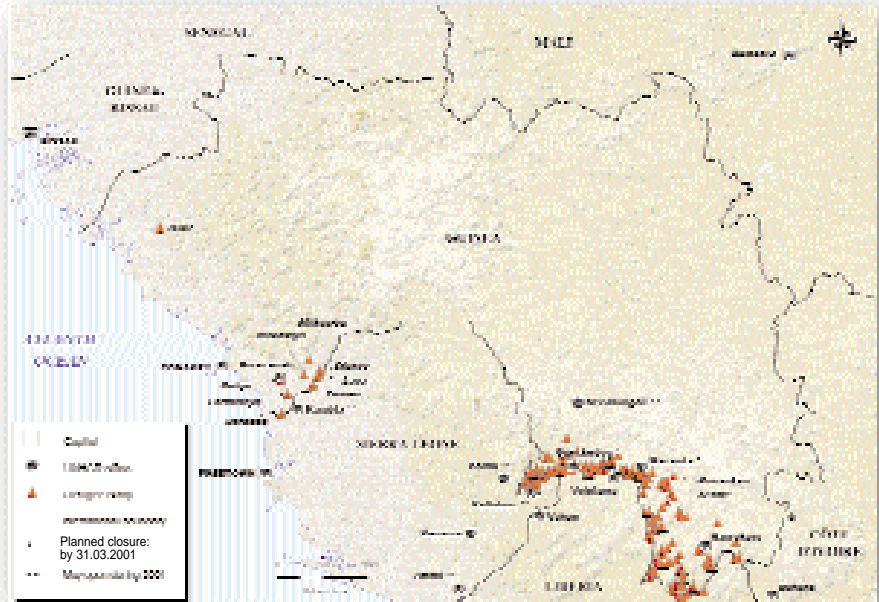


Guinea in short

Main Objectives

- Continue to protect Sierra Leonean refugees and safeguard their security by relocating them away from dangerous border areas. Help local authorities in areas hosting refugees to secure the border by offering additional material and logistical support.
- Make basic humanitarian assistance available for Sierra Leonean refugees living in camps and settlements, with a focus on measures to enhance their self-reliance (income-generating activities and skills training) and activities to prevent violence against women and young girls.
- Support the voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees, if the situation in their country of origin permits.
- Facilitate the repatriation of Liberian refugees who wish to return; support programmes to enhance the self-reliance of refugees who are likely to remain in Guinea; and organise the refugee status determination of Liberian refugees who decide against repatriation.
- Mitigate environmental damage caused by the presence of large numbers of refugees in Guinea through a prevention and rehabilitation programme.



PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Sierra Leonean Refugees ¹	330,000	250,000
Liberian Refugees ²	120,000	90,000
Urban Refugees	600	1,500
Total	450,600	341,500

¹ Subject to the developments in Sierra Leone, up to 80,000 Sierra Leonean refugees may decide to repatriate in 2001, half of whom will be assisted by UNHCR (with repatriation packages and in some cases transport) and the other half will return on their own.

² Security permitting, some 30,000 Liberian refugees are expected to repatriate from Guinea to Lofa county in Liberia in 2001. Approximately 10,000 of these returnees will receive a repatriation package.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 31,557,093

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

Repeated cross-border attacks from Liberia and Sierra Leone have undermined UNHCR's ability to fulfil its mandate to protect hundreds of thousands of refugees in Guinea. Refugees

and UNHCR staff have been killed or injured as a consequence of the allegation that Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees were responsible for these attacks. During a raid in the Macenta area on 17 September 2000, a UNHCR staff member was killed and a co-worker abducted (but later released). Consequently, UNHCR and other agencies had to recall staff to Conakry. A limited number were evacuated and deployed to other UNHCR operations while other staff remain in Conakry ready to resume operations as soon as the security situation improves.



As a result of the deteriorating condition in refugee areas, thousands of Sierra Leonean refugees began returning to Sierra Leone on their own as of September 2000. Many arrived in conflict areas in the north and had to be temporarily relocated to IDP settlements. These spontaneous movements are likely to continue unless the situation in border areas (and in Guinea) stabilises.

In October 2000 missions were undertaken to assess the security situation and consider whether to return to field locations in Guinea. As soon as UNHCR can regain access to the refugee camps, assistance to refugee will resume. In line with a request from the Guinean Government the next priority will be to organise the relocation of refugees further away from the border to ensure their safety. Six new sites have been identified in close co-operation with the Government, and initial preparatory activities are underway.

Constraints

The main constraint is insecurity in the border areas where most refugees are accommodated. The death toll and extensive damage from increasingly frequent attacks on Guinean border villages has deeply affected the attitude of the local communi-

ty who believe refugees to be partly responsible. The Government of Guinea has asked for support from the international community to secure the border areas – a prerequisite for the restoration of regional stability and the resumption of humanitarian assistance for the refugees.

The feasibility of repatriation of those Liberians who have expressed a wish to return in 2001 depends largely upon the evolution of the security situation in volatile Lofa county (where most of the Liberian refugees in Guinea originate).

Access to the refugees is made difficult by poor roads and the long distances between the many refugee settlements. In some cases, staff have to travel for many hours to reach refugee locations. This, coupled with an overall staffing shortage, has had a negative effect on UNHCR's ability to carry out its protection work and monitor the situation of refugees in some areas.

STRATEGY

Sierra Leonean Refugees

Voluntary repatriation is the most realistic durable solution for most of the hundreds of thousands of Sierra Leonean refugees residing in Guinea. However, UNHCR's objective to support their return will only be achieved with a marked improvement in the security situation in their areas of origin and safety guarantees for both humanitarian workers and returnees. Offices in Guinea receive regularly new information on the situation in Sierra Leone through UNHCR's office in Freetown. Furthermore, adequate preparation for the return of refugees is indispensable to avoid repeated internal displacement and render reintegration sustainable.

Over the past months, security conditions in Sierra Leone have been difficult to predict and no large-scale repatriation movement seems feasible in the short-term. Nonetheless, if Sierra Leonean refugees opt to repatriate in larger numbers, despite the insecurity in many of their areas of origin, UNHCR might facilitate their repatriation. UNHCR estimates that some 80,000 Sierra Leonean refugees may decide to repatriate in several phases in 2001. Half of these are expected to choose to return on their own (phase I), some 30,000 will receive a repatriation package comprising relief items and a two months

food supply to be distributed upon their return to Sierra Leone (phase II) and an estimated 10,000 persons will also benefit from transport assistance (phase III).

To safeguard the refugees' right to a secure living environment, UNHCR will organise the relocation of over 125,000 refugees residing in camps and urban centres to new sites, well away from the Liberian and Sierra Leonean borders. Refugees will be relocated in various stages from their current places of residence – Forecariah, Guéckédou/Kissidougou and Macenta/N'zérékoré – to the six sites identified in late 2000. Prior to being transferred, refugees will be registered and medically screened. UNHCR's programme will take into account the need for increased material assistance to refugees who will have just moved to the new sites and will not have had the time to find new sources of income or to establish social coping mechanisms.

To ensure better security within the camps, UNHCR will provide support to the Government by providing them with vehicles, fuel, tents, communications equipment and incentives to security personnel. This assistance will allow the Government to ensure the protection of refugees and humanitarian aid workers in the camps as well as organise the screening of refugees and new arrivals to guarantee the civilian nature of the camps.

Until repatriation becomes feasible, UNHCR will support refugees in camps and settlements with basic humanitarian assistance. The programme will emphasise community-based activities in the sectors of health, education and income generation.

Children and adolescents represent over 60 per cent of the refugee population. Many do not attend school because they assist their families in various domestic chores, or because they marry young and have children of their own. UNHCR will therefore intensify its campaign to promote education for young refugees. UNHCR will provide technical and financial support for the Guinean Regional Education Inspectorate to prepare for the enrolment of children in State schools. Intensive French language courses will be given to help prepare refugee children integrate into local schools.

Refugee and local host families care for a large number of children who have become separated from their families. UNHCR will work with the relevant government departments to regularise the legal status of these children. A comprehensive list of all separated children will also be prepared and shared with UNHCR offices in the sub-region with the aim of reuniting them with their families whenever possible.

UNHCR will continue to support income-generating activities initiated in 2000. To facilitate the integration of the refugees within host communities, these projects will benefit both refugee and host families (mainly households headed by

a single adult). Targeted families will be offered loans to enable them to establish small businesses and receive agricultural tools and seeds to allow them to cultivate additional plots of land.

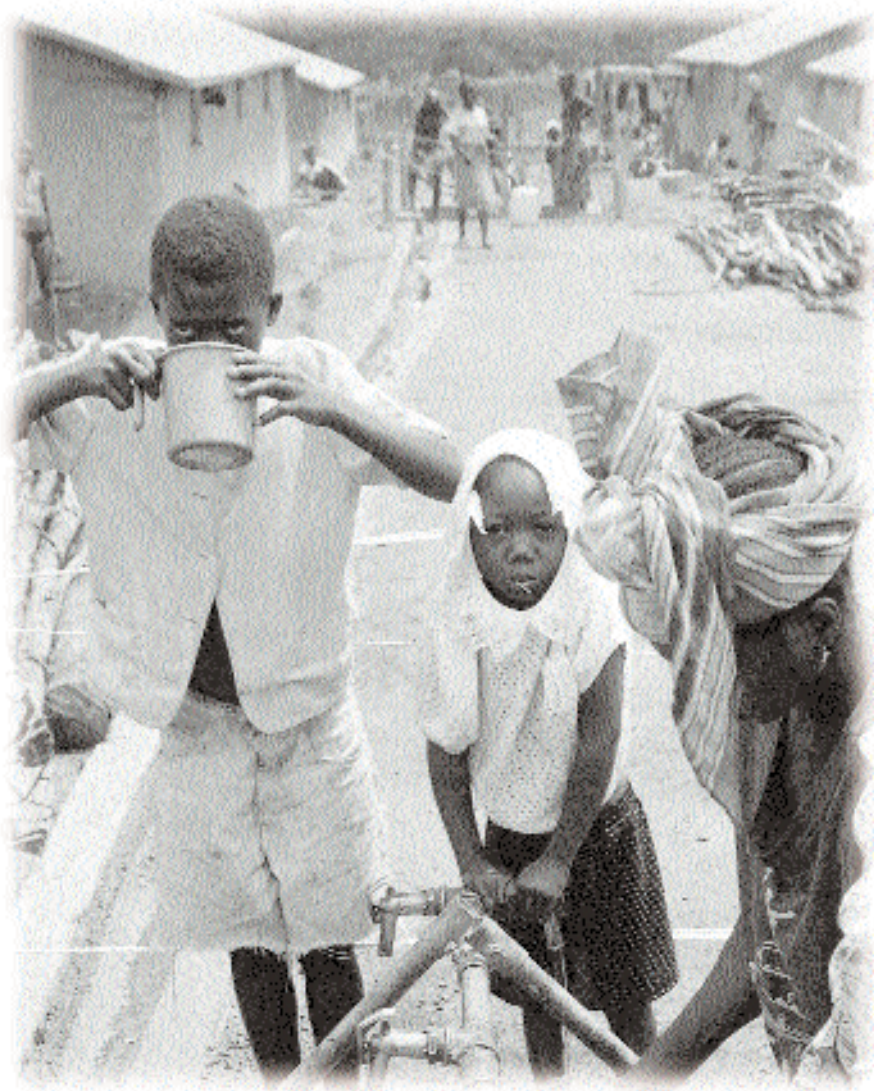
Measures will be taken to enhance the physical safety of women. Latrines and showers will be located closer to shelters so that women can use them without fear of assaults. Counselling points will be set up so women can easily report any incidents of aggression. In 2001 approximately 10,000 refugees will continue to receive support under the victims of violence programme. Individual counselling – and general community development programmes – will benefit victims of atrocities and sexual violence, i.e. those worse affected by the wave of terror that swept their country. UNHCR, implementing partners and members of women's associations will strictly monitor the distribution of food rations in order to ensure that refugee women (and in particular single women heads of households) receive their entitlement.

The environment in Guinea has been affected by the presence of large numbers of refugees. With the arrival of the refugees during the 1990s, the population density in certain prefectures grew ten-fold. A programme for the protection and rehabilitation of the environment will be developed, including the procurement and distribution of heating fuel and the reforestation of areas surrounding the refugee camps. In co-operation with the local authorities, UNHCR will launch a pilot project for the long-term sustainable use of natural and energy sources.

UNHCR key concern is to improve the overall safety of Sierra Leonean refugees in new settlements further away from dangerous border zones while at the same time maintaining an adequate level of humanitarian assistance for them. Although conditions in Sierra Leone are far from ideal, those who wish to repatriate will be helped to do so. As far as possible, UNHCR will direct returning refugees towards safe areas where reintegration assistance is more readily available.

Liberian Refugees

The vast majority of Liberian refugees who remain in Guinea are from Lofa county where rebel activity continues unabated. It is therefore unlikely that large numbers of refugees will choose to repatriate voluntarily any time soon. Nevertheless, increasing tension and associated protection problems in Guinea may prompt some of these refugees to decide to return to other areas in Liberia. In this event, UNHCR may consider facilitating their repatriation and offer limited assistance to receiving communities in Liberia until they can return to their places of origin. UNHCR in Guinea will continue to receive updated information on the situation in Liberia. Once the security situation in Lofa county improves, UNHCR will mount a more organised repatriation operation.



Liberian refugees have suffered from the same security problems as Sierra Leoneans. Repeated incursions from Liberia across the border into Guinea have necessitated special measures, including the relocation of camps away from the border. Following the closure of UNHCR's office in Macenta, the newly established camp of Kouankan (housing approximately 10,000 Liberian refugees) will be administered from N'zérékoré under special security arrangements. UNHCR will provide support for Guinean military patrols that ensure the security of the camp and guarantee its civilian nature.

Over the course of 2000, UNHCR reduced its assistance for health and education while increasingly focusing on income-generating activities to increase refugees' economic independence. In 2001, the Office will strengthen its support for small business initiatives and crop production in order to enhance the refugees' self-reliance during their stay in Guinea, while making them ready to resume a normal life (and reducing their dependency on humanitarian aid) should they choose to return to Liberia.

In co-operation with the *Bureau national de coordination pour les réfugiés* and the *Comité d'éligibilité* UNHCR will organise the status determination of refugees in the N'zérékoré region.

The Office will also ensure that refugees receive identification documents and that they are served by government offices responsible for registering births, marriages and deaths.

By the end of 2000, UNHCR hopes that the precise needs of Liberian refugees in Guinea will be known and that most of them will have found a lasting solution, either through voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement in third countries.

Urban Refugees

UNHCR will continue to seek lasting solutions for urban refugees. Training and support will be provided for the *Comité d'éligibilité*, which will organise the status determination of individual refugees and asylum-seekers.

UNHCR will systematically assess the level of assistance required by recognised refugees and continue its material and financial support for vulnerable persons unable to earn a living. Support for income-generating activities and skills training will increase the economic independence of urban refugees.

The number of refugee street children in Conakry has increased. UNHCR will work with the government and NGOs to ensure that they are brought back to the camps.

UNHCR's main concern is to help urban refugees and asylum-seekers overcome the obstacles to a fair and transparent procedure (concerning their status determination) through advocacy and training of government officials.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

UNHCR Guinea reports to the Regional Directorate for West and Central Africa in Abidjan for programme co-ordination and policy-setting. The technical specialists at the Directorate provide advice on health, sanitation and logistics as well as assistance to women, children and other vulnerable groups.

In Guinea, a total of 129 staff (26 internationals, three Junior Professional Officers and 103 nationals), 16 United Nations Volunteers and two consultants are responsible for nearly half

a million refugees spread over a large number of camps.

UNHCR plans to open a new office in Kissidougou that is to become the main centre for the co-ordination of its operations in the area. The new office in Ouende-Kenema will remain open throughout 2001 and the office in N'zérékoré will be strengthened to support the work related to the relocation of refugees from the Macenta area. The office in Macenta will be closed.

Working and living conditions in Guinea are difficult (poor health and educational facilities), particularly in field locations. As a result, it has not always been possible to fill posts with qualified staff in a timely manner.

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme	Supplementary Programme	Total
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	4,299,924	0	4,299,924
Community Services	2,266,847	50,000	2,316,847
Crop Production	714,646	0	714,646
Domestic Needs/Household Support	232,051	0	232,051
Education	2,837,273	0	2,837,273
Food	6,287	30,000	36,287
Forestry	682,641	0	682,641
Health/Nutrition	1,483,390	200,000	1,683,390
Income Generation	614,309	0	614,309
Legal Assistance	772,353	80,000	852,353
Operational Support (to Agencies)	3,175,964	250,000	3,425,964
Sanitation	434,261	0	434,261
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	481,819	135,000	616,819
Transport/Logistics	7,765,918	2,300,000	10,065,918
Water (non-agricultural)	581,941	0	581,941
Total Operations	26,349,624	3,045,000	29,394,624
Programme Support	2,162,469	0	2,162,469
Total	28,512,093	3,045,000	31,557,093

OFFICES

Conakry	Forecariah
Kindia	Guéckédou
Kissidougou	N'Zérékoré
Ouende-Kenema	

Co-ordination

To ensure good co-ordination, UNHCR organises bi-monthly meetings with its operational partners in Conakry and weekly meetings in Guéckédou, N'zérékoré, and Forecariah. Similar meetings will also be initiated in Kissidougou. UNHCR will continue to encourage all NGOs to participate in the PARInAc process and to implement the new Plan of Action. In 2001 UNHCR plans to work with 16 NGO partners as well as seven government agencies and departments.

UNHCR attends a number of specialised meetings to cover issues such as food distribution and participates in joint food assessment missions (with WFP and other stakeholders i.e.s the IMF, UNICEF, UNIDO and the Government of Guinea); as well as assessments carried out on the environment (with UNDP, UNEP and a donor government).

An additional important component of co-ordination is the exchange of information among UNHCR offices in the region. To obtain up-to-date information on the countries of return (Sierra Leone and Liberia), UNHCR Guinea will continue to maintain regular contact with offices in both countries. Cross-border missions will also be organised, security permitting.

PARTNERS

Government Agencies

Bureau national de coordination pour les Réfugiés
 Direction nationale des Eaux et Forêts
 Direction préfectorale de la Santé
 Inspection régionale de l'Agriculture, des Eaux et Forêts
 Ministère de l'Intérieur
 Ministère du Plan
 Ministère de l'Information

NGOs

Action contre la Faim
 American Refugee Committee
 Association pour le développement de la riziculture et du palmier
 CARE
 Centre canadien d'études et de coopération internationale
 Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
 Croix rouge guinéenne
 Enfants réfugiés du monde
 Enterprise Works Worldwide
 Environnement et développement-action et coopération
 Handicap International
 Médecins sans frontières (B)
 Organisation pour le développement intégré communautaire
 Service chrétien d'animation pour le développement des œuvres sociales et de secours
 Transcultural Psycho-social Organisation

Other

International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
 United Nations Volunteers