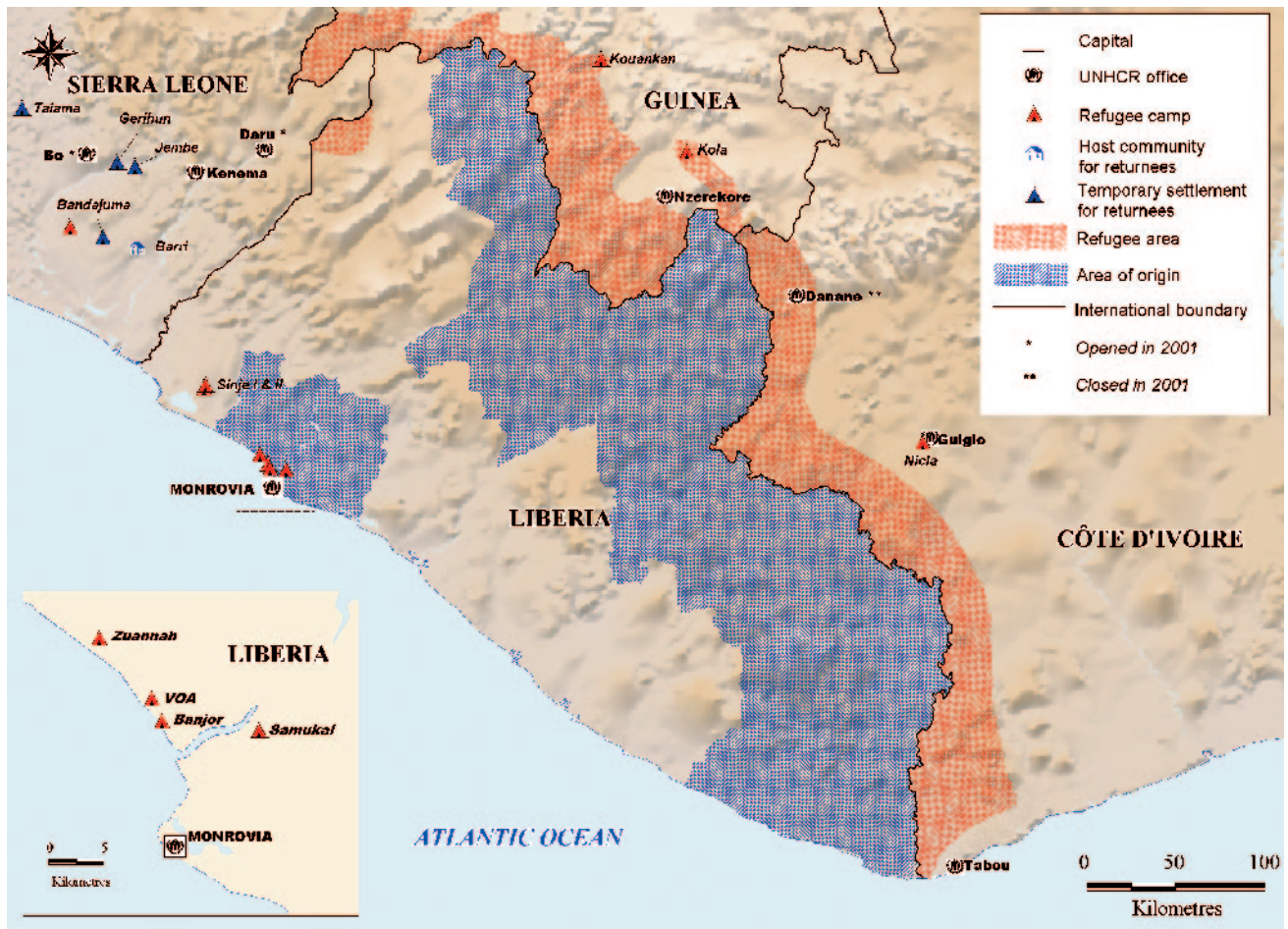


Liberia



Main Objectives

Ensure the protection of Sierra Leonean refugees, and provide them with assistance, whilst focusing on activities to enhance their self-sufficiency; monitor the situation in Sierra Leone in close co-ordination with UNHCR Sierra Leone, with a view to initiating and continuing organised voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees, subject to improvements in the security situation and reception capacity; monitor the protection and welfare of Liberian returnees and other war-affected populations; ascertain the sustainability of reintegration and rehabilitation activities and organise the gradual handover of programmes to the Government, other UN agencies and/or NGOs; ensure the protection of urban refugees,

pending identification of durable solutions and assist them through the provision of allowances, to cover their basic needs, including shelter, medical and education costs; continue to support existing systems for the management or prevention of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in refugee communities; empower refugees through education and skills training to enhance their capacity to reintegrate in and rebuild their respective countries upon return.

Impact

- UNHCR responded in an appropriate and timely manner to the insecurity created by the resumption of hostilities in Lofa County and the intrusion of soldiers into refugee camps.

- UNHCR intervened effectively on behalf of refugees in the management of judicial matters.
- Awareness-building measures and activities to improve respect for refugee rights (such as workshops on refugee law for officials) may well have improved the climate for protection of refugees.
- Awareness of SGBV and its consequences improved, reducing domestic violence, child labour and exploitation, and sexual violence.
- Progress on schemes to involve refugee women at all levels of community life was reflected in increased women's involvement in human rights issues and their willingness to present themselves for community leadership roles.
- The expansion of UNHCR-funded academic, vocational and peace education facilities led to less truancy, juvenile delinquency, and family strife and higher school enrolment for girls.
- Refugee farming families achieved an acceptable level of food security and self-sufficiency. There was less dependence on relief food assistance. Environmental awareness increased, and the number of eco-stove users increased.
- Sanitation facilities were improved through the refugees' own efforts.

Working Environment

The Context

Liberia has been at war since December 1989. As a result, the country has a fractured society with

ruined economic infrastructure and weak governance institutions. The public sector barely functions, with public servants unpaid throughout the entire year. Much of the private sector is also out of action. Peace and security are elusive and fragile. The frequency of cross-border attacks by rebels has resulted in waves of displaced people requiring emergency assistance. Fighting has involved government forces and the rebel group Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD). National reconciliation efforts have been weak and ineffective.

After four years in power, the elected Government has made limited progress in reviving the country's economy. Only a fraction of international assistance pledged after its election in mid-1997 has materialised. This can be attributed not only to the internal conflict with rebels, but also to the perceived damaging roles played by Liberia in other regional conflicts, and a failure to deliver on promises of good governance. By the year's end, there were 65,000 refugees in the country. UNHCR made plans for the assisted voluntary repatriation of 10,000 Sierra Leonean refugees in February 2002. At the same time, routine contingency planning required provision for the possibility of the return to Liberia of up to 120,000 persons. Elections were held in Sierra Leone in May 2002 and in Liberia in 2003 and the possibility of associated tension and violence cannot be underestimated. In the meantime, fighting in Lofa and Gbarpolu has resulted in an increase of "new" registrations in refugee camps and centres for the internally displaced. UNHCR

believes that people now registering are Sierra Leonean refugees from the disturbed locations. The gradually growing number of these refugees almost exactly mirrors the numbers returning.

Constraints

Planning and implementation of UNHCR programmes in Liberia were beset by uncertainties. General population instability was caused by the fluid political and security situation in the country and the region. Low funding for humanitarian activi-

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin/ Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Liberia (IDPs)	196,100	14,500	-	-
Sierra Leone (Refugees)	54,700	38,800	51	49
Returnees (from Côte d'Ivoire)	2,000	2,000	-	-
Returnees (from Guinea)	500	500	-	-

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds					
	Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
AB & TF	7,634,110	4,464,670	2,315,445	6,780,116	6,772,116

¹ Includes income from contributions restricted 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.

ties affected both the quantity and quality of assistance available to refugees. Similarly, continuous and expanding armed conflict has restricted the provision and delivery of assistance to areas cut off by fighting or the general conditions of insecurity. Manpower constraints, arising in part from financial cutbacks made in 2001, adversely affected UNHCR's operations in Liberia in many ways. The suspension of voluntary repatriation operations also resulted in staff cutbacks. Other difficulties were related to the limited capacity and lack of experience of some of UNHCR's implementing partners. This inevitably resulted in the need for further training and follow-up, stretching UNHCR's resources yet further.

Funding

Low funding for humanitarian activities contributed to UNHCR being unable to respond adequately to the needs of some refugees. A number of students requiring secondary, vocational, or higher education could not be adequately accommodated due to limited funding. At the close of the reporting period, 256 students were still in need of post-primary education.

Achievements and Impact

Protection and Solutions

As security deteriorated, Sierra Leonean refugees who had remained in Lofa and Gbarpolu counties (bordering Guinea) became further displaced, along with their Liberian host communities. Both this group of refugees and those in the camps in Grand Cape Mount County faced harassment by elements of the armed forces. UNHCR intervened and succeeded in reducing the incidents of intimidation and arbitrary arrests and detention of refugees. Identity cards, issued to refugees since late 2000 by the Government in collaboration with UNHCR, helped significantly to minimise harassment, intimidation and extortion of money by security operatives. Reporting of domestic violence and SGBV significantly increased as a result of sensitisation campaigns and other programmes for women. During 2001, 104 children were reunified with their families and 28 refugees were resettled in other asylum countries.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: Community workshops were held to promote awareness or provide training on various subjects. 2,000 persons (community leaders, NGO staff and, mostly, refugee women) benefited from workshops on SGBV prevention, human rights and child rights. Peace Education Programme community and facilitators' training workshops were held for 1,617 participants including IDPs.

Crop Production: In 2001, 1,191 refugees (44 per cent women) were engaged in swamp rice farming, tuber production and gardening.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: Assistance was extended to 5,000 vulnerable refugees (including children, the elderly, the disabled and single parents) for clothing and footwear; some received subsistence while others benefited from a credit scheme for income-generation.



The yields from crop production enabled some refugees to supplement their incomes. Market activities in the camps surrounding Monrovia. *UNHCR / W. Spindler*

Education: Sierra Leone primary and secondary school textbooks were purchased for use by prospective returnee students to prepare them to adjust to Sierra Leonean schools. Meanwhile, 189 teachers received six months in-service training under the Brookings Project (designed to bridge the gap between humanitarian relief and development). 155 refugee adolescents and adults received skills-

training in carpentry, masonry, plumbing, electricity, secretarial skills, science and tailoring. Seven new classrooms and four mini-libraries were established. Altogether, 7,569 students received primary and secondary education.

Food: There was less dependence on relief food assistance. Refugee farming families achieved an acceptable level of food security.

Forestry: Conservation projects undertaken included the planting of 11,609 tree seedlings, which were transplanted with the active participation of refugees and host communities.

Health/Nutrition: Community health care training was provided to 1,209 refugee health workers who also received training in improved service delivery. HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns were organised and condom distribution points were set up in refugee communities by community health workers.

Income Generation: Vulnerable persons were among the beneficiaries of a credit scheme for income generation. Also, training in Small Business Management skills was extended to 380 refugees, mostly women and girls.

Legal Assistance: Legal representations were made on behalf of refugees as and when required. In the period, training was also extended to 700 government officials on International/Refugee Law and Human Rights Law.

Operational Support (to Agencies): Some training of implementing partners was provided. NGO staff also attended training and awareness-building workshops on human rights, child rights and SGBV. Additional support was provided to the Government and partners in the form of office equipment and supplies.

Sanitation: Rehabilitation of camp facilities continued. 364 bathhouses were rehabilitated and 336 latrines were constructed. In general, there was improved sanitation due largely to the refugees' own efforts.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: Given the frail security situation in the country, transit centres were

maintained, new huts were constructed and new shelters were built to benefit refugees.

Transport/Logistics: A bridge was constructed in Kumbor to facilitate the safe transport of refugees from Lofa County to Sinje, Grand Cape County. Logistics and vehicle support were provided for essential vaccination campaigns.

Water: UNICEF, in collaboration with UNHCR, supported the provision of water facilities in areas of return.

Organisation and Implementation

Management

The ending of the Liberian repatriation programme led to the closure of offices at Gbarnga, Zwedru, and Harper. UNHCR maintained its office in Monrovia. Staffing arrangements were changed. In January 2001, UNHCR had a total staff complement of 16 international staff, one JPO, one UNV, and 42 national staff. By the end of the year, the number of international staff stood at five, with one UNV, whilst national staff were reduced to 32. The Monrovia office oversaw the country programme's change of focus: from the repatriation of Liberian refugees to the Care and Maintenance programme for the Sierra Leonean refugees. Support from the Regional Directorate took the form of missions undertaken by the various units at the regional office (DRACO).

Working with Others

Bi-weekly UN-agency co-ordination meetings continue to provide opportunities for information sharing and security briefings. WFP provided monthly food rations to Sierra Leonean refugees, monthly or bi-monthly food rations for Liberian returnees, school feeding programmes and incentives for 'Food For Work' (FFW) projects implemented by UNHCR-funded NGOs. UNHCR, UNICEF, and other international NGOs collaborated on the continuance of the successful Accelerated Learning Programme for refugee children who had been forced to abandon school during the war. UNICEF also collaborated in providing support in areas of return (for education and water supplies).

Overall Assessment

UNHCR's activities in Liberia were implemented in collaboration with the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (the main government interlocutor) and 21 implementing partners, eight of them national and 13 international. Monthly co-ordination meetings were held at the Monrovia office and various other sites. UNHCR and NGOs conducted a number of workshops and awareness raising campaigns for refugees and returnees. PARinAC is established in Liberia with an active focal point in the local NGO community conducting several meetings per year to discuss co-ordination and capacity building. Local NGOs also sent participants to international meetings and workshops. Tangible results were achieved in terms of material assistance to refugees and capacity-building of local NGOs.

Offices

Monrovia

Partners

Government Agencies

Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission

NGOs

Action Contre le Faim

American Refugee Committee

Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia

Don Bosco Rehabilitation Program

Family Empowerment Program

International Rescue Committee

Liberian United for Service to Humanity

Liberian Islamic United for Relief and Development

Medical Emergency and Relief Co-operative International

Save the Children (UK)

Lutheran World Federation/World Services

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

UNICEF

WFP

WHO

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects		Prior Years' Projects	
	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds	notes	Annual and Supplementary Programme Budgets	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,068,534		4,199	
Community Services	99,862		399,108	
Crop Production	24,728		214,193	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	177,945		43,153	
Education	459,526		2,248,938	
Food	2,504		47,244	
Forestry	10,092		55,870	
Health / Nutrition	136,471		820,169	
Income Generation	0		203,040	
Legal Assistance	79,981		119,830	
Livestock	0		23,597	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	488,047		1,726,937	
Sanitation	57,722		97,328	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	90,787		238,811	
Transport / Logistics	730,496		2,141,111	
Water	25,061		178,170	
Transit Accounts	0		7,493	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	1,100,560		(8,057,374)	
Sub-total Operational	4,552,316		511,817	
Programme Support	1,998,744		13,611	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	6,551,060	(3)	525,428	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	221,056	(3)	0	(5)
TOTAL	6,772,116	(1) (3)	525,428	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	2,966,837		1,481,252	
Reporting Received	1,866,277		9,538,626	
Balance	1,100,560		(8,057,374)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		8,355,608	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		8,286	
Currency Adjustment	0		0	
Outstanding 31 December	1,100,560		289,948	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1st January	0		678,464	(5) ¹
New Obligations	6,772,116	(1)	0	
Disbursements	6,551,060	(3)	525,428	(5)
Cancellations	0		153,036	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	221,056	(3)	0	(5)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(5) Schedule 5

(5)¹ This balance includes USD 556, outstanding from operations before 2000. It is also reported under "Unearmarked" in Schedule 5, page 46 of UNHCR's Accounts.