

# GUINEA



## Operational highlights

- Some 48 former refugee families from Sierra Leone and 5,500 Liberian refugees benefited from assistance in agriculture. The host population offered 500 hectares of arable land to integrated refugees.
- More than 1,100 Liberian refugee households opted for local integration as a durable solution.
- Some 1,000 refugee and 500 host community households joined forces to cultivate 885 hectares of rice and maize within the framework of local integration.
- Some 110 Liberians and 30 Ivorian refugees repatriated with UNHCR assistance. In addition, 115 Liberian and Ivorian refugees were submitted for resettlement.
- More than 400 cases, representing some 1,200 people lodged an appeal against the invocation of the cessation

clause as regards Sierra Leonean refugees, which took effect in January 2009. Some 170 people were exempted from the application of the clause and more than 320 passports were delivered to former refugees from Sierra Leone who integrated in Conakry and Kissidougou.

## Working environment

The political situation in Guinea was unstable in 2009. The hopes generated by a swift and bloodless military coup, accompanied by promises of an election, soon faded due to the violent repression of demonstrators.

The reduction of the national budget and the international financial crisis had a negative impact on the political environment and on the livelihoods of the impoverished population. In addition, some international NGOs, which traditionally work with UNHCR, left the country.

### Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	11,100	11,100	52	47
	Côte d'Ivoire	4,000	4,000	51	54
	Various	240	240	42	39
Asylum-seekers	Liberia	600	600	43	36
	Sierra Leone	170	170	41	33
	Various	130	130	34	31
<b>Total</b>		<b>16,240</b>	<b>16,240</b>		





Since 2007, eligibility sessions were suspended, leading to an accumulation of asylum applications.

## | Achievements and impact |

### ◦ *Main objectives*

UNHCR's primary objective in Guinea for the Liberian refugee population was to achieve effective local integration. The Office also assisted Government counterparts to improve the national legal framework on refugee issues, refugee status determination (RSD) and the provision of documentation. In addition, the Office strengthened the self-reliance programme for Ivorian refugees, supported voluntary repatriation whenever possible, and advocated for environmental rehabilitation and peace education in refugee-affected areas. To reach these objectives, UNHCR strengthened partnerships and coordination with the Government, UN development agencies and NGOs. As part of UNHCR's exit strategy, the programme also sought to broaden ties with agricultural research bodies in view of their role on assisting refugees in becoming self-reliant.

### ◦ *Protection and solutions*

UNHCR conducted sensitization campaigns targeting the local administrative authorities, refugees and the host

population in order to underline the voluntary, participative and community-based approach of the local integration programme. More than 5,500 Liberian refugees opted for local integration as a durable solution.

To prepare for the return to stability in Côte d'Ivoire, UNHCR engaged in the preparatory work for repatriation and supported basic needs and essential services for the Ivorian refugee population. Assistance in agriculture and the provision of microcredits improved the self-reliance of this caseload. UNHCR provided for the basic needs of vulnerable urban refugees.

Refugees and host populations participated in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes through age, gender and diversity meetings, which helped to identify the needs of the beneficiaries and provide adequate solutions.

### ◦ *Activities and assistance*

**Community services:** To support the host community, UNHCR funded the construction and rehabilitation of new offices for social services. An evaluation to identify vulnerable urban refugees resulted in the provision of assistance to some 80 urban families. A consultation was organized to jointly develop solutions to the specific problems of urban refugees, and discussion groups were held in both urban and camp areas. Three victims of sexual and

gender-based violence received assistance, and some 1,500 condoms were distributed to Ivorian refugees.

**Crop production:** In Albadaria, some 50 Sierra Leonean heads of household were assisted in agricultural activities, as were almost 5,500 Liberian refugees. Ten Liberian agricultural groups were also set up. The host population offered 500 hectares of arable land to integrated refugees. The cultivation of rice was promoted, benefiting some 20 Liberian heads of household, and two seed banks were set up in Laine-Foromata and Kouankan. Some 170 Ivorian families cultivated 14 hectares of manioc, increasing their self-reliance.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Some 3,300 blankets, 3,300 mats, 1,500 jerry cans, 37,000 litres of petrol, 550 plates, 1,000 kitchen sets, 300 plastic cups, 75,000 pieces of soap, 600 plastic buckets and 1,500 mosquito nets were distributed to the Ivorian refugees in Kouankan II camp. Women and girls of reproductive age were provided with sanitary kits in both urban and camp areas. Non-food items (NFIs) were also provided to vulnerable urban and camp-based Liberian refugees.

**Education:** Locally integrating refugee children received school kits and were assisted to enrol in public schools. Some 1,100 Ivorian refugee children in camps, of whom 34 per cent were girls, attended primary schools. More than 100 Ivorian students, of whom 32 per cent were girls, attended the first level of secondary school, while some 20 Ivorian students, including two girls, attended the second level in Seredou. Almost 50 Ivorian students benefited from scholarships to receive a professional education in Conakry; in 2009, half obtained their final professional school certificates. Almost 30 Ivorian students benefited from scholarships to attend university in Dakar, Senegal.

**Food:** Some 460 metric tons of food were distributed monthly to Ivorian refugees in Kouankan II camp, representing a daily ration of 1,600 Kcal per person.

**Forestry:** Eighty-five hectares of former camp area were rehabilitated and more than 25 hectares were reforested. Beneficiaries participated in the construction of some 120 improved clay fireplaces in Laine-Foromata and Kouankan. The host and refugee populations were sensitized about the devastating effects of bushfires on the environment.

**Health and nutrition:** There were no major outbreaks of disease in 2009. Malnutrition among children under five was below 0.2 per cent and their mortality rate below 0.5/10,000. Some 1,100 Ivorian women and girls received hygiene kits. The construction of a maternity ward in Kouankan village and the rehabilitation of another in Macenta served both refugees and the host population. Vulnerable refugees benefited from special assistance free of charge. Social workers visited some 80 vulnerable cases at home and facilitated their access to treatment whenever required.

**Income generation:** Some 170 heads of household were assisted in income-generating activities through an implementing partner. Two fishponds were developed and four visibility projects were initiated by both the host and

refugee populations. In order to increase the self-reliance of the Ivorian refugees, some 30 women and 20 men with approximately 260 dependants were assisted with agricultural projects and microcredits.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR assisted in the drafting of a guide on standard RSD procedures. The Government issued some 320 national passports and consular cards to former refugees from Sierra Leone who opted for local integration, in accordance with the ECOWAS system relating to the free movement of goods and persons in the subregion. Refugee attestations were also issued and delivered to urban and camp-based Ivorian and Liberian refugees.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR covered various components of the operational, management and staffing costs of its implementing partners. Vehicles and other assets were made available, and technical support, expertise and training in key policy and operational areas were provided to UNHCR's implementing and operational partners.

**Sanitation:** In Kouankan, nearly all shelters for Ivorian refugees in the camp had family latrines and separate bathrooms for men, women and vulnerable refugees. Some 13 blocks of latrines and bathrooms were maintained and 38 repaired. An implementing partner constructed 78 blocks of community latrines, 190 closed latrines, repaired seven washing areas and established nearly 50 garbage pits. All sanitation facilities were fumigated on a monthly basis.

**Shelter and other infrastructure:** Community-level support, such as material assistance for construction, rehabilitation and fumigation, encouraged Ivorian refugees to take care of their shelters. Integrated Liberian refugees were provided with flagstones for their latrines and benefited from technical assistance, material and tools for constructing houses, kitchens, showers and latrines. Vulnerable Liberian refugee families received assistance to build houses, facilitating local integration.

**Transport and logistics:** A fleet of trucks and light vehicles was maintained for assistance and monitoring purposes. In preparation for the repatriation of Ivorian refugees, UNHCR rehabilitated key segments of road in Guinée Forestière.

**Water:** Some 42.4 litres of potable water was provided daily to the Ivorian refugees in Kouankan II. Testing and chlorination prevented contamination, and all refugees lived within 60 metres of water points. Three improved water systems were installed in urban Gueckedou for local communities that had integrated refugees. Management committees maintained the water systems set up in the former refugee camps in Laine and Kouankan. Mechanics from the host and refugee population were trained and provided tools to maintain the existing water systems.

### ○ Constraints

The security situation remained difficult and coordination with Government officials on refugee matters was complicated due to the many changes in the political



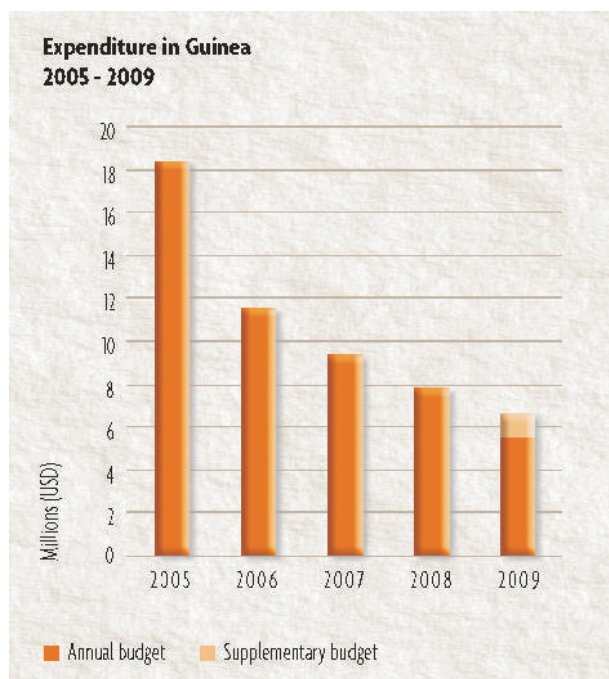
situation. Insecurity and poor road conditions in isolated and poverty-stricken regions periodically hindered access to people of concern. Despite UNHCR's efforts to rehabilitate former camp areas through agro-forestry and constructing firebreaks to counter bush fires, environmental and other risks remained. Many refugees showed no interest in local integration and repatriation, as they hoped to be resettled. The continued postponement of the presidential elections in Côte d'Ivoire made it difficult to devise clear plans to meet the needs of this refugee population.

## Financial information

The budget, which peaked at USD 20 million during the refugee operation in Guinea in 2003, was reduced to USD 7 million in 2009. The financial and economic crisis had a negative impact on UNHCR's operation in Guinea, making programmed implementation difficult.

## Organization and implementation

UNHCR maintained a country office in Conakry which operated with a total of 37 staff members: five international, 28 national employees and four international UNVs. The sub-office in N'zérékoré operated with 39 staff members, including three international and 26 national personnel, four international and three national UNVs, and two staff members sponsored by UNDSS.



## Working with others

UNHCR had sub-agreements with one Government and six NGO partners. The local integration of refugees remained in line with the national priorities on poverty reduction which, in *Guinée Forestière*, were being implemented through the Joint Programme (2007-2011) of the UN country team. This sought to mitigate tensions among communities and achieve strategic objectives in areas such as food security, health, HIV and AIDS prevention, water, sanitation, education and environmental rehabilitation.

## Overall assessment

UNHCR strengthened its local integration programme by sensitizing all involved on its voluntary, participative and community-based nature. The participatory approach of refugees was emphasized in urban areas, where access to the refugee population was more challenging.

Refugees enjoyed freedom of movement and access to public services. However, discussions with the Government regarding the approval of the new Asylum and Refugee Protection Law, which granted refugees access to the labour market and the right to acquire property, produced few results.

UNHCR continued to play a key role in building partnerships for wider environmental rehabilitation and economic recovery. In line with its exit strategy, UNHCR strengthened partnerships with UN development agencies and local NGOs with technical expertise in agriculture.

As a result of the political instability in the country, the back-log in asylum cases continued to grow. The Office in Guinea submitted some 20 cases, or 120 persons, for resettlement. However, only a handful of Liberian refugees were resettled in 2009.

Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<p><b>Government:</b> <i>Commission Nationale chargée de l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés, Bureau Régional pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés, Radio rurale de Guinée</i> and FM Liberty</p> <p><b>NGOs:</b> <i>Agence de Coopération et de Recherche pour le Développement, Catholic Relief Services, Croix-Rouge Guinéenne, Danish Refugee Council, Organisation pour le Développement Intégré Communautaire, Centre International de Développement et de Recherche</i></p> <p><b>Others:</b> <i>Comité International de la Croix Rouge, UNV Programme</i></p>	
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<p><b>Others:</b> FAO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO</p>	

### Budget, income and expenditure in Guinea (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	5,814,117	259,472	5,492,952	5,752,424	5,582,519
West Africa - Local integration of Liberian refugees SB	1,454,130	936,824	150,288	1,087,112	1,087,112
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,268,247</b>	<b>1,196,296</b>	<b>5,643,240</b>	<b>6,839,536</b>	<b>6,669,632</b>

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level and do not include seven per cent support costs for NAM contributions. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

### Financial report for UNHCR's operations in UNHCR's operations in Guinea (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,672,329	99,217	1,771,546	0
Community services	29,739	0	29,739	13,145
Crop production	80,768	0	80,768	18,944
Domestic needs and household support	19,672	0	19,672	0
Education	43,165	0	43,165	165,863
Food	4,657	0	4,657	0
Forestry	30,657	0	30,657	8,659
Health and nutrition	262,394	22,958	285,352	81,879
Income generation	49,342	0	49,342	48,447
Legal assistance	124,735	20,352	145,087	22,690
Operational support (to agencies)	339,831	160,610	500,441	115,550
Sanitation	7,626	0	7,626	(1,870)
Shelter and infrastructure	33,128	57,810	90,938	11,457
Transport and logistics	184,526	340,615	525,142	109,276
Water	22,227	0	22,227	37,208
Instalments to implementing partners	727,144	385,550	1,112,694	(631,249)
<b>Subtotal operational activities</b>	<b>3,631,941</b>	<b>1,087,112</b>	<b>4,719,054</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	1,950,578	0	1,950,578	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>5,582,519</b>	<b>1,087,112</b>	<b>6,669,632</b>	<b>0</b>

**Cancellation on prior years' expenditure** (55,154)

#### Instalments with implementing partners

Payments made	1,289,683	385,550	1,675,233
Reporting received	(562,539)	0	(562,539)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>727,144</b>	<b>385,550</b>	<b>1,112,694</b>

#### Previous year's report

Instalments with implementing partners:			
Outstanding 1st January			1,322,854
Reporting received			(631,249)
Refunded to UNHCR			(148,759)
Currency adjustment			28,812
<b>Outstanding 31st December</b>			<b>571,659</b>