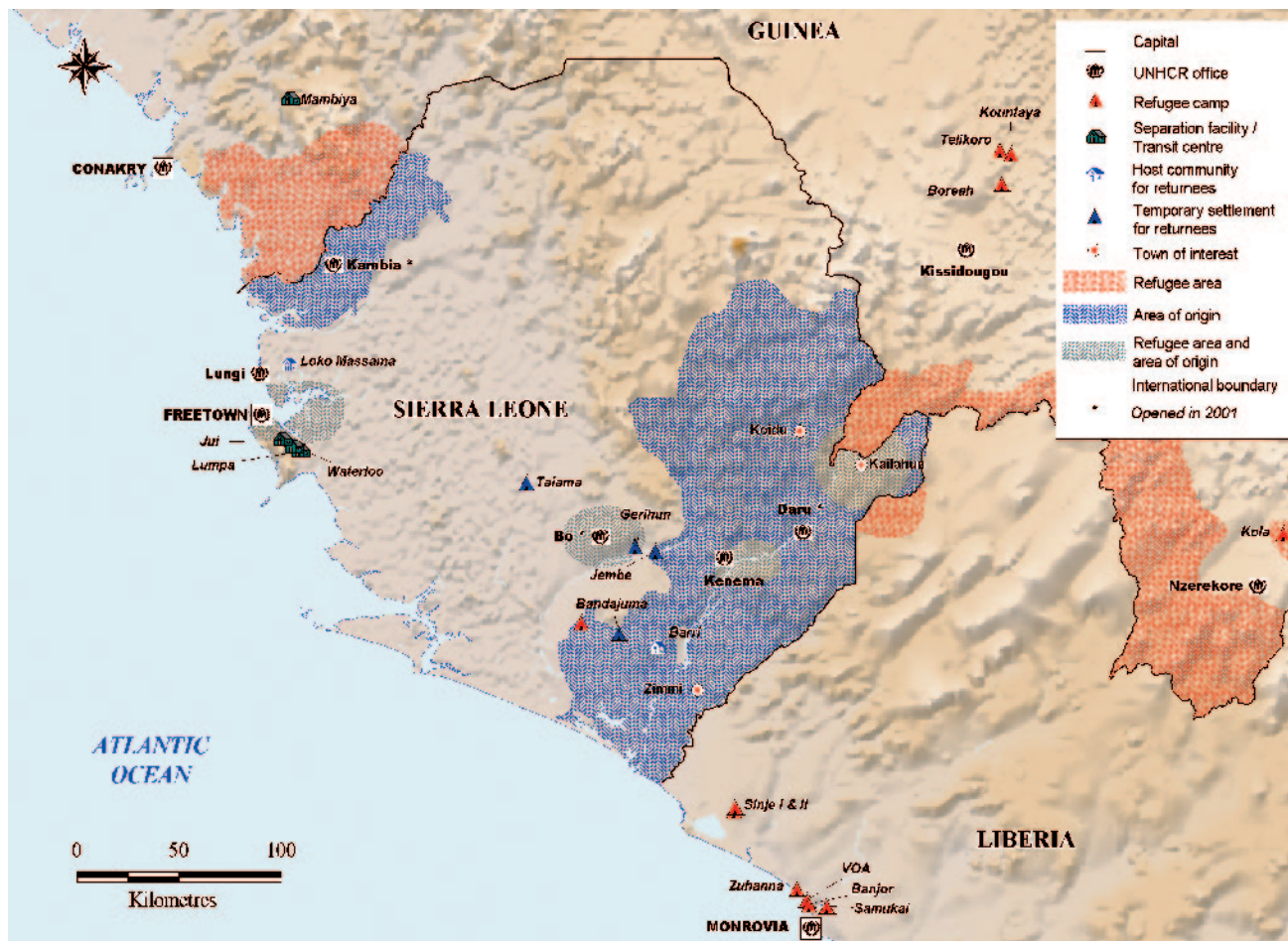


Sierra Leone



Main Objectives

Reduce internal displacement by providing assistance to Sierra Leonean returnees unable to return to areas of origin; support the restoration of public services and amenities wherever disarmament and demobilisation produce sufficient stability; continue to provide assistance for long-term Liberian refugees whilst identifying and implementing durable solutions for them; provide assistance to all newly arriving refugees and prepare for possible new arrivals; phase out activities in host communities when the refugees attain acceptable levels of self-sufficiency.

Impact

- Over 100,000 Sierra Leone returnees were provided for at temporary settlements and in host communities.

UNHCR, IOM and other partners effected orderly repatriation from Conakry to Freetown and beyond.

- Host communities benefited from community-based infrastructure projects undertaken at temporary refugee sites.
- A community-based, non-discriminatory approach to service delivery contributed to peace by involving people in the process.
- Newly arrived Liberian refugees received protection and assistance. UNHCR also worked to secure self-sufficiency for many members of the long-term Liberian refugee community.
- Prospective returnees and IDPs benefited from information campaigns and situation reports on their place of origin or destination.

- Establishing camps away from the border increased the level of safety for returnees and facilitated the provision of relief assistance.
- Transportation was provided for the most vulnerable of the refugees willing to leave Kailahun District, to be relocated further in land, away from the Sierra Leone-Liberia Border.

Working Environment

The Context

Instability in Guinea in 2000 led Sierra Leone refugees there to move towards Conakry, from where they could repatriate. Others returned to Sierra Leone on foot, and although it could be said that they had repatriated, in fact they became IDPs because they were unable to return to their places of origin. UNHCR provided a ferryboat from Guinea and relocation assistance in Sierra Leone. The infrastructure used for operations included three transit centres and two way stations in Sierra Leone. Four temporary settlement centres provided basic services including water, sanitation, health care and education. Fifty villages benefited from extended community amenities and economic activities introduced to facilitate the reintegration of some 40,000 returnees assisted by UNHCR.

Meanwhile, UNAMSIL, Sierra Leonean and British forces were deployed in the less secure north and

east of the country to restore order. Several areas were declared safe for resettlement. However, plans for durable reintegration in refugee areas of origin met with little success, apart from in the Kambia district. 7,000 long-staying Liberian refugees continued to receive temporary assistance while renewed efforts were made towards the end of the year to deploy the resources needed to resume reintegration activities.

Constraints

Efforts to enhance levels of self-sufficiency amongst long-staying Liberian refugees were hampered by the limited economic opportunities available. It was difficult to gain access to the main areas of origin of returning refugees, sometimes rendering reintegration unworkable. Disarmament in Kailahun, where new Liberian refugees had arrived, was incomplete by the end of 2001, and continued insecurity in Liberia resulted in unstable border zones and new influxes of refugees.

Successful demobilisation elsewhere did increase UNHCR's area of operations more rapidly than anticipated. But difficulties in the peace process contributed to internal displacement of returnees, disruptions in the provision of relief and a diversion of resources from durable integration to emergency assistance. The need to retain capacity to respond to emergencies continued to compete with the need to apply resources to rehabilitation of damaged infrastructure and services.

The year 2001 was marked by signs of societal breakdown typified by insecurity (in some areas) family separations, and major disruptions to normal economic life, i.e. income generation. The logistical difficulties caused by ordinarily poor road access to main refugee camps or returnee areas were compounded by an intense wet season between May and October. Whilst there was considerable donor interest in relief efforts, staffing difficulties (caused by the war) significantly

Persons of Concern

Main Origin/ Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Returnees (from Guinea)	77,300	38,300	-	-
Liberia (Refugees)	10,500	10,500	-	-
Returnees (from Liberia)	15,000	1,500	-	-

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget, Trust Funds and Supplementary Programme Budget

	Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
AB & TF	2,828,992	1,580,426	1,228,483	2,808,909	2,808,909
SB	16,490,339	11,982,592	4,425,618	16,408,210	16,408,210
TOTAL	19,319,331	13,563,018	5,654,101	19,217,119	19,217,119

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.

reduced the speed of implementation by relief agencies on the ground.

Funding

During 2001, funding was sought first for emergency mobilisation activities, secondly, for reintegration efforts in safe and accessible areas and thirdly, for both old and newly arrived Liberian refugees. In general, these requirements were met. Increased funding is now required to support reintegration activities in the newly accessible areas.

Achievements and Impact

Protection and Solutions

A UNHCR assessment showed that 43 per cent of the residual Liberian refugee community of 6,836 were refugees willing to be repatriated. Continuing insecurity in Liberia however prevented repatriation of this group. On account of the prevailing conditions in Liberia, the new arrivals from Liberia received *prima facie* recognition as refugees.

With the approval of the Government, UNHCR refrained from supporting camps near insecure border areas despite pressure from the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), which then controlled the Kailahun district. As a humanitarian gesture, UNHCR negotiated the release and repatriation of some 160 Guinean civilians abducted by rebels. This gesture generated considerable goodwill in Guinea for UNHCR's activities there. In Sierra Leone, UNHCR liaised closely with the Government on developing its capacity-building measures. These included the drafting of refugee legislation, administrative procedures and the setting up of a refugee status determination body to ensure respect for the legal rights of refugees in Sierra Leone. Government representatives also participated in the UNHCR-led Global Consultations on Refugee Protection. For their part, UNHCR's implementing partners were involved in monitoring the rights of displaced persons, harmonising returnee protection monitoring processes and information-sharing. Partners were also represented at workshops aimed at raising overall protection standards.

Activities and Assistance

Improvements in the security situation in some parts of the country allowed UNHCR to facilitate the transfer of returnees from temporary settlements to their places of origin. Progress in disarmament and demobilisation, particularly from mid-2001 onwards, was keenly observed by those involved in reintegration activities in Kenema, Pujehun and Kambia Districts and the Daru enclave, home to significant numbers of Sierra Leoneans who now felt safe enough to return spontaneously from Guinea and Liberia.

Community Services: Newly arrived refugees received counselling, tracing and other services through the Child Protection Network. Vulnerable families received special assistance for shelter, through refugee community administrations, and a limited number of subsistence allowances. Six Peace Centres, set up for counselling victims of sexual violence, now also housed drama groups. UNHCR's child protection partners cared for unaccompanied minors on their return, housing and feeding them in Interim Care Centres (ICCs) with a view to placement in foster homes. UNHCR facilitated literacy classes, general counselling of women and adolescents, and mechanisms for reporting cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

Crop production: Tools, seeds and technical support were provided to refugees, returnees and host communities to help secure food self-sufficiency. Progress was rapid: improved yields gave 11,700 farming families 50 per cent of their rice requirement.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: More than 22,000 blankets, 21,500 mats 15,300 jerry cans, 15,500 kitchen sets, 14,600 lamps and 25,107 bars of soap were distributed to returnees. Non-food items (NFIs) were also distributed to 2,500 Liberians (new arrivals) and 75 Guineans during the year.

Education: Assistance for 1,246 children of long-staying Liberian refugees included uniforms, travel allowances, and tuition fees. Amongst the returnees repatriated to Kambia district, 7,619 were enrolled in primary schools, 495 enrolled in secondary school and 683 in Rapid Response Education Programmes

for over-aged children. Rehabilitated or newly constructed infrastructure included: Kambia District Education Office, 20 primary schools and one secondary school (for 6,682 pupils in all) and two vocational training centres whose 157 graduates went on to use their skills to earn an income. Eight Liberian refugee teachers were recruited.

Fisheries: In Kambia, Pujehun and the Freetown Peninsula, the incomes of 3,000 households were augmented. Women's groups received two smoke ovens to process fish (for personal consumption and for sale), whilst fishing groups received 10 boats with fishing gear, outboard engines, and insulated containers.

Food: Throughout the year 2001, 60,000 returnees received monthly rations, as did new arrivals catered for by WFP and other agencies. 350 minors in Interim Care Centres received cooked meals until they were placed in foster homes. Supplementary feeding was organised for refugees in Kailahun and for other vulnerable groups, in addition to 1,902 Liberians at Bandajuma.

Forestry: Under environmental programmes, 50,000 trees were planted, and community woodland areas were established. 300 refugees received training in eco-stove production. Awareness of environmental issues was facilitated by the distribution of educational booklets.

Health/Nutrition: 21 health centres were rehabilitated and three clinics serving 14,500 beneficiaries were built. 35 centres were provided with drugs, equipment, and training facilities. This widened access to health facilities for 110,000 persons, including some members of host communities. Immunisation coverage was raised to 95 per cent.

Income Generation: Income generation activities undertaken for returnees included micro-lending (2,168 loans granted, 82 per cent to women), business development training (for 500 persons), adult literacy classes (for women, ex-combatants and 94 IDPs) and vocational skills training (for 1,200 persons, in masonry, carpentry, agriculture, weaving, road maintenance, needlework, tailoring and basic business management skills.) Reported repayment

After years of exile in neighbouring Guinea, Sierra Leoneans return to their country. *UNHCR / W. Spindler*



rates were as high as 98 per cent in some areas but less than 50 per cent in Freetown.

Legal Assistance: UNHCR's focus on Liberian long-staying refugees resulted in 6,836 personal interviews, with six people identified as priority protection cases and 548 proposed for resettlement in another country. Registration and screening were also undertaken for all assisted Sierra Leonean returnees.

Operational Support (to Agencies): Support funds, transport and communications equipment were provided to NGOs. The Government was provided with financial support for the recruitment of field monitors. The use of a radio production studio with which to disseminate information and news via a network of radio stations was facilitated. Communication materials were also provided for public education programmes.

Sanitation: Activities in this sector included hygiene-awareness campaigns, refuse-management training and the construction of 631 latrines for returnees. Emergency latrines for new arrivals and family latrines and showers were also constructed.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: Shelter materials were provided to returnees in temporary shelters (5,000) and in host communities (25,000). Shelter assistance in some communities was given to meet urgent needs such as temporary schools or court-houses.

Transport/Logistics: About 52,000 returnees, including 10,000 persons relocated from Lokomassama, and various supplies were transported within the country. These operations were facilitated by UNHCR's truck fleet and its support infrastructure, including fuel, maintenance and warehousing facilities. Provision was also made for boat fees, transportation allowances for returnees and air-freight costs. Roads were repaired and resurfaced.

Water: The distance to water points was reduced through the drilling of 38 new boreholes, the overhaul of 14 existing boreholes, emergency water supply units and 20 wells. 124 pump attendants and 332 hygiene promoters were trained. The needs of Liberian refugees were also catered for in returnee sites in Gerihun and Bandajuma with new wells constructed in Jimi Bagbo.

Organisation and Implementation

Management

186 persons served UNHCR in 2001. They included 32 international staff, including one JPO and three UNVs, and 154 national officers.

Working with Others

UNHCR's programme implementation partners were made up of the Government and sister UN agencies as well as many NGOs. The main government partner was the National Commission for Rehabilitation, Reconstruction and Resettlement (NCRRR), which UNHCR supported by providing funds for staff and logistics. UNHCR also worked closely with other UN agencies on the UN Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).

Overall Assessment

Overall, adequate protection and assistance were delivered to displaced Sierra Leone returnees and newly arrived Liberian refugees accommodated in camps. The establishment of temporary settlements within host communities was thought to be an appropriate way to respond to their needs though this became an expensive solution. Host communities did however prove to offer distinct advantages in terms of peace building and sustainability, and so it would have been useful to provide for even more accommodation in such communities. In view of the prevailing economic and security conditions, as well as the pace of peace-building, more time is needed for programmes to take root and effectively support the local settlement of Liberian refugees, including long-staying refugees.

It is anticipated that over the course of the year 2002 the peace process will allow the return of some 100,000 Sierra Leoneans to their places of origin. UNHCR should therefore be in some position to begin phasing out activities for returnees in temporary settlements and host communities by the end of 2002. Efforts have been made to closely coordinate reintegration activities with long-term development actors such as the Government, the

World Bank and others. Provided that the necessary resources are made available in 2002 and 2003, it may well be possible by the end of 2003 for UNHCR to phase out assistance to the residual caseload of Liberian refugees. With regard to newly arrived refugees, efforts will be made to ensure that some level of self-sufficiency can be achieved in camps, but ongoing care and maintenance programmes will be required until peace and stability return to the neighbouring countries.

Offices

Freetown

Bo
Daru
Kambia
Kenema
Lungi

Partners

Government Agencies

National Commission for Reconstruction Resettlement and Rehabilitation

NGOs

American Refugee Committee
Bo/Pujehun Rural Development Associates
Caritas
Concern World-Wide
Family Home Movement
Forum for African Women Educationalists
Initiative pour une Afrique solidaire
International Islamic Youth League
International Medical Corps
Lutheran World Federation
Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium)
Methodist Church (Sierra Leone)
Norwegian Refugee Council
OXFAM (UK)
Peace Winds (Japan)
Save the Children (UK)
Sierra Leone Red Cross
Talking Drum Studio
The Environmental Foundation for Africa
World Vision International

Other

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
FAO
IOM
IRC

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	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,094,462	404,662	1,499,124		97,793	
Community Services	1,859	459,407	461,266		83,275	
Crop Production	0	725,542	725,542		114,215	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	0	464,344	464,344		433,560	
Education	27,323	499,709	527,032		112,176	
Fisheries	0	33,975	33,975		73,893	
Food	0	48,478	48,478		9,155	
Forestry	0	57,154	57,154		16,918	
Health / Nutrition	7,369	116,981	124,350		96,959	
Income Generation	0	218,273	218,273		26,620	
Legal Assistance	17,542	45,831	63,373		(8,563)	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	714	2,159,318	2,160,032		424,255	
Sanitation	0	109,057	109,057		1,511	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	10	915,517	915,527		185,619	
Transport / Logistics	0	2,614,912	2,614,912		872,847	
Water	0	694,943	694,943		98,595	
Transit Accounts	0	21,244	21,244		0	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	55,817	4,006,576	4,062,393		(1,213,980)	
Combined Projects	0	0	0		0	
Sub-total Operational	1,205,096	13,595,923	14,801,019		1,424,848	
Programme Support	1,484,167	644,601	2,128,768		1,752	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	2,689,263	14,240,524	16,929,787	(3)	1,426,600	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	119,646	2,167,686	2,287,332	(3)	0	(5)
TOTAL	2,808,909	16,408,210	19,217,119	(1) (3)	1,426,600	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	88,514	10,037,657	10,126,171		86,806	
Reporting Received	32,697	6,031,081	6,063,778		1,300,786	
Balance	55,817	4,006,576	4,062,393		(1,213,980)	
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		1,634,412	
Refunded to UNHCR	0	0	0		338,127	
Currency Adjustment	0	0	0		(1,071)	
Outstanding 31 December	55,817	4,006,576	4,062,393		81,234	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		1,828,938	(5)
New Obligations	2,808,909	16,408,210	19,217,119	(1)	0	
Disbursements	2,689,263	14,240,524	16,929,787	(3)	1,426,600	(5)
Cancellations	0	0	0		402,338	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	119,646	2,167,686	2,287,332	(3)	0	(5)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

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