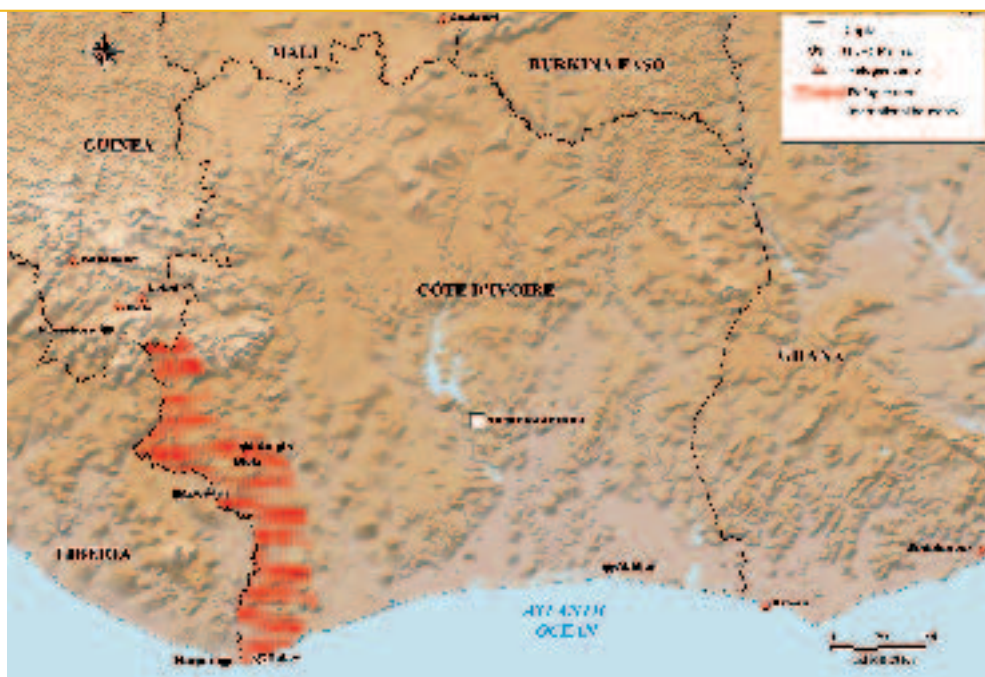


Côte d'Ivoire

Main objectives

Consolidate local integration of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly those living in the *Zone d'Accueil des Réfugiés* (ZAR) in the west of the country; improve the legal integration of refugees, including urban refugees, by registering the entire refugee population, and ensuring that they hold appropriate Ivorian government identity documents; expand operations to ensure that newly arrived Liberian refugees have access to protection and life sustaining material assistance; identify suitable sites and install basic infrastructure in the vital sectors of water and sanitation; strengthen protection at entry points, transit centres and camps and enhance transport capacity to move refugees from border areas; adapt existing strategies and programmes to respond effectively to the needs of



urban refugees who were displaced in the aftermath of the attempted *coup d'état*, and to persons of concern to UNHCR who were affected by the spread of the conflict to the provinces of the ZAR; collaborate with humanitarian actors to ensure a co-ordinated response to the needs of these populations; facilitate voluntary repatriation of Liberian

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin / Type of Population	Total In Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
IDPs	100,000	-	70	-
Liberia (Refugees)	43,000	43,000	53	48
Asylum-seekers	1,140	1,140	43	25
ROC (Refugees)	580	580	49	48

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme and Supplementary Programme Budgets					
	Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
AB	6,360,550	400,000	5,916,889	6,316,889	6,316,889
SB	3,371,372	1,055,098	1,441,018	2,496,116	2,496,117
Total	9,731,922	1,455,098	7,357,907	8,813,005	8,813,006

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. The above figures include budget and costs related to the Regional Office (for details, please refer to the Regional Overview).

refugees to stable regions of their country and facilitate the return of individual urban refugees to their country of origin.

Impact

- In May and June, UNHCR individually registered 45,000 refugees in the ZAR, transit centres and urban areas and continued to promote the local integration of 43,000 Liberian refugees through the construction of supplementary classrooms.
- A total of 18,462 new arrivals from Liberia were protected and assisted in the Danane transit centre and in Nicla camp, where they received shelter, food, domestic items, health care and benefited from agricultural projects. Endeavours to identify sites to settle newly arriving refugees in the ZAR were interrupted by the crisis. In due course, security concerns following the attempted *coup d'état* in September led to the curtailment of planned activities aimed at integration in the ZAR. Accordingly, resources were shifted to provide emergency assistance to urban refugees in transit centres in Abidjan and in Nicla camp.
- Following the outbreak of the crisis, UNHCR assisted the transfer of some 50 urban refugees from rebel-held Bouaké and Korhogo to

Abidjan. Seven new transit centres were established in Abidjan following the demolition of shanty towns in security operations. Every effort was made to urgently relocate refugees from war-affected zones, by collaborating with Ivorian authorities to identify safe sites in other parts of the country. For those refugees for whom protection would be better addressed outside Côte d'Ivoire, efforts were made to find countries in the region that would accept them and alternative options were also explored for resettlement outside the region.

- A total of 27 Liberian refugees were assisted to repatriate from Abidjan to Monrovia. 86 refugees of other nationalities (Sierra Leone, Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Chad) were assisted to return voluntarily to their countries of origin.

Working environment

The context

Côte d'Ivoire has been marked by socio-political tension since the December 1999 military coup, the first in the country's history. The semblance of normality that returned, following presidential and legislative elections in 2000, was shattered last September by a second attempted *coup d'état* that provoked a full-scale civil war. The country was soon divided, with the north in the hands of the rebels and the south under Government control. The ensuing conflict created unprecedented social upheaval with significant population movements within and across its borders. The western provinces, which have a long-standing tradition of hosting refugees from neighbouring countries – and harboured some 70,000 at the time of the attempted coup – were severely affected.

Prior to the outbreak of hostilities, the Government had embarked on an initiative to rehabilitate refugee-hosting areas, with technical and



After years in exile, Liberian refugees voluntarily repatriated, with UNHCR's assistance, to their home country. UNHCR / G. Fardanesh

financial support from UNDP and UNHCR. The project was part of the country's poverty alleviation strategy aimed at improving the lives of communities through economic and social development activities, and through the strengthening of border security in the western region of Côte d'Ivoire. The rehabilitation project was suspended because of the conflict.

Constraints

The lack of national asylum legislation and identity documents remained a handicap in searching for lasting solutions for refugees in Côte d'Ivoire. This situation compelled UNHCR and the Ivorian authorities to look for practical solutions on a case-by-case basis, in particular for urban refugees and those not granted refugee status on a *prima facie* basis.

The ongoing conflict contributed to a rapid deterioration of the security situation. Access to refugees deteriorated in the western border area, exposing them to protection problems. This became particularly worrying in Man, Danané and Tulepleu, where UNHCR had only limited access to the remaining refugees.

Funding

The funding crisis in the last quarter of 2002 had a negative impact on all operations in the country. It was particularly difficult to serve the population of urban refugees displaced by the destruction of shanty towns. This group was given protection, shelter and basic assistance.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

UNHCR remained particularly concerned about the physical security of refugees in the western zones of Côte d'Ivoire especially in Nicla camp, which straddles the separation line between government and rebel-held areas. Further risks to the physical security of refugees emanated from increasingly hostile local public opinion, fuelled, in part, by allegations of the involvement of foreign combatants in the hostilities.

The National Eligibility Commission (*Commission nationale d'éligibilité*) was reinforced in August and is now responsible for refugee status determination.

Activities and assistance

Community services: The identification, assistance and follow-up of vulnerable cases were almost routine tasks in the different refugee settlement areas. Training activities for women were organised to encourage them to take up income-generating activities. Public awareness campaigns were organised in the ZAR on HIV/AIDS and in the context of the Education for Peace programme. Condoms were made available for the refugee community.

Crop production: Additional support was given to refugee farmers to enable them to increase their rice and vegetable output (and sell the surplus). Ivorians who made their land available to refugees also benefited from this programme.

Domestic needs/household support: Refugees living in the transit centres in Abidjan and newly arrived refugees in Nicla were given domestic items, as were various categories of vulnerable refugees. The items were delivered to them following home visit assessments made by community services assistants.

Education: The sensitisation campaign continued on the integration of Liberian children into the Ivorian education system in the ZAR with the cooperation of UNICEF, WFP and the Ministry of National Education. Vocational and other types of training were offered to some 300 youth in the ZAR, who unfortunately did not receive their certificates due to the eruption of the conflict. One-off assistance was given to the parents of 130 urban refugee children (for primary school attendance) and 65 adults (for vocational training). 30 students received a grant from DAFI.

Food: Newly arrived refugees in Danané transit centre received food assistance (prior to transfer to Nicla) as did refugees in the transit centres in Abidjan. After arrival in Nicla, the new refugees continued to receive food from WFP.

Health/nutrition: Generally, refugees are given access to health services in state-run facilities in Abidjan as

well as in the ZAR. UNHCR covers the cost of consultation and medication. In 2002, some 490 vulnerable urban refugees received medical assistance. In Nicla transit centre, a medical centre supervised by a doctor took care of all sick refugees for a modest fee. In the government health centres in the ZAR, medical evacuations authorised by the medical coordinator were paid for by UNHCR. Fifty per cent of hospitalisation costs were also covered by UNHCR. A nutritional centre for underfed children operated in Nicla. Occasionally, in exceptional circumstances, UNHCR would provide subsistence assistance for 287 urban refugee families.

Income generation: Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees benefited from a micro-project programme in the ZAR. The programme aimed to help them become self-sufficient. Two vocational training projects continued functioning in the ZAR to give refugees the ability to compete for jobs.

Legal assistance: UNHCR worked closely with the Government on all aspects of refugee protection both in the field and at the central (Abidjan) level. Joint teams, including technical experts, were deployed to undertake screening and individual registration of refugees. UNHCR assisted the Government to strengthen the National Eligibility Commission and work on a law on asylum. The National Eligibility Commission reviewed 166 individual cases involving 14 nationalities. Training activities were organised for government representatives.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR provided 20 computers, 15 laptops, 25 generators, five ambulances, other means of transportation and air conditioners to implementing partners and the local authorities. One UNV reinforced UNHCR's capacity in the field of information systems. Training on database management and support in recruiting information technology staff was provided to UNHCR's government counterpart. Financial review of implementing partner accounts for 2001 and 2002 followed by appropriate recommendations to improve their financial and administrative procedures were made. The governmental agency was assisted in improving their administrative and financial procedures.

Sanitation: Showers and latrines were set up in the sites in Abidjan and Nicla. Soap was distributed to the refugees.

Shelter/other infrastructure: Shelter was provided to newly arrived Liberian refugees in Nicla camp, while 50 refugees from Bouaké and 1,090 refugees in Abidjan were given shelter in Abidjan.

Transport/logistics: A total of 68 urban refugees were given a travel allowance to facilitate their movement in Abidjan. Another 1,140 displaced refugees in Abidjan were transferred to established UNHCR transit centres. 113 refugees received assistance to return to their country of origin (27 Liberian refugees, 13 urban refugees and 73 Sierra Leonean refugees).

Water: Refugees were supplied with water according to UNHCR standards in the transit centres in Abidjan as well as in the site in Nicla.

Organisation and implementation

Management

UNHCR's programme in Côte d'Ivoire for 2002 was implemented by a small team in Abidjan and a field office in Guiglo (26 international and 47 national staff). A small subsidiary office (antenna) was opened in Tabou, for operational needs the former field office there was already closed.

Working with others

In 2002, UNHCR worked closely with its governmental counterpart, *Service d'aide et d'assistance aux réfugiés et apatrides* (SAARA) as well as some other local and international NGOs such as *l'Association de soutien à l'auto-promotion sanitaire et urbaine* (ASAPSU), *Ananda Marga Universal Relief* (AMURT), Caritas, GTZ, IOM, *Mission évangélique de Dieu en Christ de Côte d'Ivoire* (MEDEC), and Save the Children UK. As a consequence of the prevailing crisis, existing inter-agency co-ordination mechanisms with WFP and UNICEF were reinforced.

Overall assessment

During 2002, UNHCR's activities continued with the full involvement of the authorities via SAARA, the Office's governmental counterpart. Programmes

were implemented with the assistance of seven other partners. Several co-ordination meeting and training sessions were organised for government counterparts and operational partners. In mid-2002, a joint UNHCR/Government registration exercise was concluded successfully. Unfortunately the outbreak of hostilities following the attempted *coup d'état* in September led to the suspension of the issuing of documentation to the largely self-reliant refugee population. Likewise, there was an interruption of activities aimed at enabling integration of refugee children into the education system and programmes to enhance access to basic services in the refugee hosting area (ZAR) in the west of the country. The deteriorating security situation and the general hostility towards foreigners forced many refugees to return spontaneously to Liberia. UNHCR's operations therefore had to be re-focused to address the emergency situation. Where access to remaining refugee groups was possible, UNHCR provided emergency assistance, including to some 2,000 urban refugees, a large number of whom fled to Abidjan or became homeless after the destruction of the shanty towns in which they were living. Efforts were made to relocate a growing number of refugees, hosted in an unsafe location in Nicla camp in the western part of the country.

At the end of 2002, the situation of the 40,000 mainly Liberian refugees remaining in Côte d'Ivoire was still precarious.

Offices
Abidjan
Guiglo
Tabou

Partners
Government Agencies
<i>Service d'aide et d'assistance aux réfugiés et apatrides</i>
NGOs
<i>Ananda Marga Universal Relief</i>
<i>Association de soutien à l'auto-promotion sanitaire et urbaine</i>
<i>Caritas</i>
<i>Mission évangélique de Dieu en Christ de Côte d'Ivoire</i>
<i>Save the Children (UK)</i>
Others
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
<i>IOM</i>

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects			Prior Years' Projects		
	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget	Total	Notes	Annual Programme and Supplementary Programme Budgets	Notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	816,641	90,562	907,203		2,913	
Community Services	11,283	738	12,021		70,386	
Crop Production	13,015	0	13,015		38,037	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	12,701	138,341	151,042		28,128	
Education	46,544	0	46,544		1,296,729	
Food	855	47	901		2,431	
Health / Nutrition	65,872	2,378	68,250		192,411	
Income Generation	2,101	0	2,101		7,000	
Legal Assistance	220,224	54,585	274,810		152,682	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	110,061	1,675	111,736		253,592	
Sanitation	2,204	0	2,204		8,597	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	10,137	727,155	737,291		35,291	
Transport / Logistics	125,249	195,297	320,547		112,329	
Water	0	3,679	3,679		4,542	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	699,348	735,384	1,434,732		(1,988,786)	
Sub-total Operational	2,136,235	1,949,841	4,086,076		216,281	
Programme Support	3,719,487	0	3,719,487		76,412	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	5,855,722	1,949,841	7,805,563	(3)	292,693	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	461,167	546,276	1,007,443	(3)	0	(5)
Total	6,316,889	2,496,117	8,813,006	(1) (3)	292,693	
Instalments with Implementing Partners						
Payments Made	997,500	880,950	1,878,450		133,416	
Reporting Received	298,152	145,566	443,718		2,122,202	
Balance	699,348	735,384	1,434,732		(1,988,786)	
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		2,302,553	
Refunded to UNHCR	0	(241)	(241)		31,560	
Currency Adjustment	0	0	0		(29,860)	
Outstanding 31 December	699,348	735,143	1,434,491		252,347	
Unliquidated Obligations						
Outstanding 1st January	0	0	0		403,167	(5)
New Obligations	6,316,889	2,496,117	8,813,006	(1)	0	
Disbursements	5,855,722	1,949,841	7,805,563	(3)	292,693	(5)
Cancellations	0	0	0		110,474	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	461,167	546,276	1,007,443	(3)	0	(5)
Figures which cross-reference to Accounts: (1) Annex to Statement 1 (3) Schedule 3 (5) Schedule 5 Includes costs related to the Regional Office in Abidjan						