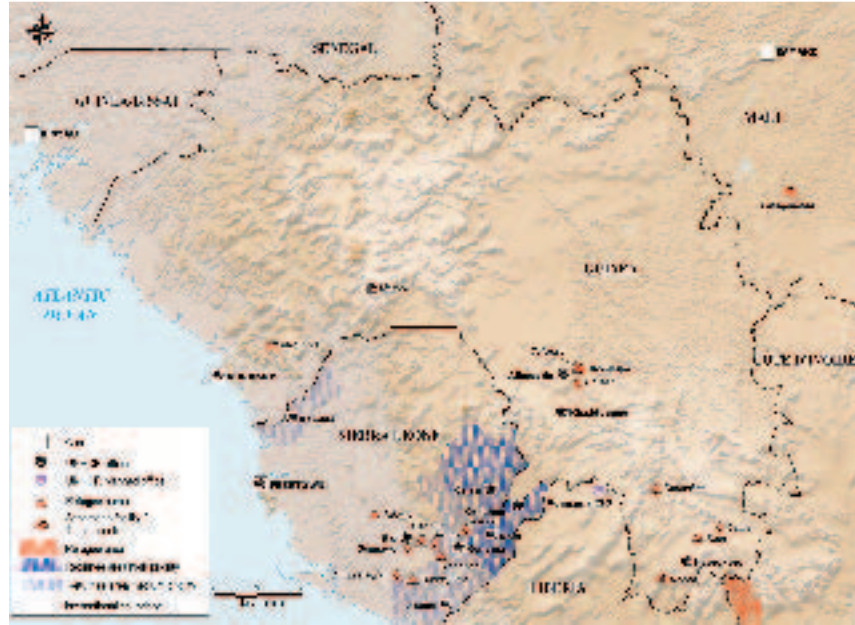


Main objectives

- Provide international protection and ensure that asylum-seekers continue to be granted admission through a fair refugee status determination (RSD) procedure.
- Continue to provide basic assistance to urban refugees in Conakry and pursue durable solutions for them.
- Continue to promote the voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees.
- Monitor developments in Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia on behalf of refugees from those countries; facilitate and subsequently promote the voluntary return of the refugees as soon as circumstances permit.



Working environment

Major developments

Throughout 2003 events in neighbouring countries had a great impact on Guinea. The political climate in the sub region was tense, with deteriorating security conditions in many parts. On the positive side, favourable conditions in Sierra Leone enabled UNHCR to continue the full-scale voluntary repatriation operation after concluding a Tripartite Agreement with the Governments of Sierra Leone and Guinea. More than 23,000 refugees were thus assisted to return home – initially through the western Pamelap/Kambia axis into western Sierra Leone over four days. Subsequently, a temporary causeway was constructed in the Parrot's Beak area, which shortened the repatriation journey by three days. Most of the Sierra Leonean refugees remaining in camps in Guinea are expected to return home before the ongoing repatriation operation comes to a close in June 2004.

The outflow of Sierra Leonean refugees was offset by the arrival of many more Liberian refugees fleeing the resurgence of conflict between LURD rebels and Charles Taylor's

Government. An upsurge in fighting in late March 2003, produced a fresh influx of refugees, putting a huge strain on existing facilities. The outbreak of the civil war in Côte d'Ivoire in September 2002 had already precipitated an influx of more than 90,000 people into Guinea, including 6,500 Ivorian refugees and 17,200 Liberian refugees, many of whom had been taking refuge in Côte d'Ivoire from continuing conflict in their own country. The emergence in March of the MODEL rebel movement in eastern counties of Liberia also produced refugee flows into Guinea as did fresh fighting in Côte d'Ivoire in April 2003.

Faced with these challenges, the Guinean authorities, in collaboration with UNHCR and other international organisations, sought to mitigate the impact of refugees by moving newly arrived Liberians away from the unstable frontier zones to UNHCR-sponsored camps in the Albadaria region. Meanwhile, Liberian refugees from Kouankan refugee camp were relocated to the Albadaria camps in an emergency operation amid grave concerns about infiltration by armed elements and forced recruitment of refugees.

Planning figures

Population	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2004
Liberia (refugees)	150,000	110,000
Sierra Leone (refugees)	33,000	7,500
Côte d'Ivoire (refugees)	7,000	2,000
Asylum-seekers from various countries	830	170
Total	190,830	119,670

Total requirements: USD 24,719,080

Constraints

Guinea is plagued by complex political tensions and poor socio-economic conditions, which engender a backlash against refugees with growing concerns about security impinging on asylum policy. Increasingly, the authorities are inclined to close Guinea's borders with refugee producing neighbours. In the present political environment, maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps amounts to a considerable challenge. Meanwhile, poor road conditions exact a huge toll on UNHCR trucking capacity, creating bottlenecks in both emergency response and voluntary repatriation operations. Finally, urban refugees could suffer considerable hardship due to delays in obtaining identity cards.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

The organised voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees will continue until June 2004. Sierra Leonean refugees who opt not to return will undergo individual RSD procedures aimed at identifying alternative durable solutions for them. When conditions in Liberia or Côte d'Ivoire become conducive to return, UNHCR will facilitate the repatriation of refugees who wish to return.

UNHCR will closely monitor the areas receiving Liberian and Ivorian refugees and undertake appropriate interventions if security conditions permit. Appropriate measures will be taken, in collaboration with Government authorities, to provide refugees with recognised identification documents. UNHCR will campaign widely to contain growing anti-refugee sentiment and support Government efforts to maintain the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps.

Efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence issues in refugee camps will continue. In order to enhance the co-ordination, referral and legal



recourse mechanisms, the legal clinic established in N'zérékoré will be replicated in Kissidougou to cover the Albadariah camps. In 2004, refugee participation through democratically elected and gender-balanced committees will be reinforced. Likewise, strategies to meet the special needs of the large number of separated children, particularly in the N'zérékoré region, will be pursued, including foster care, family reunification, adoption, repatriation and resettlement.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to provide material assistance to refugees including shelter and domestic items as well services in the sectors of water, sanitation, education



To accommodate the increased number of refugees who arrived in 2003, more shelters had to be constructed to house Liberian refugees in Nzérékoré. UNHCR / B. Heger

and vocational training. Refugees living in the camps will benefit from free medical treatment, vaccination (yellow fever, measles) and reproductive health care. In general, food distribution will be essentially carried out by women and thereby empower them to increase their participation in camp management activities. Female refugees aged between 12 and 55 will continue to receive hygienic kits. Peer support groups will be organised for refugee adolescents to prevent the spread of AIDS. UNHCR will reinforce implementing partner capacity to protect children and women from exploitation and gender-based violence.

Refugee children and adolescents will have access to primary and secondary education. UNHCR and its partners will promote school attendance for refugee girls

and the recruitment of female teachers. To allow young teenage mothers to attend school, UNHCR will help refugee communities to organise day care centres, where they can leave their children. Income-generating activities and vocational training will be developed to enhance the refugees' self-reliance. In all camps, specific training will be offered to develop women's managerial skills.

Environmental management and awareness raising will mitigate damage and/or prevent further environmental degradation in and around the camps. The production of eco-stoves, to minimise the use of firewood and charcoal, will be implemented in parallel with reforestation of the already damaged areas.

UNHCR will undertake mass information campaigns and provide the necessary logistical support for refugees to repatriate in safety and dignity when conditions in their places of origin permit. Candidates departing from the camps will receive transport assistance and hot meals.

Organisation and implementation

Management structure

There will be 197 posts, comprising 36 international and 161 national staff. The Office will also benefit from the services of UNVs.

Co-ordination

UNHCR will continue to participate in the sub-regional meetings on voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees in order to co-ordinate strategies, policies and activities.

Regarding inter-agency co-operation, UNHCR will actively participate in the regular UN inter-agency meetings on the CCA, the UNDAF and the CAP. The co-ordination of strategies and activities by the UN humanitarian actors and agencies will be assured through weekly meetings under the leadership of the Humanitarian Co-ordinator. Every six months, joint missions will take place with WFP on the nutritional situation of refugees, in addition to regular bi-weekly meetings between the senior staff of the two agencies in Conakry.

Regular contacts will be maintained with UNEP and UNDP regarding the financing of environmental programmes. UNHCR will seek financial support for development programmes in the zones affected by the presence of refugees from other development agencies such as the AfDB and the World Bank.

Offices

Conakry

Kissidougou
N'zérékoré

Partners

Government agencies

Bureau national de coordination pour les réfugiés
Ministère de l'administration du territoire et de la décentralisation
Direction nationale des eaux et forêts
Radio rurale de Guinée

NGOs

Action contre la faim
Action of Churches Together
American Refugees Committee
Centre canadien d'études et de coopération internationale
Croix-Rouge guinéenne
Centre for Victims of Trauma
International Rescue Committee
Médecins Sans Frontières
Organisation catholique pour la promotion humaine
Organisation pour le développement intègre communautaire
Première Urgence
Save the Children (USA)

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
IFRC
UNV

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and co-ordination	6,786,022
Community services	1,063,104
Crop production	544,914
Domestic needs	1,031,702
Education	1,681,126
Food	63,416
Forestry	235,013
Health	1,110,681
Income generation	446,388
Legal assistance	451,866
Operational support (to agencies)	2,677,387
Sanitation	534,976
Shelter / other infrastructure	1,238,291
Transport / logistics	3,153,430
Water	514,006
Total Operations	21,532,322
Programme support	3,186,758
Total	24,719,080