study area is Ghana. The secondary data was collected from Ghana Refugee Board and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees offices.

3.2 Sources of Data

Two main sources were used for the purpose of this study namely the primary and secondary sources. The secondary sources were the Ghana Refugee Board and United Nations High Commission for Refugees were consulted for the secondary data while the primary data source consists of the data collected from the field through interview for the purpose of the study. Five officials from GRB, UNHCR CCG and other implementing partners were interviewed to find out the challenges they are facing in managing the distressed visitors.

3.3 Sampling Techniques

Non-probabilistic sampling procedure method was used in the selection. Purposive sampling procedure was also used to supplement the non-probability sampling
3.4 Instrument of Data collection and Sample size

The sample size for the study was all the active refugees and asylum seekers in Ghana.

3.5 Target Population

The target population is all the active individuals’ refugees and in Ghana.

3.6 Tool for Data Analysis

Tables and percentage bar charts and pie charts were the statistical tools for the analysis of the data. These statistical tools were used because they give a very clear picture of the problem at a glance.
CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretations

The study on the management issues of refugees was conducted in Ghana. The study covered all the active persons of concern in Ghana. The main objective of the study is to find out the management issues of refugees’ in Ghana.

This chapter gives the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data collected from GRB, UNHCR and other implementing partners from the field. It begins with the analysis of socio-demographic characteristics of the asylum seekers and the refugees. It finally concludes with a summary of the findings.

4.1 Country of Origin of Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Ghana.

Table 4.1 below shows the country of origin of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers. A total of 5,126 families or households of 13,132 individuals have registered with Ghana Refugee Board. Out of the total number, 1,704 are female headed families and 3,422 are male headed families. The people are coming from Thirty-Eight (38) different countries both in Africa and Outside Africa. About 53.62% of the people of concern are coming from Cote D’Ivoire due to the civil war that broke in 2011. A large number of Asylum Seekers came to seek refuge in Ghana. Some have gone back leaving about 7,042 still active in the country. Three different Refugee Camps have been established in the country for Ivorians alone. The Camps are Egyekrom Refugee Camp located in Central Region, Ampain Refugee Camp located in Western Region and Fetentaa Refugee Camp located in Brong Ahafo Region. The rest of the Ivorians are in the villages, semi-urban areas and urban areas in the country.
Togolese are the second highest in the country now. The total number of Togolese in the country is 3,532 representing 26.90%.

Liberian Refugees are currently 735 representing 5.60% of the refugee population in Ghana.

The Sudanese are the 4th largest Refugee population in the country. Currently they are about 624 representing 4.75% of the total Refugee population in Ghana.

In addition, there are 221 representing 1.68% of the total Refugee population coming from Syrian Arab Republic. 190 representing 1.45% Refugees are from the Central Africa Republic, 160 representing 1.22% are from Eritrea and the rest 4.78% are from other 31 different countries.

The Refugees are from three different continents namely, Africa, Asia and Europe.

The various information has been illustrated in the diagrams below.

**Table 4.1: Country of Origin of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country of Origin</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benin</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.04%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burundi</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cameroon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central African Republic</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>1.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chad</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>0.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congo, Republic of the</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Côte d'Ivoire</td>
<td>3577</td>
<td>3465</td>
<td>7042</td>
<td>53.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Total Percentage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of the Congo</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>0.62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equatorial Guinea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eritrea</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>1.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethiopia</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0.11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gambia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran, Islamic Republic of</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iraq</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>0.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazakhstan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberia</td>
<td>431</td>
<td>304</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>5.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Libyan Arab Jamahiriya</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mali</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niger</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nigeria</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>0.18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0.34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palestine</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>0.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rwanda</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sierra Leone</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>0.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>0.61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Refugees</td>
<td>Asylum Seekers</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>% of Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------</td>
<td>------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>497</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>4.75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syrian Arab Republic</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>1.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Togo</td>
<td>1601</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>3532</td>
<td>26.90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uganda</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uzbekistan</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>0.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>13132</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GRB and UNHCR database, 2018

Table 4.2 below shows the original continents of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers in Ghana. Out of the total number of Thirteen Thousand, One Hundred and Thirty-Two (13132), Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the country, Twelve Thousand, Seven Hundred and Sixty-Nine (12,769) representing 97.24% are from Africa continent, and they are from Twenty-Seven (27) different countries. Three Hundred and Twenty (320) representing, 2.44% are from Asia continent, from Ten (10) different countries and the rest Forty-Three (43) representing, 0.32% are from Europe. Out of the 38 different countries that the Refugees and Asylum Seekers are coming from, Africa alone has 27 countries representing approximately 71% showing that when there is crises the people turn to run to the neighboring countries. This implies that internal continental forced migration is more.
Table 4.2: Number of Refugees and Asylum Seekers from the various continents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>12,769</td>
<td>97.24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>2.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>0.32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13132</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source GRB and UNHCR, June, 2018

Fig. 1: A bar Chart showing Refugees and Asylum Seekers from the various continents
Table 4.3 shows that 11,922 representing 91% are refugees and 1210 representing 9% are asylum seekers. The information is illustrated in both Bar Chart and Pie Chart respectively.

### Table 4.3: Legal Status of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal Status</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asylum Seeker</td>
<td>427</td>
<td>783</td>
<td>1210</td>
<td>9.21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refugee</td>
<td>5754</td>
<td>6168</td>
<td>11922</td>
<td>90.79%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>13132</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GRB and UNHCR, June, 2018

**Fig. 2: A Pie Chart showing the Legal status of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**
Table 4.4 below shows the sex of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers in the country. Out of the total Refugee population, 6181 representing 47.07% are females and 6951 representing 52.93% are males. The information is represented in figure 6 and 7 below.

**Table 4.4: Sex of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>47.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>52.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>13132</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GRB and UNHCR, June, 2018

**Fig. 2: A Pie Chart showing Sex of Refugees and Asylum Seekers**
Table 4.5 shows Age Cohort of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers in Ghana. The average age of the Refugees population in Ghana is approximately 26 years. The majority of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers aged between 18-59 years, and they formed 60.78% of the Refugees population in Ghana. This shows that the majority of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers fall under the working class. 2066 representing 15.73% which is the second highest aged between 05-11 years, they are primary school pupils. 1,527 representing 11.63% aged between 12-17 years of age. Most of the people here are the Junior High School students. From the table again, 1,151 representing 8.7% of the Refugees population in Ghana are aged between 00-04 years. Most of these children were born in Ghana. The retired Refugees and Asylum Seekers who are 60+ years are 406 representing 3.09% of the forced migrants’ population in Ghana.

### Table 4.5: Age cohort of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers in Ghana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Cohort</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>00 - 04 years</td>
<td>589</td>
<td>562</td>
<td>1151</td>
<td>8.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05 - 11 years</td>
<td>998</td>
<td>1068</td>
<td>2066</td>
<td>15.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 17 years</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>766</td>
<td>1527</td>
<td>11.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 59 years</td>
<td>3614</td>
<td>4368</td>
<td>7982</td>
<td>60.78%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+ years</td>
<td>219</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>3.09%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>13132</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source GRB and UNHCR Database, June, 2018
Table 4.6 shows the marital status of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers in Ghana. The table shows that most of the forced migrants total 9,481 representing 72.20% are single. Out of this number, the males are 5,128 and the females are 4,353. 2,918 representing 22.22% were married and 233 representing 1.77% are engaged but confirmed that they are living together and therefore are involved in a marriage relationship although not fully consummated. 0.67% were separated, 0.91% divorced and 292 representing 2.22% are widowed. Out of the number, 249 representing 85.27% are females and only 43 representing 14.73% are males. This vividly explained that men die early more than women. Besides, it confirmed the claimed of the women that their loving and caring husbands were killed during the war.

Table 4.6: Marital Status of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>4353</td>
<td>5128</td>
<td>9481</td>
<td>72.20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>1358</td>
<td>1560</td>
<td>2918</td>
<td>22.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engaged</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>1.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Separated</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>0.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0.91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>2.22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>13132</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GRB and UNHCR, Database June, 2018
Table 4.7 shows Educational Level of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana. From the table only 1,267 representing 9.65% had University Education. 15.05% had no formal education at all. The rest had basic education up to senior high level. All the information is illustrated in the diagrams below.

**Table 4.7: Educational Level of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Level</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No Education</td>
<td>2058</td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>4034</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>647</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 1-6/Primary School</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>1633</td>
<td>3533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7-9/JSS/JHS/Middle School</td>
<td>856</td>
<td>926</td>
<td>1782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 10-14/SSS/SHS/O’&amp;A’ level</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>1473</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technical/Vocational School</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Level</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>943</td>
<td>1267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>6181</strong></td>
<td><strong>6951</strong></td>
<td><strong>13132</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GRB and UNHCR, Database June, 2018

Table 4.8 shows the religious affiliation of the Refugees and the Asylum seekers. Majority of the POCs are Christians followed by Moslems. Over 85% of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers are Christians, 10% are Muslims and the rest are for other religions.
Table 4.8: Religious affiliations of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Affiliation</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Christianity</td>
<td>5495</td>
<td>5730</td>
<td>11225</td>
<td>85.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>908</td>
<td>1332</td>
<td>10.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhism</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Religion</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>0.43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>3.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>13132</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.9 shows the ethnicity of the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers. The Refugees and Asylum Seekers belong to about 188 different ethnic groups with Ewe being majority of about 20%, followed by Geri 16%, then Bete 10% and the rest 54% for the other ethnic groups.

Table 4.9: Shows the ethnicity of the Refugees and the asylum Seekers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ewe</td>
<td>1233</td>
<td>1505</td>
<td>2738</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geri</td>
<td>1087</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>2068</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bete</td>
<td>659</td>
<td>691</td>
<td>1350</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3202</td>
<td>3774</td>
<td>6976</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>13132</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GRB and UNHCR Database, June, 2018
Table 4.10 shows that majority of the Refugees came in 2011. 4739 representing 36.09% came to Ghana during that time. Majority of them were Ivoirians because of the post-election crises that happened in Cote D’Ivoire.

Table 4.10: Year of Arrival of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Arrival</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1960-1970</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-1980</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1981-1990</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991-2000</td>
<td>728</td>
<td>906</td>
<td>1634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2010</td>
<td>1062</td>
<td>1185</td>
<td>2247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2018</td>
<td>4301</td>
<td>4815</td>
<td>9116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>13132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: GRB and UNHCR Database, June, 2018

Table 4.11 shows that majority of the people registered between 2011 and 2018 followed by 2001-2010.

Table 4.11: Year of Registration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Registration</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Grand Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1990-2000</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2010</td>
<td>1640</td>
<td>1944</td>
<td>3584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2018</td>
<td>4540</td>
<td>5007</td>
<td>9547</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>6181</td>
<td>6951</td>
<td>13132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source GRB and UNHCR, June, 2018

4.3 Primary data findings

A total of seven Officers, three from GRB and four from other implementing partners were interviewed about the management issues of Refugees in Ghana. The questions were based on the Operational Policy Framework of the Government, management of refugees and asylum seekers education, health, security and major challenges in hosting the PoCs in Ghana. The following are the outcome of the interviews.


According to GRB, it has been found out that a distinctive feature of the operational policy framework is that privileges available to all citizens in terms of a supportive enabling environment and access to essential services are extended to all asylum seekers and refugees in the country. Refugees have a choice of residential location (where to stay), free movement, permit for employment and establishing means of livelihood; assistance to open bank accounts and possessing UN Conventional Travel Documents.

Ghana ensures that all asylum seekers and refugees have access to services by integrating and mainstreaming the provisions and delivery of such services into the national service systems. At the camps, refugees have been given plots of land and related assistance to undertake farming
activities involving planting of maize, cassava, and vegetables. Some are engaged in agro-processing of coconut and palm oil; poultry and mushroom production, fishing, soap and charcoal production. Entrepreneurship training is provided to engage in apprenticeship and vocational certification programs. The vulnerable are given cash grants to engage in petty trading. Services in the camps are integrated into the national and municipal service delivery systems. Security is provided by the Ghana Police Service. Utilities including water, electricity, sanitation services are provided by the municipal and district service providers. Camp schools are integrated into the national education service, and children are enrolled in the school feeding program financed by the government. Clinics on refugee camps are managed by officials of the Ghana Health Services and permission granted to enroll in the National Health Insurance Scheme to have access to primary health care.

4.5 Education

The importance of education for personal progress and national development is emphasized and promoted in the refugee settlements. Ghana as a country is managing the education of the refugees’ children by establishing basic schools in all the four refugee camps in the country. The children are being fed through the school feeding which helps to keep the school children in school. Christian Council of Ghana, one of the partners is in charge of Refugees’ Education. According to the officer in charge. Everything is moving on well with the camp schools except that the schools lack the necessary textbooks and French teachers to teach all the subjects in the three Ivorian camps. The table below shows the enrollment figure at the four refugees camps.

Table 12 showing school enrollment at the four Refugee Camps
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Refugee Camp</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ampain</td>
<td>375</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>753</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egyeikrom</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fetentaa</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krisan</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>1546</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Fieldwork, June, 2018

4.6 Health issues of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana

All the Refugees and Asylum Seekers in the country have been provided with National Health Insurance Scheme Card. Refugees in the settlements share health facilities provided by government with the local population. However, in course of time each settlement sets up its own clinic with a doctor and trained nurses and makes it available to nationals. The common ailments of the locality are treated in the clinics and special cases referred to the nearest hospital. According to the Officer, no epidemics or serious health problems have not been reported in any of the settlements so far. However, most adults who report at the clinics are known to have depression and other psychological problems. Well-thought-out programmes involving social workers, social counsellors and doctors are pursued to overcome these problems. Women and children have a variety of health programmes, including immunization, nutrition, and child-welfare, ante-natal and post-natal clinics.

4.7 Protection Measures
According to the Officer, the protection of PoCs is one of GRB’s mandate. When refugees enter Ghana, the government takes urgent steps to give them adequate protection in Settlements. The Settlement idea has many advantages. Refugees live in houses, other than in temporary shelters, for protection against the vagaries of the weather. More importantly, more efficient security measures are possible where the various ethnic groups or nationalities live together. It is easy to assess their needs, interact and assist them as a group without disparity.

As a human institution, they have freedom of movement and association among themselves and with nationals in adjacent villages, and share educational, health service and the social utilities. This opportunity encourages trade and exchange of skills. They appoint their own leaders to oversee the well-being of the group and to represent them in decision-taking matters with government. They enjoy the freedom guaranteed them under the UN Refugee Convention to practice their religion and culture and to gain employment and personal assets.

It is the general practice of UNHCR not to treat refugees more favourably than the nationals of Ghana in order to avert friction between the two groups. This practice is adhered to rigidly; any services provided for refugees such as boreholes, clinics, schools at the expense of the International Community, are made available to nationals in adjacent villages and vice versa. The International Community gives financial support for expansion of the social services in the communities where refugees reside to enable refugees to take advantage of them. In this inter-relationship, acceptance of refugees is encouraged and refugees get a sense of belongingness to the wider national community.

Counseling services are run by trained Social Welfare Officers to assist refugees solve their individual problems, inform them on programmes which have been put at their disposal, and how
they can take advantage of them. This effort makes refugees aware of developments in their management so that there is very little agitation or friction between them and government or among themselves. They are also kept informed of developments in the political situation in their homeland in order to take decisions to return home.

Protection measures are enforced with regard to repatriation. The government ensures that the voluntary nature of repatriation, as required by the UN 1951 Refugee Convention, is respected, and no refugee is sent home against his will. The government and UNHCR negotiate a tripartite agreement with the government of the country of origin for an amnesty for those refugees who are afraid to return home, and they also ensure that the political situation in the homelands is normalized before repatriation starts. Where necessary, the security agencies provide the necessary protection for the repatriation exercise.

It has been decided to issue refugees with identity cards, particularly those who remain in Ghana after the completion of repatriation exercises. They are required to carry the I.D cards wherever they go to enable security officers to give necessary protection when they are caught up in a national conflict. They are screened before the I.D cards are issued to them.

Refugees who are in need of Travel Documents to enable them travel to a second country of asylum for health or educational reasons are assisted to gain recognition by that country before they leave Ghana.

4.8 Government Contribution

According to GRB, Refugees in Ghana have received as much support as is reasonably possible in many countries of the world. The government of Ghana has been able to fulfill its obligations to refugees of all nationalities in a spirit of brotherhood. It has achieved a measure of success in
managing difficult youths and exercised much tolerance in dealing with offenders of laws of Ghana. There have not been any serious incidents so far; refugees have lived and continue to live peacefully among nationals.

Stool lands acquired by government and used for establishing Refugee Settlements and for agricultural projects were granted generously. Government services in education, health and the public utilities, as well as the country’s professional manpower, are made available on humanitarian grounds. This enabling environment may probably attest to the fact that many refugees do not wish to return home in a hurry until they are sure of their safety in their homeland.

The refugee Board, as the agency of government for promoting refugee welfare, is doing its utmost to ensure maximum co-operation with the UNHCR Branch Office in its fulfillment of the United Nations mandate for refugees in Ghana.

4.9 Training

According to GRB, training events on protection/refugee law have become a regular feature. They are organized for the benefit of government officials (police, including immigration and border officials), non-governmental organizations working in the refugee field at national, regional and district levels, in the form of seminars and conferences. Subjects treated include international instruments to human rights and the physical safety of refugees. The purpose is to sensitize persons handing refugees to the fundamental issues involved, and promote effective dialogue; provide practical knowledge and skills; disseminate knowledge of the laws and principles governing the protection of refugees and the proper recognition of their rights.
4.10 Assistance Projects

Economic projects are designed for settlement communities according to their professions and skills, and capabilities. Particularly, this promotes their earning capacity and makes them self-supporting. These projects encourage them to spend their time usefully and take their minds off adversities. It gives them a hope for the future and promotes their self-esteem.

UNHCR continues to give women and children priority attention, and always embark on special programmes geared towards their adjustment to life among nationals. To this end, market-oriented production programmes such as petty-trading and dressmaking, as well as programmes meant for social upliftment of women and children are pursued.

Projects for refugees are undertaken by UNHCR Operational Partners appointed by the Refugee Board and UNHCR. Their employees work in the field in a variety of areas, including food distribution, medical supplies, income generating activities, education, skill-training, recreation, etc.

Programmes which have made the greatest impact on the lives of refugee families include: day-care centres for children of working mothers; child health clinics; counseling services for the youth with adjustment problems; and social centres for the elderly with physical, mental and spiritual problems. Others are: skill-training for job aspirants; recreational activities for children and youth; crop production; and income-generating activities.

Implementing Partners are involved in income-generation, education, and agriculture at both camps and urban areas.
2.11 Funding

Funding of projects of assistance to refugees is made out of UNHCR budgetary allocations for each country and for specific areas of assistance. Hence funds are spent when available under specific programmes. Emergency funds are also made available in times of crises.

4.12 Refugee Policy

There are three durable solutions for addressing refugee situations all over the world in which Ghana is no exception. The components of durable solutions are; repatriation, resettlement and local integration. Refugees in Ghana have benefited from these policies at different times during their stay in Ghana. For example, Liberian Refugees. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the lead UN agency primarily tasked with the responsibility of protecting and assisting refugees has provided three traditional solutions to addressing refugee situations. These measures are otherwise known as Durable Solutions.

4.13 Major Implications of Hosting Refugees in Ghana

Hundreds of thousands of refugees from the West African sub-region and even outside Africa have sought refuge in Ghana these decades. The implications of protection and their hospitality, adjustment and voluntary return to their country of origin are reviewed with particular reference to the impact these make on government machinery and the nation as a whole.

The following are some of the challenges Ghana Refugee Board is facing managing the refugees in the country.
4.13.1 Inadequate Staff and critical skills-mix: GRB has three units as follows: Eligibility /Protection; Programs and Administration. All these units are in need of additional staff. More hands are needed to assist in reducing case backlogs at the eligibility unit. There is a need for a Resident Lawyer, Human Resource Manager, Communications Officer, a number of Program Officers, Research Assistants / Officers, an Executive Assistant, additional drivers, janitors and general service providers. In addition, the skills-mix of present staff is not readily adaptable to changing trends and needs at the landscape of refugee policy and management. Staff inadequacy is further compounded by the lack of office space. Even though the Ministry of Interior has given the nod to consider recruitment of staff, the space constraints hamstring efforts in this direction.

4.13.2 Absence of Research and Knowledge Management: GRB is in dire need of strengthening its research and knowledge management capacity. No reliable and accurate data exist on former refugees and others from the sub-region living in refugee-like situations in the country for planning and intervention purposes. Research capacity needs bolstering with well-focused knowledge exchange and lessons sharing actions involving refugee hosting countries and communities across the globe. Such efforts would engender strategically tailored learning activities to strengthen the loop for feedback, reflections, modus operandi recalibrations and lessons capturing necessary for achieving the envisaged results and benefits for the refugees and hosting communities.

4.13.3 Limited Transportation Services: GRB has only two service vehicles provided by UNHCR for operations at the Headquarters and between the four Camps in the Central, Western
and Brong-Ahafo regions; and one inactive camp in Buduburam. This scenario hinders overall operations of the agency in terms of speedy response and timely delivery of services to clients. But according to the Officer interviewed, Budgetary allocations have been approved by the Ministry of Finance in 2018 to procure one vehicle pending clearance from the Chief of Staff at the Office of the President.

4.13.4 The cost involved in obtaining land and extent of negotiations for release of stool lands for use by refugees are factors that restrict and change focus on the country’s development. One of the Municipal Assembly has been taken to court and injunction was put on the common fund because Government has not paid compensation for the land used for the Refugee Camp in Egyeikrom till the compensation was paid. The Government is yet to pay for the land used for the other Refugees Camp.

4.13.5 The location of Refugee Settlements in close proximity to ethnic communities is of mutual benefit, but this could cause insecurity in district in times of ethnic instability.

4.13.6 Land degradation through deforestation and use of local vegetation as fuel and sources of raw material for house construction does not augur well for attempts being made for preservation of the forests and wild life.

4.13.7 Spontaneous settlement among local communities living in sensitive areas has the tendency to widen human habitat, encroach on government land reserves, and pollute water bodies through lack of proper sanitary measures.
4.13.8 Concentration of refugee and national populations in remote rural areas overstretches available economic resources, and causes a strain on education and health services, communication and transportation systems, and also poses problems of housing shortage and overcrowding;

4.13.9 The unemployment situation in the urban areas worsens as children brought into refugee soon reach adulthood and join the ranks of unemployment youth. In the absence of opportunities for personal advancement and economic independence, the youth find outlets for their energies in anti-social activities and even in crime.

4.13.10 Protection and Material Aid to refugees is often considered detrimental to national development and national security. However, the facts are that refugees being human are sensitive to the efforts of governments of asylum and the good image of their own countries of origin and will, generally, not indulge in acts liable to offend their hosts.

4.13.11 Insufficient donor funds for the management of the Refugees.

4.13.12 Financial Institutions inability to recognize Refugees’ documents such as Refugee Identity Cards, UN Convectional Travel Documents etc. for bank transactions.
CHAPTER FIVE

5.1 Summary, Conclusion and Recommendation

Introduction

In this study an attempt has been made to look at the Ghana’s management of Refugees issues. It has been observed that Ghana continues to receive forced migrants in the country since independence. Some existing literature on Refugees have been reviewed. The main focus of the literature is on Forced Migrants issues.

The objectives of the study were to find out socio-demographic issues of registered forced migrants in Ghana. The management challenges and the host community conflicts.

The unit of analysis were selected using non-probabilistic and purposeful sampling procedures. Personal interview was used to collect the primary data. The result of this study has provided some useful insights into the management of Forced Migrants in Ghana.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the analysis of the data has shown that there are thirteen thousand one hundred thirty-two (13,132) Refugees currently active in the country as of 30th June, 2018 from thirty-eight (38) different countries from three different continents. The analysis has also revealed that 71% of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers are coming from Africa. The analysis also shows that the refugees are not from Africa alone. It has been found out that almost all the Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Ghana, left their countries of origin because of crises, civil war due to
election dispute. Few of these people are here because of religious and personal persecutions especially those from outside Africa.

Besides, the analysis has revealed that the refugees’ situation affects poor and rich, highly educated and uneducated, men and women, young and old etc.

In addition to this, the study has again revealed that the refugees’ issues affect poor and rich countries as well.

Besides, the interview of the GRB authorities revealed that Ghana as a country is facing a lot of challenges hosting the Forced Migrants. According to them, the fund donated by the Donors are always in adequate to cater for the Refugees and the Asylum Seekers. But Ghana as a country is working diligently to attain a certain measure of human dignity and appreciable quality of life for Refugees and Asylum Seekers. Ghana as a country is trying to lay a concrete foundation for promoting her own personal well-being. All the development that are made on behalf of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers eventually boost the development efforts of Ghana. This is only the material aspect. In human terms, the country sees the rewards of her efforts and hospitality when Refugees return peacefully to their country of origin or homeland and become an asset to its development. The values pursued and commitments made on behalf of Refugees and Asylum Seekers constantly remind the country as well as those cared for, to continue doing good to others, and by this same experience, the country will create harmony with hers neighbours and tranquility in her daily life. 20th, June each year is set aside as African Refugee Day, it is an opportunity for reflecting on the plight of Refugees and reckoning achievements and failures in the task of promoting Refugees’ welfare. It is a day for reminding countries of their obligations under the UN and OAU Conventions to help Refugees resume productive lives. No matter how
politically difficult it may be, no matter how much her resources are stretched, Ghana never close her doors on fellow Africans and even non Africans who seek refuge.

5.3 Recommendation

A study such as this requires that some policies should be recommended to make it complete. In the light of this, the major task in hand is for the Governments on Africa continent specially to start reflecting seriously on past and present events relating to human uprootment, assess what progress has been made to alleviate human suffering, and what is holding the continent back in achieving lasting peace. The following should be taken seriously into consideration; respect of Human Rights, National Reconciliation, social and economic progress and establishment of lasting democratic institutions that can overcome the dread of uprootment. Africa must try to implement the beautiful laws she has. Above all, there should be positive attitudinal change all over the continent.

5.3.2 There is the need for GRB to embark on sensitization and advocacy activities in order to create public awareness on refugee management in Ghana. This will help to improve public knowledge resulting in increased assistance to the distressed visitors.

5.3.3 Besides, the Government of Ghana and UNHCR should increase level of support to Refugee programme. Although there has been a significant increase in Government support for
the refugee programme, there is still a deficit and it would be desirable if more funding is made available by both UNHCR and GoG.

5.3.4 UNHCR should assist the GoG to construct police quarters in all the Refugee Camps for the permanent posting of police officers to the camp since the security of the Refugees is very important.

5.3.5 For the effective management of all the four camps, there should be frequent capacity building for all the leadership at the camps. The Camp management offices are to be furnished with required logistics to function better to ensure proper records keeping which is critical to effective management of the camps.
REFERENCES


