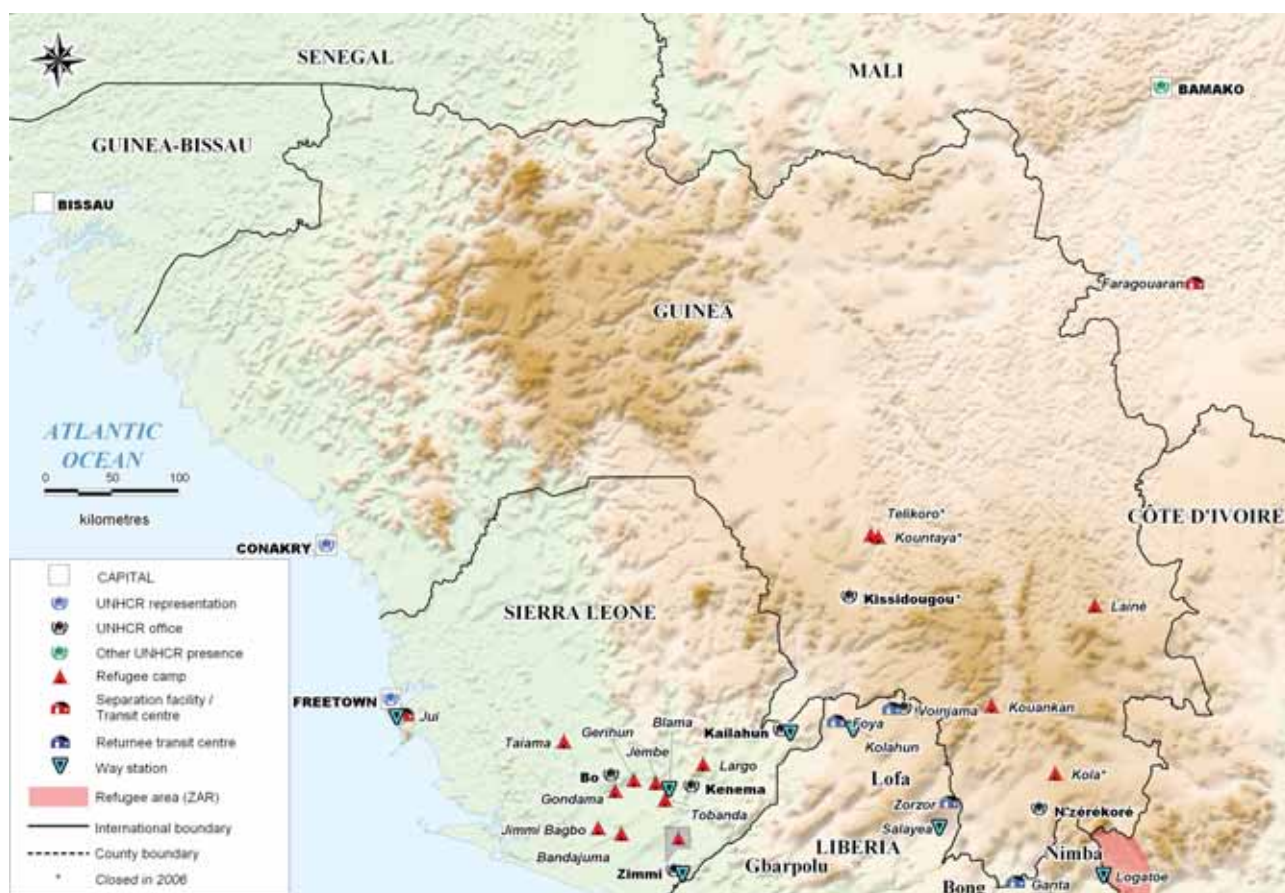


Guinea



Operational highlights

- More than 25,000 Liberian refugees returned home with UNHCR's assistance. These returnees represented 80 per cent of the target for 2006. Furthermore, nearly 12,000 refugees from Liberia returned spontaneously.
- UNHCR closed the Kountaya, Telikoro and Kola camps in 2006. The 4,500 Liberian refugees remaining in these camps were transferred to the consolidated site of Kouankan 1.
- UNHCR renewed the documents of some 7,000 urban refugees in Conakry.
- Approximately 700 Sierra Leonean refugees were assisted to integrate locally.
- Twenty-two refugees with special protection needs were resettled.

Working environment

The Republic of Guinea experienced deteriorating political, economic and security conditions in 2006. A general strike paralysed the country in February. In June, two weeks of violence left 23 civilians dead. More

lives were lost in a stand-off between the Government and trade unions in January 2007. In addition to the civil disturbances, the depreciation of the local currency and high inflation combined to raise the price of essential goods, making life for the common people more difficult. The regions most affected by the crisis were Conakry and *Guinée Forestière*, which host 70 per cent of all refugees and are the main areas of UNHCR operations.

However, as in previous years, Guinea remained an exemplary asylum country, allowing refugee programmes to run smoothly.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

In 2006, UNHCR aimed to protect refugees, process asylum applications promptly, accelerate the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees and, when feasible, facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees. UNHCR also sought to care for camp-based refugees, develop durable solutions for urban refugees and promote the local integration of the residual group of



UNHCR/F. Millimouno

Repatriation to Liberia from Kissidougou across the Makona River.

Sierra Leonean refugees. Furthermore, it planned to rehabilitate the environment in refugee-affected areas, build partnerships and secure funds for further remedial work.

Protection and solutions

Guinea continued to offer a favourable protection environment for refugees and asylum-seekers. In November 2006, the Government approved a new draft asylum law that is to be presented to Parliament in 2007. A verification exercise and participatory assessments helped UNHCR to review refugee statistics and to profile refugees with special protection needs.

Voluntary repatriation to Liberia gained substantial momentum in 2006: UNHCR helped more than 25,000 refugees to return to the country, while another 12,000 returned spontaneously. This enabled the Office to streamline operations by closing its field office in Kissidougou, phasing out three camps and consolidating at one site those refugees unable or unwilling to repatriate.

While actively promoting the voluntary repatriation of some 9,000 urban refugees, mainly from Sierra Leone and Liberia, UNHCR also held discussions with the Government to facilitate local integration. Following the relocation of more than 3,000 Ivorian refugees from Nonah to Kouankan in late 2005, these refugees were

provided agricultural land, shelter and other services by UNHCR and its partners.

Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR identified, documented and assisted approximately 1,400 refugees with special needs. It repatriated some 200 unaccompanied minors to Liberia and reunited about 80 others with their families in Guinea. An international NGO conducted awareness campaigns on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence for some 40,000 refugees.

Crop production: Some 300 camp-based Ivorian families received a total of 6,000 kg of rice seeds and 200 kg of corn seeds. More than 100 hectares of rice and 25 hectares of corn were cultivated around Kouankan.

Domestic needs and household support: Vulnerable urban refugees and camp-based Liberian and Ivorian refugees received monthly rations of soap and sanitary kits. Furthermore, refugees with special needs received non-food items on a case-by-case basis.

Education: Attendance at primary school by Liberian and Ivorian camp-based refugee children increased from 60 per cent in 2005 to 70 per cent in 2006. Camp schools taught more than 7,000 children, 47 per cent of whom were girls. Some 200 Ivorian refugee students – a quarter of them girls – attended secondary school. Scholarships for vocational training were granted to some 60 Ivorian and Liberian students and 300 Ivorian adults and teenagers. Ivorian refugees also participated in a literacy education project. Finally, more than 300 teachers benefited from professional training.

Food: UNHCR distributed more than 5,000 metric tonnes of food provided by WFP to Liberian and Ivorian refugees in camps. All returning Liberians received a one-month food ration as well as hot meals in transit centres.

Forestry: UNHCR helped to mitigate the environmental impact of a large refugee presence by supporting tree nurseries and conservation measures such as tree

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	21,800	21,800	53	53
	Sierra Leone	5,300	5,300	45	37
	Côte d'Ivoire	4,300	4,300	48	55
	Sierra Leone	1,800	1,800	46	41
Asylum-seekers	Liberia	1,400	1,400	39	45
	Côte d'Ivoire	700	700	39	46
Total		35,300	35,300		

marking, forest patrols, information campaigns and training in fuel-saving cooking methods. The Office also funded the planting of some 60,000 trees in and around refugee camps.

Health and nutrition: UNHCR organized medical screening and vaccinations for all refugees returning to Liberia. Health standards were maintained at a satisfactory level in the refugee camps, which suffered no epidemics of illness in 2006. As in previous years, UNHCR and its partners funded programmes for the prevention of HIV and AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases and malaria. Refugees who tested HIV-positive received antiretroviral medication. More than half a million condoms were distributed and HIV tests made available for refugees.

Income generation: Small-business grants were given to 37 urban refugees in Conakry. In Kouankan, some 200 Ivorian refugees organized themselves in groups and received loans or material support to foster self-reliance.

Legal assistance: In 2006, the National Eligibility Commission processed the claims of some 1,200 asylum-seekers. Members of the Commission, the National Assembly, the police, army and civil society were trained in refugee law in both Nzérékoré and Conakry. UNHCR continued to lobby for more rights for refugees.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR covered the operational and administrative costs of its implementing partners, to whom it loaned vehicles and other assets. It also offered technical support and training to implementing and operational partners.

Sanitation: Almost all refugee camps had latrines and bathrooms for both sexes. UNHCR helped construct some 300 new latrines and bathrooms, refuse dumps and 15,000 metres of drainage canals in Kouankan 1.

Shelter and infrastructure: UNHCR erected some 300 temporary community shelters and 90 community kitchens to accommodate Liberian refugees relocated from other camps to Kouankan 1. Permanent housing was built with refugee participation. Shelters and other facilities in the camps that were closed in 2006 have been decommissioned.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR's fleet of trucks, vehicles and motorbikes supported camp assistance and repatriation activities. UNHCR also rehabilitated several segments of the road linking *Guinée Forestière* and Liberia.

Water: Refugees in all camps received an average of 37 litres of potable water per person per day. Testing and chlorination prevented contamination of water points, which were set up close to refugee housing in an effort to prevent violence against women and children.

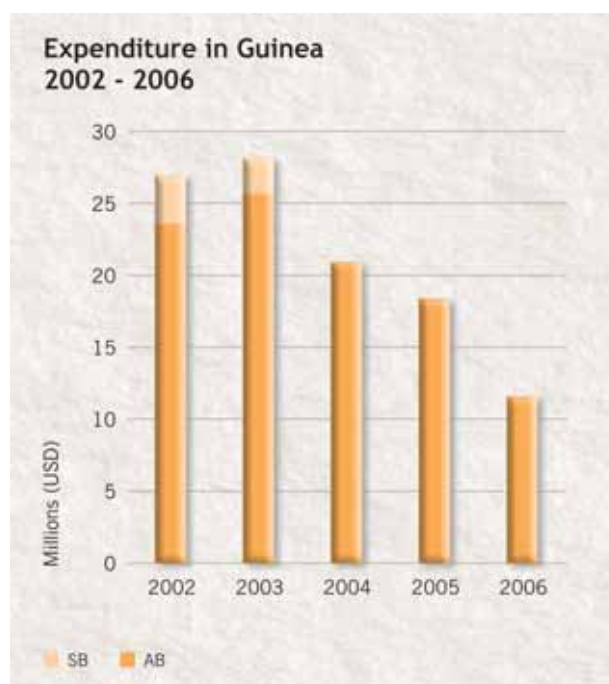
Constraints

The efficacy of UNHCR's main national counterpart, the *Bureau national de coordination de l'assistance aux Réfugiés*, was hampered by the volatile political environment. The Bureau sometimes found its coordination role challenged by other central or provincial authorities. Poor road conditions in *Guinée Forestière* bred isolation and extreme poverty, particularly during the rainy season. Participatory assessments in refugee camps revealed a high number of people with special needs among the Liberian refugees remaining in the country. Furthermore, durable solutions had to be pursued for Sierra Leonean refugees unwilling to repatriate. A pilot project for the local integration of 700 Sierra Leonean refugees saw little progress because of the dire economic situation.

Financial information

As shown in the chart below, the budget for UNHCR's programme for Guinea went down from USD 25 million in 2003 to USD 11.6 million in 2006, owing to the reduction in refugee assistance programmes as the repatriation of Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees progressed.

The devaluation of the national currency by 30 per cent in 2006 put fresh strains on the national economy. However, its impact on programmes was limited as UNHCR funds were nominated in US dollars. In 2006, the programme received USD 4.3 million in contributions earmarked to it (less than 30 per cent of requirements). In order to meet refugees' needs, funds were transferred from contributions that were not earmarked or earmarked less rigidly.



Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR began 2006 with three offices in Conakry, Kissidougou and Nzérékoré. After the closure of the Kissidougou field office in September UNHCR had 112 personnel (17 international and 87 national staff and eight UN volunteers) in the two remaining offices. UNHCR improved resource management by selling old assets, and implemented all the recommendations of the 2005 audit.

Working with others

UNHCR worked with international and national implementing and operational partners. As part of the UN Country Team, it played a role in setting up a task force on development in *Guinée Forestière* and devising contingency plans for the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The Office also cooperated with UNDP and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) to help the Government host a regional conference in November on peace consolidation and security in the Mano River Region. At the conference an agreement was made on an operational framework to promote the local integration of refugees in asylum countries.

Overall assessment

With the Government starting to reform the nationality code, there is hope that residual refugee groups will be given Guinean citizenship. The repatriation to Liberia was a success; refugees returning to the country from Guinea represented more than half the total number of assisted returns in the region since 2004. Camp-based refugees benefited from multi-sectoral assistance. However, the urban refugee population in Conakry endured harsh conditions and had few opportunities for economic or social betterment.

Despite the meagre results of the pilot project for the local integration of Sierra Leonean refugees, the Government remains amenable to local integration as a solution for all refugees. However, the success of local integration remains contingent upon the support of the international community.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: *Bureau national de coordination de l'assistance aux réfugiés, Radio rurale de Guinée.*

NGOs: *Action by Churches Together, Action Contre la Faim, American Refugee Committee, Catholic Relief Services, International Rescue Committee, Organisation pour le développement intégré communautaire, Service Jésuite des Réfugiés.*

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, IFRC, UNV.*

Operational partners

NGOs: *Médecins Sans Frontières (Suisse).*

Others: *FAO, IOM, OCHA, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.*

Budget, income and expenditure (USD) Annual programme budget

Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
14,461,680	4,320,684	7,289,078	11,609,762	11,609,762

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial Report (USD)		
Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	AB	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,460,359	0
Community services	312,799	55,321
Crop production	8,446	42,359
Domestic needs and household support	47,849	0
Education	309,206	97,735
Food	114,440	24,310
Forestry	35,122	15,568
Health and nutrition	318,570	194,810
Income generation	11,431	3,208
Legal assistance	287,452	41,635
Operational support (to agencies)	831,766	192,666
Sanitation	54,646	28,700
Shelter and infrastructure	119,427	208,225
Transport and logistics	1,688,999	672,820
Water	67,063	43,480
Instalments with implementing partners	1,359,927	(1,620,838)
Sub-total operational activities	9,027,502	0
Programme support	2,582,260	0
Total expenditure	11,609,762	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure		(270,006)
Instalments with implementing partners		
Payments made	3,830,850	
Reporting received	(2,470,923)	
Balance	1,359,927	
Previous years' report		
Instalments with implementing partners		
Outstanding 1st January		2,156,209
Reporting received		(1,620,838)
Refunded to UNHCR		(410,063)
Adjustments		44
Balance		125,352