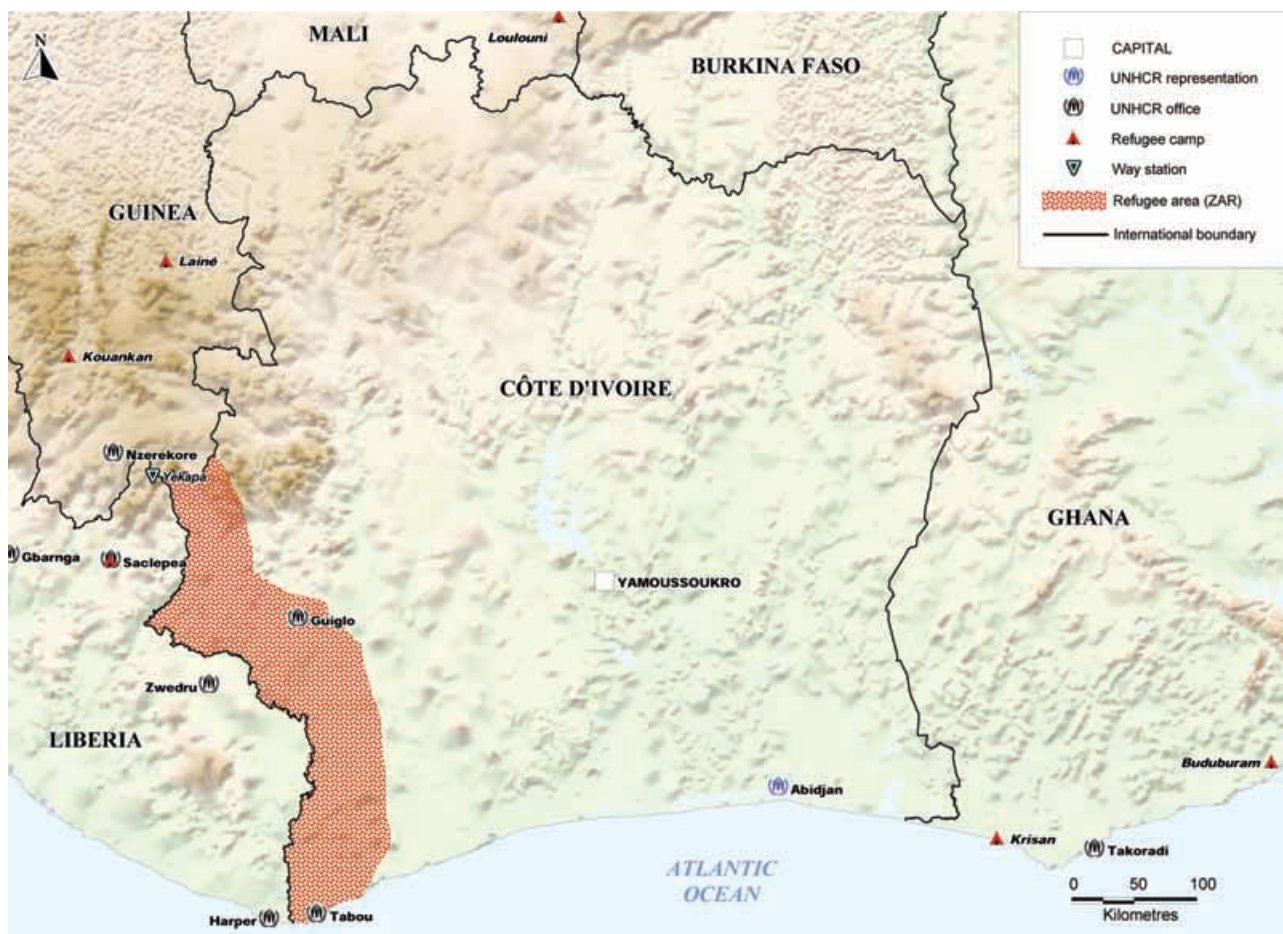


CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Operational highlights

- UNHCR helped some 870 refugees who returned spontaneously from neighbouring countries to reintegrate in Côte d'Ivoire.
- The National Eligibility Committee held 30 sessions and processed some 650 asylum claims (882 persons), with a 48 per cent rate of recognition.
- More than 90 cases were identified for resettlement, and 41 refugees were resettled.
- UNHCR led the protection cluster for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and monitored their protection. The Office worked with other UN and humanitarian partners to coordinate the return and reintegration of close to 25,000 IDPs.

Working environment

Presidential elections scheduled for November 2008 were postponed until the end of 2009, due to the slow pace of voter registration. Only 40 per cent of an estimated 8 million eligible persons were registered in 2008. Sporadic violence by armed groups destabilized parts of the country, predominantly in the west.

Tensions were also increased because of difficulties in demobilizing the *Forces Nouvelles* militias and delays in the

payment of allowances to former combatants. In the north, commanders of the *Forces Nouvelles* continued to control the local administration and economy. Meanwhile, some key points of the Ouagadougou Agreement were implemented. The *audiences foraines*, a programme to provide national identity documents to citizens of Côte d'Ivoire that ended in mid-May, were deemed a success. The *audiences* processed more than 600,000 requests with regard to identity documents. The number of IDPs in the country continued to decrease, particularly in the west.

Achievements and impact

• Main objectives

UNHCR's objectives in Côte d'Ivoire were to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Ivorian refugees; protect and assist urban refugees in Abidjan; and help some 19,000 Liberian refugees to integrate locally through self-reliance projects. The Office also aimed to provide community-based assistance in health, education, sanitation and water-supply; prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; resettle refugees for whom no durable solutions could be found in Côte d'Ivoire; and monitor, support and sustain the safe and dignified return of IDPs. In addition, UNHCR sought to solve problems related to the lack of documents and help reduce the risks of statelessness.

○ Protection and solutions

UNHCR strove to identify, register and assist Ivorian refugees returning home spontaneously. However, the sub-regional plan to facilitate repatriation from Guinea and Liberia was not implemented, as the vast majority of Ivorian camp refugees in the two countries remained unconvinced that the political and security environment in Côte d'Ivoire was conducive to their return.

The Government and UNHCR jointly drafted and promoted a local-integration plan for Liberian and other residual groups of refugees, namely Sierra Leonean and Togolese. It is estimated that 85 per cent of Liberians, the largest refugee group scattered in rural areas of western Côte d'Ivoire, now look more positively on local integration.

Preparatory measures such as public information campaigns sought to ensure smooth implementation of the cessation clause for Sierra Leonean refugees, effective as of January 2009. For IDPs, UNHCR deployed 20 monitors and three supervisors to monitor protection in 41 villages. It also coordinated activities on the prevention of statelessness and helped those in need of identification or legal documentation present their cases before the *audiences foraines*.

○ Activities and assistance

Community services: More than 3,800 refugees and host-community members (47 per cent women, 37 per cent children) benefited from group discussions and campaigns on reproductive health, the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and HIV and AIDS. Some 115 humanitarian personnel (including UNHCR and implementing-partner staff) and 179 community workers were trained to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. Nearly 110 victims of sexual violence identified in Tabou, Guiglo and Abidjan received assistance.

Six classrooms were rehabilitated to provide literacy courses for 130 refugee women and 70 men. Some 76 unaccompanied or separated refugee children were identified and provided with protection and material assistance. Foster families were identified and assisted to take care of 23 separated IDP children.

Crop production: A UNHCR partner provided some 1,000 refugees with agricultural kits in the Tabou area and established 50 refugee committees to manage farming activities. In Guiglo, 146 refugee households (38 per cent headed by refugee women) were assisted to cultivate various crops such as rice, maize and vegetables on 152 hectares of land.

Domestic needs and household support: More than 500 urban refugees in Abidjan and some 760 rural refugees in Guiglo each received a package of non-food items or, for the most vulnerable (16 per cent in urban areas), a subsistence, housing and transport allowance. A subsistence allowance was also provided to 61 chronically ill patients and their relatives transferred from western Côte d'Ivoire to Abidjan for medical care.

Education: With UNHCR's support, the Government permitted refugee children to attend public schools in both rural and urban settings. The authorities made sure that all refugee children had birth certificates, and provided school certificates on the same basis as for nationals. In Guiglo, a UNHCR partner helped register some 490 Liberian refugee children in primary schools and distributed school kits donated by UNICEF. Three primary schools were rehabilitated with UNHCR's financial support under a plan to increase the capacity of public schools in refugee-impacted areas. In total, 69 per cent of refugee children (43 per cent female) completed the academic year successfully at primary level.

Health and Nutrition: Health standards were maintained at a satisfactory level in refugee-hosting areas. Though the Government is willing to allow refugees to use national health care centres, it does not have the resources to meet all the costs, especially in rural settings. UNHCR contributed an average of 80 per cent of the cost of treatment for refugees—and up to 100 per cent per cent of costs for the extremely vulnerable among them.

National statistics do not provide data on refugees separately, but in refugee-hosting areas crude and infant mortality rates (0.05 per 10,000 and 0.08 per 10,000, respectively) remained within acceptable standards. All pregnant refugee women who approached UNHCR were referred to nurses and assisted by implementing partners. HIV and AIDS prevention campaigns were continued with the support of a national consultant paid under the special budget for IDPs.

Income generation: Small-business grants were given to 94 vulnerable urban refugee women to help them become self-reliant. In rural areas, 20 fishery outlets were set up for 80 vulnerable refugee women. Some 466 refugee households (61 per cent female) received grants for income-generating activities and were trained in the use of micro-credit, accounting techniques and small-business management.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	24,300	24,300	54	47
	Various	600	600	43	38
Asylum-seekers	Various	300	-	27	18
Returnees (refugees)	Various	50	50	37	33
IDPs		684,000	45,000	52	-
Returnees (IDPs)		25,100	-	51	-
Total		734,350	69,950		

Note: Excludes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities - mandate related" (NAM) Reserve.



IDP convoy in Guiglo, Côte d'Ivoire

UNHCR / CAMILLE FONGNI

Legal assistance: The Government renewed and distributed nearly 8,500 refugee cards and provided birth certificates to some 980 refugees (including for 300 newborns). In addition to the National Eligibility Committee sessions (650 claims processed), the Appeal Board met five times to review 42 cases (62 persons), with a 10 per cent rate of recognition. Some 52 naturalization applications were filed, including for 14 Sierra Leonean refugees and others from the Great Lakes region. Some 15 Liberian refugees and one refugee from Burundi repatriated to their countries of origin with UNHCR assistance.

UNHCR's implementing partners campaigned for the right of IDPs in areas of western Côte d'Ivoire to have their identities recognized and registered. They conducted 96 awareness-raising sessions in 43 IDP villages (2,500 participants) and 15 schools (2,900 participants), besides helping local authorities to deliver birth certificates and identity cards.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR provided financial and technical assistance to its implementing partners.

Sanitation: A UNHCR implementing partner organized three workshops on hygiene for members of the refugee and the host communities in the Tabou area. Some 900 leaflets were distributed in 19 locations and an estimated 6,000 persons directly sensitized on safe practices and hygiene.

Shelter and other infrastructure: UNHCR encouraged Liberian refugees scattered in rural areas to maintain their shelters through community groups, self-help and solidarity. Direct financial or in-kind support was granted to a few refugees with specific needs. In urban areas, support for housing was provided along with subsistence and transport allowances.

Transport and logistics: A fleet of three trucks, 41 light vehicles and 40 motorcycles were maintained for assistance and monitoring purposes.

Water: Ten village pumps were repaired and 27 structures with water pumps built in refugee-hosting villages in the Tabou area. Refugee and mixed local committees were equipped and trained in safe water management, testing and chlorination to prevent contamination.

● Constraints

Although Côte d'Ivoire is not a signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and has no national legislation for refugees, the Government upholds international refugee rights and respects the principles outlined in the conclusions of UNHCR's Executive Committee. The slow pace of modernization in Côte d'Ivoire's civil registries slowed the search for solutions for IDPs and people at risk of statelessness.

Access to refugees and to IDPs scattered in vast areas proved difficult due to long distances and poor road conditions. In some remote rural areas, Liberian refugees have access to land but are far from basic public services such as hospitals. In some areas (Nicla, Zaaglo) a few Liberian refugees refused to consider any durable solution other than resettlement and resorted to misinformation and threats to further their objective.

| Financial information |

In 2008, UNHCR's budget for Côte d'Ivoire included an annual budget of USD 9.3 million, as well as a supplementary budget of USD 1.8 million for IDPs. Both budgets were well funded, although operations were affected by exchange-rate fluctuations.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR maintained a Representation Office in Abidjan and two field offices in western Côte d'Ivoire at Guiglo and Tabou. It operated with 53 staff (seven international, 38 national, five UNVs and three national consultants). A standard inspection of operations was conducted in June and the Office is working to comply with recommendations by mid-2009.

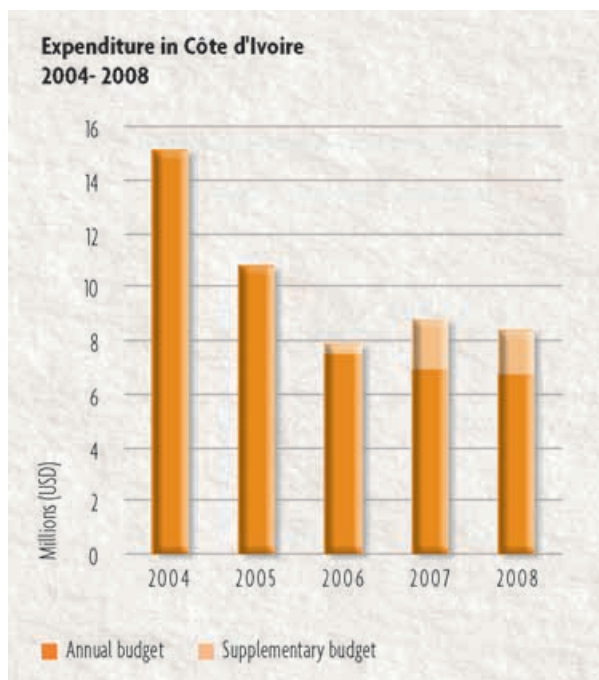
Working with others

UNHCR led the protection cluster for IDPs and interacted with the Government and the UN Country Team, the Inter-Agency Humanitarian Coordinating Committee and the Security Management Team. The implementing and operational partners played a critical role in promoting peace, tolerance and social cohesion in IDP- and refugee-affected areas.

Overall assessment

Protection monitoring in the troubled western part of the country improved the confidence of civilian populations and facilitated the spontaneous or assisted return of IDPs. More efforts are needed to end violations of human rights and sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR highlighted the issue of statelessness and proposed practical measures to prevent and reduce the risk of it. The resistance of Liberian refugees to local integration diminished, paving the way for self-reliance and transitional legal status with the assistance of UNHCR. The Office focused on building and reinforcing the capacity of the authorities, host communities and civil society.

Partners
Implementing partners
Government: <i>Ministère de la Solidarité et des Victimes de Guerre, SAARA</i>
NGOs: <i>Afrique Secours et Assistance, Association de Soutien à l'Autopromotion Sanitaire Urbaine, CARITAS, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council, Enfance Meurtrie Sans Frontières (EMSF)</i>
Operational partners
Others: EU, FAO, ICRC, IOM, ONUCI, UNDP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, UNOCHA, UNV, WB, WFP, and WHO



Budget, income and expenditure in Côte d'Ivoire (USD)					
	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	6,934,272	2,089,643	4,723,080	6,812,723	6,794,155
IDP operations in Côte d'Ivoire SB	2,336,449	1,123,248	814,530	1,937,778	1,581,737
Total	9,270,721	3,212,891	5,537,610	8,750,501	8,375,892

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Côte d'Ivoire (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,534,010	321,926	1,855,936	0
Community services	313,267	126,831	440,098	101,855
Crop production	74,806	0	74,806	0
Domestic needs and household support	59,850	0	59,850	3,560
Education	113,086	0	113,086	11,846
Health and nutrition	499,771	27,275	527,046	30,405
Income generation	89,141	0	89,141	24
Legal assistance	736,844	837,320	1,574,164	61,478
Operational support (to agencies)	541,540	58,312	599,852	272,236
Sanitation	9,081	0	9,081	131
Shelter and infrastructure	2,310	0	2,310	1,722
Transport and logistics	297,884	68,949	366,833	20,748
Water	43,047	0	43,047	0
Instalments to implementing partners	446,272	141,124	587,396	(504,005)
Subtotal operational activities	4,760,909	1,581,737	6,342,646	0
Programme support	2,033,246	0	2,033,246	0
Total expenditure	6,794,155	1,581,737	8,375,892	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(46,898)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	2,498,293	915,424	3,413,717	
Reporting received	(2,052,021)	(774,300)	(2,826,321)	
Balance	446,272	141,124	587,396	
Outstanding 1st January				768,681
Reporting received				(504,005)
Refunded to UNHCR				(66,306)
Currency adjustment				(95)
Outstanding 31st December				198,275