

In accordance with the goals of the Agenda of Protection which derived from the UNHCR-sponsored Global Consultations on International Protection, the objectives for 2004 will focus on:

- strengthening implementation of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol;
- protecting refugees within broader migration movements;
- sharing burdens and responsibilities more equitably and building local and regional capacities to protect and receive refugees;
- addressing security-related concerns;
- redoubling the search for durable solutions for persons of concern to UNHCR;
- meeting the protection needs of refugee women and children.

The Agenda provides the planning framework for field-based activities aimed at improving the international protection of refugees and asylum-seekers. The country chapters of this year's Global Appeal reflect how the goals and objectives of the Agenda are being adapted and applied in practice in UNHCR's field operations around the world. Common strands include developing country plans of action to address sexual and gender-based violence; strengthening legal and community-based frameworks for the protection of refugee women and children; building protection capacity, especially in refugee status determination and resettlement; improving registration and documentation of refugees; continuing to highlight the need to protect refugees in mixed migratory movements and, to ensure that refugee protection remains at the forefront of discussions on mixed migratory flows.

In Geneva, it is anticipated that in 2004, through the work of ExCom and its Standing Committee, conclusions on *Framework Considerations for Responsibility-sharing in Mass Influx Situations* and *Legal Safety Issues in the Context of Voluntary Repatriation* are planned. UNHCR is to undertake studies on difficulties States have in acceding to or in implementing the 1951 Convention, the impact of refugees on host countries and, a review of protracted refugee situations with a view to identifying opportunities for finding durable solutions for refugees. UNHCR will also develop guidelines, procedures and standards for the preservation of the civilian character of asylum as well as guidelines on protection safeguards in interception measures. The Office will ensure that the protection needs of refugees and asylum-seekers are properly met in the

broader context of migration flows and migration management. It will work with other UN agencies and with IOM to deepen the system-wide understanding of the nexus between asylum and migration and to identify ways of intensifying co-operation among United Nations agencies whose work has a bearing on migration-related issues.

There will also be "tools development", either by UNHCR or within the framework of the High Commissioner's *Convention Plus* initiative. In 2004, UNHCR will explore with States, practical ways to build upon and buttress the 1951 Convention, with the dual objective of strengthening responsibility and burden-sharing for those hosting and protecting refugees, and finding durable solutions for affected populations. A dedicated **Convention Plus** Unit will be fully functioning as of 1 January 2004, to assist the High Commissioner in spearheading this important initiative.

In 2004, the enhancement of **resettlement** as a tool of international protection as a durable solution and a burden and responsibility-sharing mechanism, will remain a priority. In close co-operation with resettlement countries and NGOs, UNHCR will stress the need to further develop a more strategic use of resettlement. Resettlement will also be an important element in "Convention Plus" agreements, especially in addressing protracted refugee situations. Priority areas will include the elaboration of new procedures for applying resettlement to situations of *prima facie* refugees and the implementation of the methodology for the resettlement of refugee groups.

In 2004, UNHCR will emphasise the "operationalisation" of policy developments in field offices. The management and staffing of the Regional Resettlement Hubs in Accra and Nairobi will be consolidated and strengthened. A global resettlement strategy will further the mainstreaming of resettlement into UNHCR field operations.

The Office will maintain its close working relations with States and NGOs - including through the *Annual Tripartite Consultations and the Working Group on Resettlement*. Through a consultative and co-operative process, resettlement countries will be encouraged to diversify and increase their resettlement intake and to harmonise their resettlement policies. UNHCR will pursue its efforts to expand the geographical coverage of resettlement activities to new resettlement countries while continuing to provide strategic guidance and assistance to emerging resettlement countries.

With the objective of providing a more consistent and effective system-wide response to **internally displaced persons**, UNHCR will revive its collaboration with other UN agencies, particularly through the Emergency Relief Co-ordinator (ERC) and with the ICRC. The Office will continue to be guided by its response criteria, identified broadly by the General Assembly in 1998 and its own operational guidelines of 2001. It will report annually to the Secretary-General on activities undertaken in relation to IDPs, and contribute to the analysis of situations where the United Nations is, or might become involved in IDP issues. UNHCR will work closely with the United Nations Country Teams, to ensure clearer inter-agency division of labour, better planning, faster operational deployment and improved funding.

With regard to **statelessness**, the Office will increase its efforts to promote and implement its mandate concerning statelessness in 2004. It will use the results of its global survey on States' practices as a basis for promoting new accessions to the 1954 and 1961 statelessness Conventions, and will extend activities to provide a more global coverage.

Protection Costs

Protection depends upon the presence of protection staff in locations where refugees or asylum-seekers may be at risk. The cost of protection is therefore largely the cost of deploying protection personnel, along with the logistical, programme and administrative support they require. Costs for protection can be identified in this Appeal in the following places:

- Under the budget items **Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination** and **Legal Assistance** in country-specific chapters;
- In the chapter on **Global Programmes** (Headquarters' Support for Resettlement Activities, Promotion of Refugee Law and Advocacy, Resettlement Projects and Protection-related projects);
- In the Chapter on **Headquarters** (Department of International Protection).



Côte d'Ivoire: Part of UNHCR's protection mandate involves identification of vulnerable groups and ensuring that their special needs are met. A UNHCR protection officer interviewed fleeing Liberian refugees. UNHCR / R. Wilkinson