

# GUINEA



## Operational highlights

- More than 670 Liberian refugee households (3,150 people) opted for local integration as a durable solution.
- Some 650 refugee households joined forces with 225 host-community families to cultivate nearly 600 hectares of rice and maize as part of the local-integration process.
- Over 200 refugees repatriated to Liberia and Sierra Leone with UNHCR's assistance.
- More than 430 Sierra Leonean cases (involving nearly 1,300 people) were lodged to appeal against the invocation of the cessation clause, which was to take effect in January 2009.

## Working environment

Following the death of Guinea's ailing President, General Lansana Conté, the military swiftly carried out a bloodless coup on 22 December. Government was dissolved, the constitution suspended and a 32-member governing council, the *Conseil National pour la Démocratie et le Développement* (CNDD) was created. Although the country's political parties, trade unions and general population appear to have accepted the results of the coup, the economic news remained grim. Guinea's 10 million people are increasingly impoverished, and the country has slipped down to 167<sup>th</sup> place in the Human Development Index, despite its agricultural potential and its natural resources.

### 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	49
	Sierra Leone	6,500	6,500	45	35
	Côte d'Ivoire	3,900	3,900	51	56
	Various	70	70	37	30
Asylum-seekers	Liberia	400	400	50	36
	Sierra Leone	140	140	43	33
	Various	80	80	31	27
Returnees (refugees)	Various	10	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,200</b>	<b>22,190</b>		



Local agriculture and income-generating integration projects in Guinea

UNHCR

## | Achievements and impact |

### ● *Main objectives*

UNHCR's goals in Guinea were to develop local integration plans for residual groups of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in both rural and urban settings, consistent with identified national development priorities; pursue efforts to provide a harmonized and long-term legal status for remaining refugees and assist the Government in the issuance of documentation to these refugees; protect and assist Ivorian refugees and ensure their safe and dignified voluntary return when possible; promoting economic recovery and peace-building in Guinea, particularly environmental rehabilitation; and peace education in refugee-affected areas.

### ● *Protection and solutions*

Guinea offered a relatively favourable protection environment for refugees despite the political and social instability. More than 3,000 Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees opted for local integration as a durable solution. The refugees, who have chosen to remain in former refugee sites in Kouankan and Lainé, have seen their settlements progressively becoming Guinean villages thanks to community-based self-reliance projects. Ivorian refugees remained cautious about the peace process in their country and were not yet willing to repatriate.

### ● *Activities and assistance*

**Community services:** UNHCR funded the construction of new offices for social services at Lainé and Kouankan

*préfectures*, an immigration centre at Bidiaro and a public library in Kissidougou. More than 2,400 urban refugees (47 per cent women) received social counselling and psychological support. Some 39 group discussions were organized in Kouankan on reproductive health, prevention of sexual and gender-based violence and HIV and AIDS. Over 66,000 condoms were distributed to Ivorian refugees.

**Crop production:** Some 200 Ivorian refugee households had access to fertile land near their camp in Kouankan and, with training and inputs received for agricultural projects, became increasingly self-sufficient. Locally integrating Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees (650 households) grouped with 225 host community households in the Lainé, Kouankan and Gueckedou areas to farm and harvest more than 1,000 tons of rice thanks to seeds, tool kits and technical expertise provided by UNHCR. Some 60 refugee households (85 per cent Sierra Leonean) received seeds and tools to help them grow vegetables in semi-urban areas such as Gueckedou, Macenta, Yomou or Kissidougou.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Some 670 Liberian refugee households received a package of non-food items within the framework of the local-integration project. Targeted distribution helped some 230 vulnerable Ivorian refugee households at Kouankan. All camp-based Ivorian refugees also received monthly rations of 200 grams of soap, and women and girls of reproductive age were provided with sanitary kits.

**Education:** In *Guinée Forestière*, UNHCR constructed four-classroom blocks in the Préfectures of Beyla and Macenta. Locally integrating refugee children received school kits and were assisted to enrol in public schools in various localities in *Guinée Forestière*. More than 1,100 Ivorian camp refugee children (45 per cent girls) attended primary schools during the academic year 2007-2008, with some 71 per cent admitted to the next level. Forty Ivorian students attended secondary school in Seredou. Literacy courses were organized for 230 adults, 127 of them female, in the camp.

**Food:** Some 460 metric tonnes of WFP food was distributed to Ivorian camp refugees in Kouankan. Food assistance for Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees was phased out at the end 2007 and replaced by self-reliance projects within the framework of local integration.

**Forestry:** Some 160 hectares of forest were registered as a protected zone in *Guinée Forestière* in partnership with WFP. Some 52 hectares of palm and kola trees were planted in the surroundings of former refugee camps in Kouankan and Lainé. UNHCR also provided 5,800 palm-tree and 2,000 kola seedlings directly to local communities.

**Health and nutrition:** Health standards were maintained at a satisfactory level in Kouankan refugee camp, and there were no outbreaks of disease in 2008. Malnutrition among under-fives was below 0.2 per cent and their mortality rate below 0.5 per 10,000. The construction and furnishing of six new rooms at Kissidougou Hospital and the creation of a maternity clinic in Kouankan village helped refugees gain access to public services. UNHCR supported referral and medical costs for some 800 urban refugees, 45 per cent of them women, who were treated in public hospitals.

**Income generation:** Small-business grants were given to 30 urban refugee cases (30 per cent women) to help them become self-reliant in Conakry. Thirty Ivorian camp-refugee households received grants for income-generating activities in Kouankan and various groups of locally integrating Sierra Leonean (102 households) and Liberian refugees (193 households) were trained in micro-credit and small-business management. Some 133 households received supplies to start trading on local markets, while 37 refugee households joined host-community households in Gueckedou, Nzérékoré and Macenta to start small businesses with UNHCR's financial support.

**Legal assistance:** With political instability leaving the *Comité Permanent d'Eligibilité* in disarray, no meaningful refugee status determination (RSD) activities could be conducted in 2008. Meanwhile, a UNHCR verification exercise in November established that only some 630 out of 4,000 registered asylum-seekers were still physically present in urban Conakry. The new database of duly profiled asylum-seekers will facilitate the resumption of RSD in 2009.

Some 210 individuals were assisted to repatriate to Liberia and Sierra Leone through the Dakar-based regional repatriation project for West Africa. UNHCR registered more than 430 Sierra Leonean cases (1,300 refugees) who had

submitted an appeal against the cessation clause. The provision of documentation for locally integrating Sierra Leone refugees started with the submission of some 180 applications for consular cards to the Sierra Leonean Embassy.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR provided financial and technical support to all its partners.

**Sanitation:** In Kouankan, UNHCR supported the construction of an additional 25 family blocks and 68 blocks of community latrines. Insecticides were sprayed in all sanitation facilities and eight new garbage pits were established.

**Shelter and other infrastructure:** UNHCR built or helped rehabilitate the seriously damaged shelters of 16 vulnerable Ivorian refugee families. Shelter packages, including tool kits and construction materials, were provided to 38 vulnerable Liberian refugee families in order to facilitate their local integration.

**Transport and logistics:** A fleet of trucks and light vehicles was maintained for assistance and monitoring purposes. UNHCR rehabilitated, on an *ad hoc* basis, key segments of road in *Guinée Forestière*.

**Water:** The new water tank built at Kouankan II guaranteed the daily provision of some 42 litres of potable water per person for Ivorian camp refugees. Testing and chlorination prevented contamination.

#### ○ Constraints

Guinea has remained under a heightened UN security phase as a result of the political and social tensions in the country. Political change added to difficulties in coordination with authorities on refugee matters such as socio-economic rights and access to citizenship. The insecurity and poor road conditions in the isolated and poverty-stricken region of *Guinée Forestière*, UNHCR's main area of operations, periodically hindered access to the people of concern.

### | Financial information |

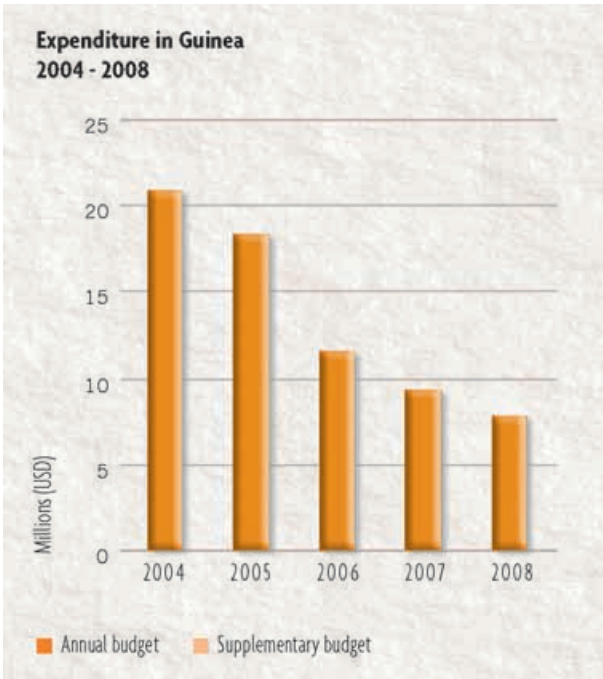
The budget, which topped USD 25 million at the peak of the refugee operation in Guinea in 2003, was reduced to USD 7.8 million in 2008. Budget adjustments after mid-year allowed unutilized funds set aside for repatriation to Côte d'Ivoire to be shifted to other programmes in the region.

### | Organization and implementation |

UNHCR maintained a branch office in Conakry and a sub-office in Nzérékoré, and operated with 77 staff (eight internationals, 56 nationals, two Surge consultants, eight international UNVs and three national UNVs).

### | Working with others |

UNHCR's initiative for the local integration of refugees is in line with national priorities on poverty reduction which, in *Guinée Forestière*, are implemented through the Joint



Programme (2007-2011) of the UN Country Team. This seeks 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

The national capacity of refugee integrating areas has been reinforced by a focus on education, health and social infrastructure. Refugees have enjoyed freedom of movement and access to public services in Guinea. However, discussions with the Government on granting refugees access to the labour market, as well as the right to acquire property, produced few results.

Meanwhile, UNHCR played a key role in building partnerships for wider environmental rehabilitation and economic recovery. Areas surrounding refugee camps were rehabilitated in line with the needs of those who live there. Political instability prevented the Government from improving the management of asylum-seekers; 265 cases involving 631 individuals are awaiting review by the national refugee status determination body.

### Partners

#### Implementing partners

**Government:** *Commission Nationale chargée de l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés, Radio rurale de Guinée*

**NGOs:** *Acción Contra el hambre, Agence de Coopération et de Recherche pour le Développement, Catholic Relief Services, Croix-Rouge Guinéenne, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Organisation pour le Développement Intégré Communautaire, Search for Common Ground*

**Others:** *Comité International de la Croix Rouge, UNV*

#### Operational partners

**Others:** *FAO, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO*

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

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available <sup>1</sup>	Total expenditure
Annual budget	7,948,815	1,050,000	6,823,104	7,873,104	7,869,544

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.

<sup>1</sup> Total funds available include currency adjustments.

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

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Annual and supplementary programme budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,990,132	0
Community services	74,774	183,266
Crop production	73,873	(19,668)
Domestic needs and household support	4,344	35
Education	78,616	182,012
Food	0	4,441
Forestry	24,182	7,239
Health and nutrition	171,122	188,930
Income generation	57,792	40,395
Legal assistance	249,597	153,849
Operational support (to agencies)	829,852	134,955
Sanitation	30,814	23,951
Shelter and infrastructure	69,932	140,733
Transport and logistics	761,143	42,539
Water	31,057	11,031
Instalments to implementing partners	995,989	(1,093,708)
<b>Subtotal operational activities</b>	<b>5,443,219</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	2,426,325	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>7,869,544</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on prior years' expenditure</b>		<b>(267,778)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Payments made	1,932,843	
Reporting received	(936,854)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>995,989</b>	
Outstanding 1st January		1,508,413
Reporting received		(1,093,708)
Refunded to UNHCR		(76,312)
Currency adjustment		(11,528)
<b>Outstanding 31st December</b>		<b>326,865</b>