

Guinea



Main objectives

Provide international protection and assistance to all refugees in Guinea; promote the voluntary repatriation of 30,000 Sierra Leonean refugees; continue to combat sexual and gender-based violence; provide assistance to urban refugees aimed at increasing their self-reliance; pursue resettlement opportunities for refugees who meet the relevant criteria; protect the environment in and around refugee camps and rehabilitate zones affected by the presence of refugees.

- 27,713 Sierra Leonean refugees were assisted to return home in safety and dignity. 534 persons were admitted for resettlement to third countries.
- A vigorous campaign against SGBV led to a rise in the number of cases reported with refugees demonstrating increasing openness to address past and present issues. Victims received counselling and legal action was taken against perpetrators.

Working environment

The context

In the run-up to the December 2003 presidential elections there were fears of unrest and adverse consequences for the asylum environment. Fortunately the elections passed off peacefully, and in January 2004, President Lantana Conté's re-election was confirmed. Meanwhile, following disturbances in Conakry caused by urban refugees, the Government ordered their transfer to the Albadaria camps.

Impact

- 39,586 Ivorian, Liberian and Sierra Leonean new arrivals were provided with emergency assistance, registered and transferred to refugee camps. UNHCR provided international protection to over 185,000 refugees in Guinea, of whom 111,466 received basic assistance and services in camps.

A registration of this population was conducted in November 2003, enabling UNHCR to verify the refugee status of 9,960 individuals.

For most of 2003, fighting between government troops and rebel movements in both Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia provoked sporadic population movements into Guinean territory. The flight into Guinea of thousands of Ivorians and Liberians alongside refugees and economic migrants had grave repercussions for the humanitarian situation. The instability disrupted economic life, particularly cross-border trading, and the arrival of displaced persons placed an intolerable strain on natural resources, already fragile infrastructure, and services. Despite serious concerns about security – particularly the infiltration of refugee camps by armed elements – the Government continued to allow asylum-seekers to enter the country and granted them refugee status on a *prima facie* basis. Altogether UNHCR registered 39,586 new arrivals, comprising 31,093 Liberians,

6,594 Ivorians and 1,899 Sierra Leoneans. The flow of refugees diminished dramatically when the political and security situation in Liberia improved during the latter half of the year.

Constraints

In areas near the border with Liberia, the security situation necessitated the application of stringent UN restrictions, which made it extremely difficult to gain access to new arrivals. Poor roads – which deteriorated further during seasonal rains – exacted a heavy toll on vehicles over long journeys, and delayed operations. Government reluctance to authorize appropriate sites left Ivorian refugees in poor living conditions in temporary communal shelters in Nonah Transit Centre.

Persons of concern

Main origin/Type of population	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Liberia (refugees)	149,600	89,400	51	64
Sierra Leone (refugees)	25,000	15,000	50	76
Côte d'Ivoire (refugees)	9,600	7,100	52	68
Sierra Leone (asylum-seekers)	1,200	-	51	-
Côte d'Ivoire (asylum-seekers)	700	-	51	-
Liberia (asylum-seekers)	600	-	51	-

Income and expenditure (USD)

Annual programme and Supplementary programme budgets

	Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	26,129,217	9,543,583	16,109,237	25,652,820	25,652,820
SB	4,876,034	0	2,539,569	2,539,569	2,539,569
Total	31,005,251	9,543,583	18,648,806	28,192,389	28,192,389

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. The above figures do not include costs at headquarters.

Note: The Supplementary programme budgets do not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.



A young girl who had just arrived was waiting to be fed during the registration of new arrivals at Sédimay, Macenta. *UNHCR/F. Tounkara*

Funding

UNHCR received adequate funding to cover all of its programmed activities in 2003. However, the Office began the year with a Sierra Leonean refugee population of 48,000 as against a planned figure of 20,000. This resulted in the slowing down of the repatriation operations in 2003. Budgetary constraints were compounded by the problems experienced by some partners (whose own funding difficulties forced them to curtail activities).

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

Favourable conditions in Sierra Leone enabled UNHCR to carry out a full-scale voluntary repatriation operation. 27,713 Sierra Leonean refugees were assisted to return home in safety and dignity, with some 15,000 remaining in camps in Guinea by the end of the year. As a result, UNHCR closed Sembakounya refugee camp and the Field Office in Dabola.

Camp security was enhanced through the deployment of two international police trainers to build the capacity of the mixed brigade of *gendarmerie* and police working with refugees. Regular joint UNHCR/Government border monitoring missions were carried out with military escorts in accordance with stringent UN security regulations. Amid concerns about the infiltration of Kouankan camp by armed elements, UNHCR relocated 6,081 refugees to the Albadaria camps. A subsequent inter-agency assessment determined that the risk of infiltration had been eliminated by improvements in security in Liberia.

A vigorous campaign against SGBV saw a wide range of beneficiaries receive training and the creation of community groups such as the SGBV Advisory Board, the Men's Association for Gender Equality, SGBV Security and Legal Aid Clinics. Survivors received medical and psychosocial assistance as well as legal support. Every camp had a women's centre dealing with prevention and response, including safe houses for survivors. Improvements were made to the referral system for medical and psychosocial care of survivors following consultations among refugees and implementing partners.

Activities and assistance

Community services: Women accounted for half the representation on refugee committees and were involved in distribution assistance. Of 2,864 separated refugee children, 2,020 (887 girls) were reunited with their families in Guinea. Another 377 were reunited with their families in their countries of origin, namely Liberia (Monrovia) and Sierra Leone. Child rights, child exploitation, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, girls' education, and the role of foster parents are some of the themes that were discussed during activities involving youth. Meanwhile, groups of elders (men and women) in each camp were assisted in resolving conflicts with local populations.

Crop production: Seeds, hand tools and technical assistance were given to 4,922 refugees from Kola and Lainé camps; 63 per cent were female and about 25 per cent were drawn from the host populations around the camps. About 600 refugee households (Albadaria area) cultivated 122 hectares of food crop with an average yield of 2.10 tonnes per hectare.

Domestic needs/Household support: The following items were distributed to camp-based refugees: 51,453 blankets, 48,195 sleeping mats, 27,826 jerry cans, 18,872 mosquito nets, 19,726 kerosene lamps, 16,428 kitchen sets, 23,900 buckets, 35,022 plastic sheets, 8,583 games, and 2,543 travelling bags. In addition refugees received 400 grams of soap per person per month and hygienic kits were distributed to women and girls aged 12 and over.

Education: In Conakry, 3,382 urban refugees attended primary and secondary school; in camps, 35,058 school-aged children benefited from education. Health education was included in the school curriculum. 470 women were recruited as school assistants and served as role models for schoolgirls. 986 beneficiaries (53 per cent female) received vocational training while 2,421 (57 per cent female) attended literacy classes.

Food: WFP distributed regular monthly food rations to all camp-based refugees on the basis of 2,100 kilocalories per person per day. Hot meals and sandwiches were provided to refugees during the repatriation and transfer from border areas.

Forestry: Trees were planted on 113 hectares of land. In order to prevent bush fires, clearing operations were carried out in collaboration with government technical services. Environmental protection activities included the installation of fuel-efficient stoves in schools, restaurants and refugee homes. Near Sembakounya camp, 100 hectares of forest were protected and enriched with new tree species. Seminars, meetings, radio programmes and drawing competitions for school children were used to raise awareness on environmental issues. In addition, trees were marked on some 400 hectares of land in the Albadaria area to protect them from being felled.

Health/Nutrition: There was one health post for every 6,200 refugees. Basic curative and preventive health care services focused on reproductive and mental health, nutrition, and laboratory examinations. The overall mortality rate was less than one death per thousand persons per month. Peer educators and community health workers carried out public health campaigns on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases. Cultivation activities supplemented food rations and helped reduce malnutrition among pregnant women, the elderly and young children.

Income generation: Loans totalling USD 62,650 were given to 1,207 beneficiaries in N'zérékoré for micro-projects (20 per cent more than in 2002). By the end of the year, 80 per cent of the micro-projects were viable and 87 per cent of the loans had been repaid. Female beneficiaries engaged primarily in poultry farming, vegetable gardening, needlework, soap making, baking, tie-dye and tailoring, whereas men concentrated on masonry, carpentry, radio/watch repair, mattress making, arts and crafts. In Kissidougou, the focus was on voluntary repatriation and UNHCR did not implement any major income generation projects.

Legal assistance: UNHCR issued travel documentation to refugees needing to travel within the country for medical treatment, family reunification and transfer to camps. Pending the issuance of identity cards, refugees in N'Zérékoré (including new arrivals) used ration cards as a means of identification. The Office intervened on behalf of refugees detained and brought before the courts, provided them with food and medical assistance, and negotiated with local authorities for the release of refugee detainees where possible. Of 80 reported cases of rape, 13 individuals were brought before the courts. Four were convicted, two acquitted, two fled and three are awaiting judgement. Two defendants were also convicted of forced prostitution.

Operational support (to agencies): Implementing partners were provided with the necessary resources and equipment. Government counterparts received vehicles and communication equipment. Programme and financial management training workshops helped partners enhance their understanding of UNHCR regulations, procedures and sub-agreements.

Sanitation: There was one latrine for every 30 persons (the standard being one for every 20); the average distance to latrines was 25m (standard is 200m); there was one shower for every 55 persons; some 450 persons used one communal refuse pit. Special latrines were built for vulnerable groups. Over 75 dumping pits were dug and 3,035 waste bins distributed to heads of families for domestic waste collection. Weekly communal clean-up campaigns were carried out in addition to families cleaning their surroundings.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: In the Nzerekoré camps, about 60 per cent of refugees lived in 4m x

6m family shelters containing two to three rooms to preserve privacy in accordance with the UNHCR standard. The remaining 40 per cent of refugees (new arrivals) were accommodated in communal hangars without compartments. Some 7,000 Ivorian refugees were obliged to live in temporary shelters in Nonah Transit Camp. 1,722 individual shelters were renovated in Kissidougou and 457 temporary shelters constructed for refugees relocated from Conakry and the camps of Dabola and Kouankan. Lainé camp was extended to accommodate 31,000. Parts of Kouankan camp were rehabilitated for use by new arrivals from Liberia. Two reception centres were constructed in Kountaya and Boreah, and one repatriation centre in Telikoro camp. However, the facilities had to be repaired regularly because of the nature of the material used.

Transport/Logistics: During the relocation and repatriation exercises, additional trucks and light vehicles were hired at considerable cost to enhance existing capacity. Poor road conditions combined with long distances exacted a heavy toll on vehicles. UNHCR rehabilitated sections of roads leading to refugee camps. The UNHCR aircraft remained necessary for rapid transportation of humanitarian staff and cargo inside Guinea and within the subregion.

Water: Each refugee received on average 20 to 25 litres of water daily. The average distance to the nearest water source was 180m (standard is 100m); there were 120 users per tap (standard is 80 persons); there were 366 users per hand pump (standard is 200 persons). There was a notable reduction in the incidence of water-borne diseases.

Organization and implementation

Management

230 staff served in Guinea: 49 international and 181 national staff. In addition there were two JPOs and 15 UNVs.

Working with others

UNHCR was assisted in the planning and implementation of its activities by 20 international and four national NGOs. UNHCR collaborated with four

governmental bodies as well as OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, FAO and IOM and participated actively in the Consolidated Appeals Process.

Overall assessment

The construction of a temporary causeway in Parrot's Beak and the reallocation of resources enabled the optimum repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees. Despite changing operational priorities due to sporadic influxes and the potential presence of armed elements in Kouankan camp, the Office was able to respond to the emergency needs of refugees and provide basic assistance for those in camps. Throughout the year, minimum standards were maintained in the sectors of food, water, hygiene and nutrition. There was a notable reduction in malnutrition and death rates as well as an absence of food-related conflict thanks to the regular supply of foodstuffs. An adequate water supply reduced the incidence of conflict among refugees and the local population and contributed to the maintenance of good hygiene in camps and the surrounding environment. The shelter sector suffered greatly due to wear-and-tear on existing structures as well as the absence of appropriate sites for Ivorian refugees. Refugees became increasingly involved in the management and organization of the camps and showed considerable interest in participating in environmental protection activities. Income-generating activities enabled beneficiaries to cover needs not met by UNHCR and others. Overall, through active involvement in all aspects of camp organization, refugees are empowered to progressively restore coping mechanisms at personal and community levels. Collaboration with the Government and host communities helped maintain a positive asylum environment. UNHCR will continue its efforts to secure Government approval for an appropriate site for the Ivorian refugees and issue identity cards to refugees in N'zérékoré.

Offices

Conakry

Dabola (closed in August 2003)

Kissidougou

N'Zérékoré

Partners

Government agencies

Bureau national de coordination des réfugiés

Bureau technique du génie rural

Radio rurale

Projet recensement

NGOs

Action by Churches Together

Action contre la faim

American Refugee Committee

Centre canadien d'études et de coopération internationale

Concern Universal

Croix-Rouge guinéenne

Enfants Réfugiés du Monde

Handicap International

International Rescue Committee

Jesuit Relief Services

Médecins du Monde

Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium, France, Switzerland)

Olympic Aid

Organisation catholique pour la promotion humaine

Organisation pour le développement intégré et communautaire

Première Urgence

Save the Children Federation (USA)

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

FAO

IFRC

IOM

UNICEF

UNOCHA

WFP

WHO

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects	
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	notes	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	6,506,062	461,092	6,967,154		73,425
Community Services	686,813	5,867	692,679		353,877
Crop Production	210,883	0	210,883		144,350
Domestic Needs/Household Support	396,087	322,847	718,935		256,281
Education	1,266,904	25,958	1,292,862		529,420
Food	202,443	32,611	235,054		93,583
Forestry	132,967	13,796	146,763		46,598
Health/Nutrition	817,042	168,125	985,167		328,035
Income Generation	163,199	0	163,199		113,519
Legal Assistance	676,269	96,642	772,911		36,974
Operational Support (to Agencies)	2,519,989	391,573	2,911,561		914,774
Sanitation	126,200	8,769	134,969		53,751
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	568,398	214,901	783,299		367,027
Transport/Logistics	4,606,347	423,859	5,030,206		1,557,920
Water (non-agricultural)	156,424	59,423	215,847		128,298
Instalments with Implementing Partners	1,499,235	255,375	1,754,611		(3,337,114)
Sub - total Operational	20,535,262	2,480,838	23,016,101		1,660,719
Programme Support	3,249,234	0	3,249,234		19,630
Sub - total Disbursements / Deliveries	23,784,496	2,480,838	26,265,334	⁽³⁾	1,680,349 ⁽⁵⁾
Unliquidated Obligations	1,868,324	58,731	1,927,055	⁽³⁾	0 ⁽⁵⁾
Total	25,652,820	2,539,569	28,192,389	^{(1) (3)}	1,680,349
Instalments with Implementing Partners					
Payments Made	10,376,779	1,113,404	11,490,183		1,695,090
Reporting Received	8,877,544	858,029	9,735,573		5,032,205
Balance	1,499,235	255,375	1,754,610		(3,337,114)
Outstanding 1st January	0	0			3,649,437
Refunded to UNHCR	0	0			292,770
Currency Adjustment	0	0	0		(19,554)
Outstanding 31 December	1,499,235	255,375	1,754,610		0
Unliquidated Obligations					
Outstanding 1st January	0	0			2,120,582 ⁽⁵⁾
New Obligations	25,652,820	2,539,569	28,192,389	⁽¹⁾	0
Disbursements	23,784,496	2,480,838	26,265,334	⁽³⁾	1,680,349 ⁽⁵⁾
Cancellations	0	0	0		440,233 ⁽⁵⁾
Outstanding 31 December	1,868,324	58,731	1,927,055	⁽³⁾	0 ⁽⁵⁾

Figures which can be cross-referenced to the Accounts:

- (1) Annex to Statement 1
- (3) Schedule 3
- (5) Schedule 5