

# Guinea



## Main objectives

- Provide international protection to refugees and improve the quality of asylum by ensuring prompt access to refugee status determination procedures.
- Promote and accelerate the sustainable voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees, and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees if and when feasible.
- Provide continuing care to camp-based refugees and strive to develop durable solutions for urban refugees whilst improving their access to rights.
- Promote the local integration of the remaining Sierra Leonean refugees through a self-reliance programme.
- Rehabilitate the environment in refugee-impacted areas, act as a catalyst to build partnerships and secure funds for further remedial work.

### Planning figures

Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
Liberia (refugees)	59,000	19,000
Other refugees (urban)	7,000	7,000
Côte d'Ivoire (refugees)	3,310	1,310
Sierra Leone (refugees)	1,500	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>70,810</b>	<b>27,310</b>

**Total requirements: USD 15,413,060**

## Working environment

### Recent developments

In 2005, the Government has been striving to fulfil political and economic requirements set by its development partners. The overall political climate has improved, yet the country remains plagued by complex tensions and poor socio-economic conditions.

The voluntary repatriation of nearly 140,000 Sierra Leonean refugees, which ended in 2004, relieved a burden on local Guinean communities and structures and reduced negative views of refugees as an unwelcome drain on national resources. This more favourable context allowed progress in achieving durable solutions for the remaining refugees, with the Government agreeing to the local integration of the residual group of Sierra Leonean refugees.

The restoration of peace in Liberia offers the prospect in 2006 of significant progress towards the achievement of durable solutions for Liberian refugees in Guinea. By mid-September 2005 UNHCR had facilitated the repatriation of some 18,000, and even more are expected to return home after the Liberian elections scheduled in October 2005.

At the same time, the political climate in the sub-region remains very volatile, particularly in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire, where ongoing instability requires the Office to continue providing assistance to Ivorian refugees in Guinea and to maintain contingency planning and emergency preparedness for any new refugee influxes.

### Constraints

Guinea is rendered vulnerable by the fragile security situation in neighbouring countries due to the presence of ex-combatants in the forest region and the illicit small arms trade, reportedly flourishing in the border areas. In this context, maintaining the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps remains a challenge. Additionally, poor road conditions badly affect UNHCR's operations,

creating delays in the voluntary repatriation programme, in responding to emergency needs, and in the provision of material assistance.

The residual group of Liberian refugees is expected to include a disproportionate number of women, children and elderly persons, many with special needs. It is feared that important gaps will persist in key sectors where basic assistance is needed the most, especially if further funding shortfalls occur.

## Strategy

### Protection and solutions

Within the framework of the signed Tripartite Repatriation Agreement between Guinea, Liberia and UNHCR, an estimated 40,000 Liberian refugees are expected to avail themselves of the assistance for voluntary repatriation planned for 2006. UNHCR will ensure that Liberian refugees receive accurate information on the situation in Liberia to enable them to make an informed decision on whether or not to return.

UNHCR will complete a local integration project for some 1,500 Sierra Leonean refugees in the first half of 2006, and then build on this experience to explore the local integration options for those Liberian refugees unable or unwilling to return.

Efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in refugee camps will continue through the *Brigade mixte de sécurité*, legal clinics, SGBV groups, regular monitoring and coordination of activities.

The process of dialogue, profiling and counselling of urban refugees with the help of the new *proGres* software is underway in Guinea. Over 6,600 urban refugees, registered by mid-2005, will increasingly benefit from international protection and durable solutions options, while medical assistance will be provided for the vulnerable. UNHCR will continue to support the Government in its efforts to establish proper refugee status determination mechanisms and identify solutions for asylum-seekers.



A refugee mother and her child. *UNHCR / L. Taylor*

UNHCR will pursue all possible strategies to meet the special needs of unaccompanied and separated children, particularly in the N'zerekore region. The best possible option will be explored for each child, leading either to family reunification or the identification of a foster family, and could involve repatriation or resettlement.

### Assistance

The residual group of Sierra Leonean refugees will be integrated in local communities in Guinea, with the support of an international partner.

UNHCR is planning to facilitate the repatriation of up to 2,000 Ivorian refugees in 2006 on a voluntary basis whenever the situation in Côte d'Ivoire permits return in safety and dignity. The Office will continue to provide material assistance for Ivorian refugees after relocating them from Nonah transit camp to Kouankan camp.

In the camps, basic shelter materials, domestic items, water and sanitation services will be provided alongside food rations, health care, vaccination and education. UNHCR and its partners will promote access to school for refugee girls, with the aim of having roughly equal numbers of boys and girls attend school. Refugee women will be encouraged to take a leading role in community-based initiatives, including campaigns for the prevention of HIV/AIDS, sexual exploitation and gender-based violence.

The rehabilitation of the environment in refugee-impacted areas will be incorporated into strategies for achieving sustainable development.

### Desired impact

Continued provision of humanitarian assistance will allow UNHCR to maintain minimum living conditions in the refugee settlements. Increased participation by refugee women and opportunities for education and training will better equip the refugee communities to sustain themselves. Effective environmental management and awareness-raising will mitigate damage in and around the refugee camps and prevent further

environmental degradation. The integration of refugees will be facilitated by the rehabilitation of local infrastructures benefiting host communities, notably in the *préfecture* of Gueckedou. The rights of refugees in Guinea will be better respected when Government officials have the capacity, including legal knowledge and technical back-up, to deal effectively with refugee issues.

## Organization and implementation

### Management structure

In 2006, UNHCR will have a total of 179 staff, comprising 147 nationals and 32 internationals. Country operations will be implemented through offices in Conakry, Kissidougou and N'zerekore.

### Coordination

UNHCR's main operational government counterpart will remain the *Bureau national de coordination de l'assistance aux réfugiés* which is now under the *Service national d'action humanitaire*. Five implementing partners will be 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 areas of Guinea affected by the presence of large numbers of refugees. Successful partnership is also expected with other UN agencies, such as UNICEF, UNDP and FAO, and within the context of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

Offices
<b>Conakry</b>
Kissidougou
N'zerekore

Partners
<b>Government agencies</b>
<i>Bureau national de coordination de l'assistance aux réfugiés</i>
<i>Direction nationale des eaux et forêts</i>
<i>Radio rurale de Guinée</i>
<b>NGOs</b>
Catholic Relief Services
International Rescue Committee
<i>Organisation pour le développement intégré communautaire</i>
<b>Others</b>
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
IFRC

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	4,476,210
Community services	265,000
Crop production	175,000
Domestic needs	360,000
Education	590,000
Food	60,000
Forestry	150,000
Health	630,000
Income generation	185,000
Legal assistance	470,000
Operational support (to agencies)	1,100,000
Sanitation	120,000
Shelter/other infrastructure	260,000
Transport/logistics	3,335,000
Water	100,000
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>12,276,210</b>
Programme support	3,136,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,413,060</b>

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