

Guinea



Working environment

The context

The overall political, economic and social situation in Guinea deteriorated in 2006. In June, the second general strike of the year paralyzed the country for almost two weeks and sparked violence that led to the deaths of at least 21 people. Despite an accord between the Government and the main trade unions, the economic situation has worsened as high inflation and a depreciation of the Guinean franc have combined to boost the prices of essential goods. Socio-economic tensions within Guinea have been compounded by political instability in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau, while Liberia and Sierra Leone are recovering from major conflicts.

For the last 17 years refugees have put a strain on Guinea's already limited resources. Despite these difficulties, Guinea's record on asylum remains exemplary, particularly in the region of *Guinée Forestière*. In addition to those registered by the Government, there are approximately 50,000 unregistered refugees settled throughout the country. In 2006, the authorities allowed more than 600 Sierra Leonean refugees to integrate locally. Excellent relations between UNHCR and the Guinean authorities ensure that refugee programmes in the country run smoothly.

The needs

UNHCR will focus on the search for durable solutions for Liberian refugees, with a shift from providing refugees with food aid and other services to assisting with repatriation and local integration. Consultations with refugees indicate that demands for repatriation assistance will continue until the end of June 2007, by which time UNHCR plans to have phased out assisted returns. A joint UNHCR-WFP food needs assessment mission, carried out in July 2006 with refugee participation, recommended that food aid and other services in camps for Liberian refugees be discontinued by mid-2007. Such services, the mission suggested, should be replaced by local integration programmes for those unable or unwilling to return home. Consultations with the Government and refugees indicate that the local integration plan is a realistic option.

Total requirements: USD 9,559,914

Main objectives

- Provide international protection to refugees through the efficient implementation of asylum procedures; improve the quality of refugee status determination by ensuring prompt access to the relevant decision-making bodies.

- Promote the voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation of Liberian refugees.
- Phase out camp-based assistance and, through self-reliance projects, promote the local integration of Liberian refugees unable or unwilling to return home.
- Help Ivorian refugees to repatriate when possible.
- Hand over vacated refugee camps to local authorities and help them build partnerships with UN agencies to rehabilitate the environment in refugee-affected areas.
- Use resettlement as a durable solution for those refugees with particular protection needs.

Key targets for 2007

- Adoption of a refugee law by Parliament.
- Reduction of the backlog of asylum claims by 80 per cent.
- Durable solutions are found for 2,000 registered urban refugees.
- No refugee is *refouled* or denied any of his or her rights.
- Every separated child refugee is assisted through family reunification, a foster family, adoption or resettlement.
- 15,000 Liberian refugees return home with UNHCR assistance.
- 2,000 Ivorian refugees are repatriated in safety and dignity if and when feasible.
- Two refugee camps and their facilities are handed back to local government authorities.
- Elections are held in each of Guinea's four refugee camps, and in Conakry for urban refugees, to renew democratically-elected and gender-balanced refugee committees.

assisting refugees. It will train Guinean officials in refugee law and the rights of the displaced, lobby for the enactment of national asylum legislation, help strengthen the judiciary and assist the Government to issue identity cards to all registered refugees.

Under the tripartite agreement between UNHCR and the Governments of Guinea and Liberia, the organized repatriation of Liberian refugees will continue until the end of June 2007, at which time logistical support for organized returns to Liberia will end. Building on the lessons learned from the local integration of Sierra Leonean refugees in 2006, a similar option will be considered for those Liberian refugees who are unable to return home. Durable solutions such as the provision of citizenship or residence papers will be encouraged and facilitated.

Durable solutions for urban refugees will be pursued through self-reliance and income generation projects. To ensure fair participation in such projects, age, gender and the diversity of the refugee community will be taken into account.

Advocacy and training for improved national asylum legislation as well as support for the Government's efforts to establish a refugee status determination system will continue.

The handover of camp facilities, rehabilitation of local infrastructure and effective environmental management will ensure sustainable development in refugee-affected areas.

While phasing out its direct interventions, UNHCR will build partnerships with local NGOs and UN agencies to continue to address refugee protection needs. In particular, it will strengthen the capacity of local authorities to respond to and prevent incidents of sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR will also continue to support the *Brigade mixte de sécurité*, provide legal advice and conduct awareness-raising workshops in each refugee camp. It will assist *Radio Rurale de Guinée*, which informs listeners of refugees' rights and responsibilities and thereby helps reduce friction with host communities.

Strategy and activities

UNHCR will continue to build the Government's capacity to assume primary responsibility for protecting and

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	January 2007		December 2007	
		Total in Country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in Country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Liberia	50,560	50,560	24,250	24,250
	Sierra Leone	5,320	4,030	4,060	4,060
	Côte d'Ivoire	3,390	3,390	4,510	4,510
	Various	60	60	80	80
Asylum-seekers	Côte d'Ivoire	120	-	-	-
	Various	140	-	-	-
Total		59,590	58,040	32,900	32,900



Repatriation of Liberian refugees across the Makona river. UNHCR / A. Barry

Refugees from Liberia

UNHCR expects to repatriate 15,000 Liberian refugees by land in the first half of 2007. During this period, camp-based refugees will continue to receive assistance for basic domestic needs, health care and other essential services. In the second half of 2007 resources will be shifted to local integration projects and the rehabilitation of infrastructure to be handed over to local authorities.

As jointly agreed with WFP, food aid to refugees is due to be phased out in June 2007. The local integration of Liberians remaining in Guinea will be facilitated by activities ranging from legal support, income generation projects, training schemes and guaranteed access to public services. In this context, the primary education programme will be shifted from the Liberian to the Guinean curriculum.

Refugees from Côte d'Ivoire

UNHCR will continue to provide food and basic services to 3,000 Ivorian refugees in Kouankan camp. Many refugees in Kouankan work on farms nearby and are on their way to becoming self-sufficient. For its part, UNHCR stands ready to facilitate voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity as soon as the situation in Côte d'Ivoire permits.

Urban refugees

More than 9,000 urban refugees have been profiled in the *ProGres* database. Of these, 2,000 with specific

needs and skills will receive cash assistance to start small businesses to increase their self-reliance and ease their integration into the host community. UNHCR will continue to promote repatriation for those who wish to return, while finding specific solutions for separated and unaccompanied children.

Constraints

Anti-government protests or sporadic inter-ethnic violence could lead to situations that might threaten peaceful coexistence between refugees and local communities in Guinea. Deteriorating road conditions could delay repatriation convoys and pose threats to security. Following the closure of its office in Kissidougou in September 2006, UNHCR will need to meet the challenge of mobilizing development actors such as UNDP and donors to ensure an effective transition from humanitarian relief to economic and environmental recovery in *Guinée Forestière*.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

Number of offices	2
Total staff	115
International	16
National	90
UNVs	8
JPOs	1

Coordination

UNHCR's main government counterpart is the *Bureau national de coordination de l'assistance aux réfugiés*. It will also work with six implementing partners involved in refugee programmes. In an effort to support the transition towards sustainable development, UNHCR will strive to raise donor interest in funding rehabilitation or capacity-building projects in *Guinée Forestière*. The Office will coordinate its activities with UNICEF and UNDP within the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: *Bureau national de coordination de l'assistance aux réfugiés*, *Radio Rurale de Guinée*.

NGOs: International Rescue Committee, Lutheran World Federation/Action by Churches Together, *Organisation pour le développement intégré communautaire*.

Other: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP.

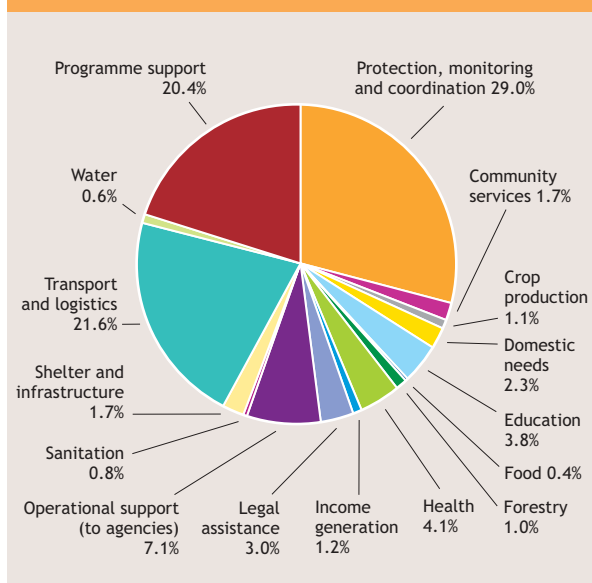
Operational partners

Other: UNDP, UNICEF, WFP.

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Protection, monitoring and coordination	4,476,210	1,973,073
Community services	265,000	243,000
Crop production	175,000	70,000
Domestic needs	360,000	235,000
Education	590,000	355,000
Food	60,000	32,000
Forestry	150,000	80,000
Health	630,000	480,000
Income generation	185,000	90,000
Legal assistance	470,000	400,000
Operational support (to agencies)	1,100,000	760,000
Sanitation	120,000	65,000
Shelter and infrastructure	260,000	115,000
Transport and logistics	3,335,000	2,170,000
Water	100,000	155,000
Total operations	12,276,210	7,223,073
Programme support	3,136,850	2,336,841
Total	15,413,060	9,559,914

2006 Annual Programme Budget by sector



2007 Annual Programme Budget by sector

