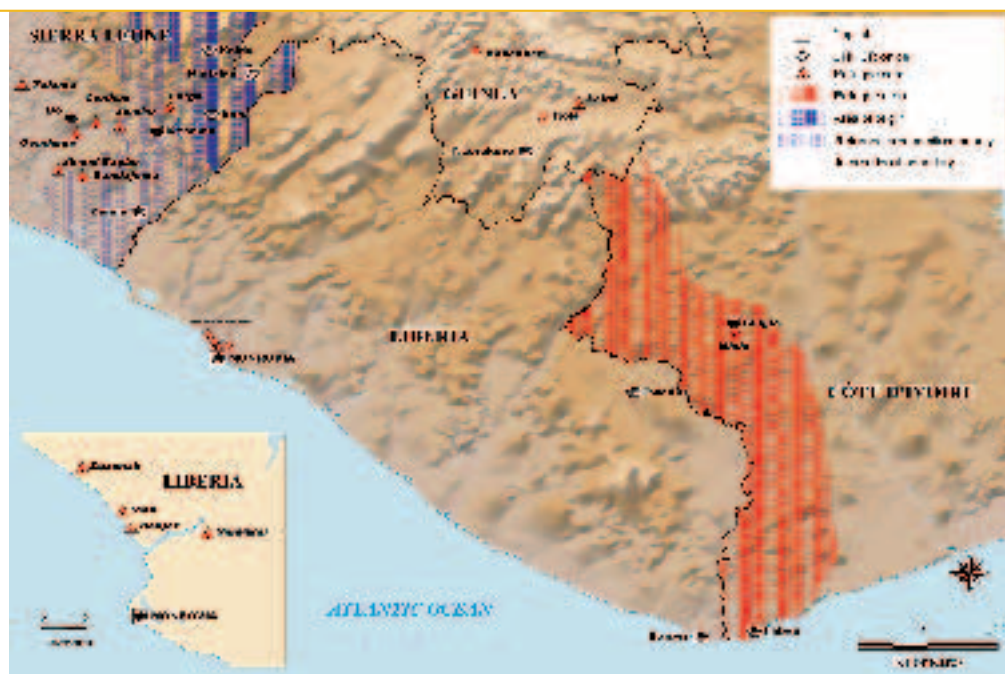


Liberia

Main objectives

Protect camp-based and urban Sierra Leonean refugees as well as internally displaced Liberians living in the vicinity of the refugee camps, and provide them with basic humanitarian assistance; increase refugees' self-reliance and their capacity to reintegrate when they return home; facilitate the repatriation of individuals who express the wish to return; provide refugees with comprehensive information on repatriation and reintegration options on the basis of country of origin information; adapt existing strategies and programmes to respond effectively to the influx of refugees into eastern Liberia produced by the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire; continue to monitor and effectively respond to incidences of sexual harassment of refugee children and women.



Impact

- Protection and life-saving assistance comprising water, food, shelter, health, and sanitation were provided to more than 19,000 Ivorian refugees in eastern Liberia in October. Similar assistance was provided to over 40,000 Liberians

Persons of Concern

Main Origin / Type of Population	Total In Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
IDPs	238,900	-	18	-
Sierra Leone (Refugees)	45,700	26,500	53	60
Returnees (from Côte d'Ivoire)	21,900	11,000	51	-
Côte d'Ivoire (Refugees)	19,200	19,200	52	61

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme, Trust Funds and Supplementary Programme Budgets

	Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
AB and TF	8,658,576	2,807,193	5,806,550	8,613,743	8,544,741
SB	48,000	0	48,000	48,000	42,889
Total	8,706,576	2,807,193	5,854,550	8,661,743	8,587,630

¹ Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments. The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

who had sought asylum in Côte d'Ivoire and repatriated spontaneously due to the conflict. They were transported to their places of origin when conditions were safe enough, otherwise to internally displaced persons (IDP) camps.

- Over 26,000 Sierra Leonean refugees who relocated to six camps in Cape Mount and Montserrado Counties (following a rebel attack on the Sinje camps) received emergency assistance and benefited from UNHCR's protection activities.
- 13,000 Sierra Leonean refugees benefited from organised repatriation assistance while an estimated 5,617 repatriated spontaneously.
- A number of multi-sectoral activities were carried out to prevent and respond to the problem of sexual harassment of refugee children and women. These included the construction of separate toilet facilities to improve security for children and women, the prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases and awareness raising workshops.
- UNHCR assisted 16 out of 45 registered urban refugees with health care, education and a regular subsistence allowance. Six urban refugee children were supported in primary school. Twenty-four urban refugee women received micro-loans, which enhanced their self-sufficiency.
- With UNHCR's support, refugees and other persons of concern were able to rely on a more sustainable means of livelihood.

Working environment

The context

The continuing war in Liberia has uprooted families and destroyed village and community infrastructure in many parts of the country. The spread of the war, which threatened to engulf the capital, Monrovia, has had a profound effect on economic activity and instilled a general state of fear in the population. In 2002, there was a massive internal population displacement, affecting an estimated 150,000 persons. The Sierra Leone refugee camps in Sinje (Grand Cape Mount County) were attacked and destroyed by dissidents in June, forcing thousands of refugees and Liberians to flee. Some 30,000 refugees sought sanctuary in Montserrado County, where they

had to share facilities with IDPs. The meagre resources available were soon overwhelmed. Security conditions in Liberia created a push factor for many Sierra Leoneans previously unsure about returning home. 13,383 repatriated through emergency evacuation procedures, while 5,617 returned spontaneously.

Towards the end of the year, the conflict in neighbouring Côte d'Ivoire introduced a new dimension to the Liberia situation. Thousands of Liberians who had sought asylum in that country have been returning spontaneously to Liberia alongside some 30,000 Ivorian nationals, fearing for their lives. The situation in the affected border area remains highly volatile, with no real prospect of an early return to stability.

Constraints

UNHCR is operating in an environment characterised by high unemployment and extreme poverty. The majority of the local citizens are destitute and cannot even afford their own basic sustenance. The ongoing war constantly disrupts economic activity. Basic services (electricity, piped water) are still non-existent. Roads are in a deplorable condition, sometimes unusable.

The physical environment imposes critical logistical and security constraints, which seriously hamper UNHCR and implementing partners' ability to deliver services effectively. The highway linking Liberia to Sierra Leone was closed several times due to hostilities, causing UNHCR to suspend repatriation by road, and resort to the uneconomical option of transport by sea.

Funding

In view of the funding shortfall, it was a major challenge to provide even a minimum standard of basic services. Without doubt, funding constraints have impaired UNHCR's ability to achieve durable solutions for the beneficiary population. The immediate effect of this situation is usually felt in key sectors such as food, education and community services. The food ration distributed to refugees was less than adequate. The average ration in 2002 was 1,800 kilocalories per person per day. In the area of education, funds were insufficient to meet the educational needs of all school-age refugee children. As a result, the arrival in Sinje and

Montserrado camps of an additional 456 school-aged children from Guinea increased the pressure on the already limited resources.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

With the assistance of UNHCR, 78,831 Liberians returned in dignity and safety. Incidences of harassment, intimidation, and extortion were minimised. These returnees were provided with food and medical assistance before transportation to their places of origin. 46,500 Ivorian refugees were provided with transportation from entry points to transit centres, thereby ensuring their security during movement.

Refugees, often regarded in a negative light because they were perceived to be potential participants in the ongoing conflicts, had difficulties to settle locally. Efforts were therefore made by the Office to ensure that they could live in harmony with host communities. As a result of these efforts, there was a reduction in cases of harassment, extortion and other violence against refugees as well as arbitrary arrests and cases of detention.

In its efforts to protect and assist the refugees, UNHCR worked in close collaboration with its partners, both governmental and non-governmental. A particular effort has been placed on the fight against SGBV. In this regard, the Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC), UNHCR's government counterpart, played a leading role in ensuring the prosecution of perpetrators of crimes, including gender-based violence. Various implementing partners were mainly engaged in advocacy and counselling on SGBV, the tracing of unaccompanied minors, and reuniting them with their parents or close relatives.

In the area of resettlement, the branch office managed to process more than 10 applications for resettlement, mainly from among the Sudanese refugee population in Liberia. During the period under review, three refugees with special medical problems were submitted for consideration. The formation of a Resettlement Committee greatly improved the selection process.

As part of capacity-building for government officials, NGOs and UNHCR staff, workshops, symposia and

round table discussions were conducted for more than 1,200 participants.

Activities and assistance

Community services: 339 refugees received skills training in income-generating activities. 80 per cent of these are women and adolescent girls. Single parents benefited from support for income generation activities including: food preservation, fabric colouring and sale, soap production and sale, poultry farming, pig raising, tailoring, arts and crafts, baking and needlework. 75 refugee women were targeted to benefit from adult literacy. They were trained so that they in turn can carry adult literacy to more women in the camps. Over 3,000 refugees with special needs, including vulnerable children and women, received assistance, including psycho-social counselling, supplementary food, non-food items and financial assistance. Child peer educators (40 children) were recruited and trained to provide support and counselling to their peers in the areas of child rights, prevention and response to SGBV, monitoring of child rights issues, and reproductive health, including HIV/AIDS prevention. These training activities were carried out in collaboration with two NGOs in the area of prevention and response to SGBV, and child protection and child rights.

Some 500 refugees and rural host community families were trained in the production of energy-saving stoves, the cultivation of tree seedlings and other basic environmental protection activities. Seed nursery tools and other items were distributed to four refugee schools, and three participating communities. About 900 educational booklets produced by an NGO partner were distributed. UNHCR funding ensured that all refugees attended schools, and some 14 schools in urban Montserrado conducted environmental awareness raising activities. 450 refugee school pupils were trained in vegetable nursery development and gardening. 500 refugees and local farmers were trained in the production of energy-saving stoves, growing of tree seedlings and other environmental protection activities.

Crop production: Over 1,500 refugees and local community farm families were provided with farm tools, seeds and planting materials. Refugees cleared a total of 918.7 hectares of land of which 64.25

hectares were used in the production of assorted vegetable crops, and 337.5 hectares for roots and tubers. There was some reduction in these areas of productivity as a result of the 20 June 2002 attack on Sinje I and II camps which closed the camps. Over 350 women were organised into co-operative groups and actively participated in the cultivation of vegetables, root and tuber crops. They enjoyed a yield of more than 9,200 metric tons, recording less than 20 per cent harvest loss. The Government of Liberia allocated plots of land free-of-charge to the refugees for agriculture purposes. The agricultural sector is directly implemented by a UNHCR-hired agronomist who works in collaboration with the technical unit of a partner organisation.

Domestic needs/household support: Non-food items were distributed to 703 refugees who were relocated to various camps in Montserrado County (via 319 family heads). These included urgently needed basic commodities: blankets, plastic mats, jerry cans, and soap. All refugees received basic non-food items to help reduce their vulnerability.

Education: An estimated 456 school-aged children and their parents were forced to flee to the Sinje and Montserrado refugee camps as a result of the conflict. These included families from Guinea and those who had returned earlier and settled in Lofa. The additional school children later enrolled in the refugee schools but this had some effect on the resources allocated for the year, as they had not been previously budgeted for. Almost 1,600 adults, including teachers, participated in community peace education workshops and teacher training. As part of efforts to promote gender equality at the primary education level, a woman was appointed as principal of one of the five camp refugee schools and eight female teachers were employed. 374 girls participated in a girls' social club and engaged in skills-training and income generation activities. About 75 secondary school graduates pursued professional/ technical education under the Education Assistance Programme. 280 former combatants from Sierra Leone and adults received vocational/skills training in: carpentry, masonry, plumbing, electrical work, typing, and tailoring. 27 beneficiaries of the DAFI scholarship project continued their studies at two tertiary institutions in Monrovia. Three of them repatriated later in the year, and two continued to pursue their studies in

two tertiary institutions in Freetown, and are still benefiting from the DAFI project which supports students in the form of paying subsistence and living allowances, as well as tuition, and registration fees, and book allowances.

Food: Food was distributed on a monthly basis to 22,500 refugees in all camps (equivalent to 1,800 kilocalories per person per day, which is below the UNHCR standard of 1,900 kilocalories per person per day and essential nutrients). Food basket monitoring was undertaken, focusing on the efficiency of the distribution and quantitative control of the rations given to the refugees at the final distribution point in the various centres. Supplementary feeding was provided to vulnerable refugees. Special school feeding was suspended after two months of assistance. Therapeutic feeding for children under the age of five was also implemented.

Health/nutrition: There were a total of 1,215 referrals of which 645 were for emergency and elective reasons. In terms of disease prevalence, the situation was as follows: Malaria 56.5 per cent, respiratory tract infection 21.1 per cent, skin infection 6.6 per cent, diarrhoea 5.9 per cent, sexually transmitted diseases 4.9 per cent, intestinal parasites 2.8 per cent, and hypertension 2.5 per cent. The mortality rate for under fives was 1.2 per 1000 refugees per month. The crude mortality rate accounted for 0.3 deaths per 1000 refugees per month. All refugee children under five living in camps were immunised during the year.

Income generation: Small business grants were provided to a number of urban refugees to enable them to pursue income generation activities.

Legal assistance: Fifteen workshops and two round-table discussions were held on the international protection of refugees for security officials. UNHCR staff participated in four workshops on the general principles of international protection. Fifty applications were received for resettlement. After screening done by the Liberian Resettlement Committee, 10 cases were recommended and processed for resettlement, five of which were accepted. 13,500 refugees were assisted to repatriate in dignity and in safety. 50 police officers were trained and deployed in all the refugee camps for the protection of the refugees. Thirty of them received legal representation in



Voluntary repatriation of Liberians from Côte d'Ivoire. Some of the refugees were transported to their places of origin. *UNHCR/B. Heger*

court on cases involving other refugees. Out of the thirty cases, ten were related to rape and other violence against women. Out of the 10 rape cases, one was found guilty and was imprisoned for one year. In all except the one case that was sentenced to jail, and five other cases on rape and other forms of violence against women which are still pending the court's decision, the rest have been dismissed for want of evidence. Because of the legal proceedings against the perpetrators of SGBV and other crimes, refugees are now aware that if their rights are abused they can receive redress. Refugees appearing in a court of law have access to legal counsel. Once again, crimes of this nature in the camps were drastically reduced during the reporting period.

Livestock: Training was provided to over 75 refugee women in poultry production management in two camps (Samukai and VOA). About 200 young chickens were given to refugee women in Samukai and VOA camp, and were raised until maturity. The poultry raised were either sold, generating income for the refugee women concerned, or consumed, improving their protein intake. In addition, 20 women in Samukai camp were trained in pig-rearing.

Operational support (to agencies): The administrative costs of implementing partners were covered: salaries, utilities, office equipment, supplies and office rental. Regular co-ordination meetings were held



on a monthly basis with the aim of alleviating operational constraints.

Sanitation: Sanitation facilities were constructed including 20 four-block well-ventilated pit latrines (VIP), and 72 existing latrines were rehabilitated. 47 new bath houses were constructed and another 48 rehabilitated. As part of the hygiene-awareness drive, 18 garbage pits and 61 garbage bins were established in the camps to benefit all the refugee population. Fumigation of the camps was undertaken twice in 2002. Other achievements included: reduced distances between housing and sanitation facilities and improved security for women and children.

Shelter/other infrastructure: Following the attack on Sinje in June 2002, plastic sheeting was distributed to 600 refugees from Sinje who were relocated to Monrovia. In 2002, 113 new shelters were constructed for vulnerable refugees and 264 were rehabilitated. About 99 huts for adolescents were also constructed.

Transport/logistics: Twenty-three UNHCR trucks and six EU trucks were used to transport 43,836 Liberian returnees from the border with Côte d'Ivoire and for the transport of construction materials and other non-food items. Mechanical workshops in Monrovia carried out maintenance of trucks, light vehicles and motorcycles. A warehouse was maintained for the storage of non-food items for refugees. UNHCR's implementing partner was requested to rehabilitate eight wooden bridges to facilitate the access to the border areas where the transit centres were located. Two rafts were constructed to carry persons of concern to UNHCR across two rivers separating Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. In addition, water points and sanita-

tion facilities were constructed under the Emergency Programme.

Water: Through the use of existing hand pumps, UNHCR provided 15 litres of water, per person, per day. In 2002, seven new wells were constructed, 17 were rehabilitated, and 29 hand pumps repaired. Refugees had adequate potable water within walking distance to the water point.

Organisation and implementation

Management

The Liberia Programme in 2002 operated from the branch office in Monrovia. In June, a security incident at Sinje, Grand Cape Mount County, caused UNHCR operations in that region to close down. There was no change in the situation during the rest of the year. In the context of the staff development scheme, workshops on stress management, first aid, French, computer courses, as well as leadership, time management, and UNHCR programme management workshops were provided to all national staff. UNHCR Liberia had a total of 42 staff at the beginning of 2002; 10 international and 32 national staff. By December 2002, this number increased to 79 staff, comprising 23 international and 56 national staff. The increase in staff was due to the Ivorian emergency, from September 2002. These members of staff managed the overall direction of the country programme and monitored the repatriation, as well as care and maintenance projects.

Working with others

In 2002, UNHCR forged a closer collaboration with other UN Agencies, and national and international NGOs. Weekly co-ordination meetings were organised on the Ivorian emergency involving all UN agencies, international and local NGOs. UNHCR collaborated with WFP in providing food to Sierra Leonean and Ivorian refugees, and Liberian returnees. UNHCR also collaborated with FAO in providing assistance to refugee farmers. UNHCR continued its participation in the CAP process along with other UN agencies. At the level of the UN Country Team, UNHCR actively contributed to

information-sharing and security briefings at the meetings chaired by the UN Resident Co-ordinator.

UNHCR worked with UNICEF and Save the Children on institutional capacity-building on Action on the Rights of the Child (ARC). To this end, UNHCR participated in several ARC meetings and workshops at the local and international levels. AIDS awareness campaigns continued through the UN Thematic Group on HIV/AIDS. The sectoral activities of UNHCR's programme were implemented through its Government counterpart LRRRC and 14 implementing partners (five international and nine national).

Overall assessment

UNHCR's assistance programme to various refugee populations chalked up some significant achievements. A total of 13,000 Sierra Leonean refugees were repatriated with UNHCR's assistance, while some 5,617 repatriated spontaneously. About 2,500 vulnerable refugees received psycho-social services including counselling. Other appropriate services such as education, health, food, water and sanitation were provided to meet minimum standards of care and maintenance. Significant strides were also made to prevent and respond to the problems associated with SGBV – by the construction of separate sanitation facilities for refugee women and children, prosecution of perpetrators, and awareness raising workshops. These initiatives greatly minimised incidents of sexual harassment and SGBV among refugees. The progress in implementing refugee programmes was, however, disrupted by various security incidents.

Offices

Monrovia

Harper

Zwedru

Partners

Government Agencies

Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission

NGOs

Community Action Programme

Community Empowerment Programme

Don Bosco Rehabilitation and Skills Training Programme

Family Empowerment Programme

International Rescue Committee

Liberia Environmental Care Organisation

Liberia Islamic Union for Reconstruction and Development

Liberians United to Serve Humanity

Lutheran World Federation/World Service

Medical Emergency Relief Co-operative International

Save the Children (UK)

Women in Progress for Community Services

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Financial Report (USD)						
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects			Prior Years' Projects		
	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total	Notes	Annual Programme Budget	Notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	594,372	0	594,372		371	
Community Services	83,666	0	83,666		128,383	
Crop Production	20,933	0	20,933		8,775	
Domestic Needs/Household Support	531,996	0	531,996		29,138	
Education	310,600	0	310,600		291,504	
Food	10,186	0	10,186		33,493	
Forestry	0	0	0		7,028	
Health/Nutrition	112,285	0	112,285		218,042	
Income Generation	300	0	300		425	
Legal Assistance	156,068	0	156,068		80,389	
Livestock	5,042	0	0		0	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	359,196	0	359,196		264,699	
Sanitation	34,901	0	34,901		24,628	
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	229,988	0	229,988		26,191	
Transport/Logistics	1,543,556	0	1,543,556		187,120	
Water	12,736	0	12,736		7,521	
Transit Accounts	0	0	0		(14,123)	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	2,124,585	0	2,124,585		(1,133,795)	
Sub-total Operational	6,130,411	0	6,130,411		159,788	
Programme Support	1,761,918	24,492	1,786,410		24,479	
Sub-total Disbursements/Deliveries	7,892,329	24,492	7,916,821	(3)	184,267	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	652,412	18,397	670,809	(3)	0	(5)
Total	8,544,741	42,889	8,587,630	(1) (3)	184,267	
Instalments with Implementing Partners						
Payments Made	3,699,486	0	3,699,486		167,828	
Reporting Received	1,574,901	0	1,574,901		1,301,623	
Balance	2,124,585	0	2,124,585		(1,133,795)	
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		1,390,508	
Refunded to UNHCR	0	0	0		39,835	
Currency Adjustment	0	0	0		0	
Outstanding 31 December	2,124,585	0	2,124,585		216,879	
Unliquidated Obligations						
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		221,056	(5)
New Obligations	8,544,741	42,889	8,587,630	(1)	0	
Disbursements	7,892,329	24,492	7,916,822	(3)	184,267	(5)
Cancellations	0	0	0		0	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	652,412	18,397	670,809	(3)	36,789	(5)
Figures which cross-reference to Accounts:						
(1) Annex to Statement 1						
(3) Schedule 3						
(5) Schedule 5						