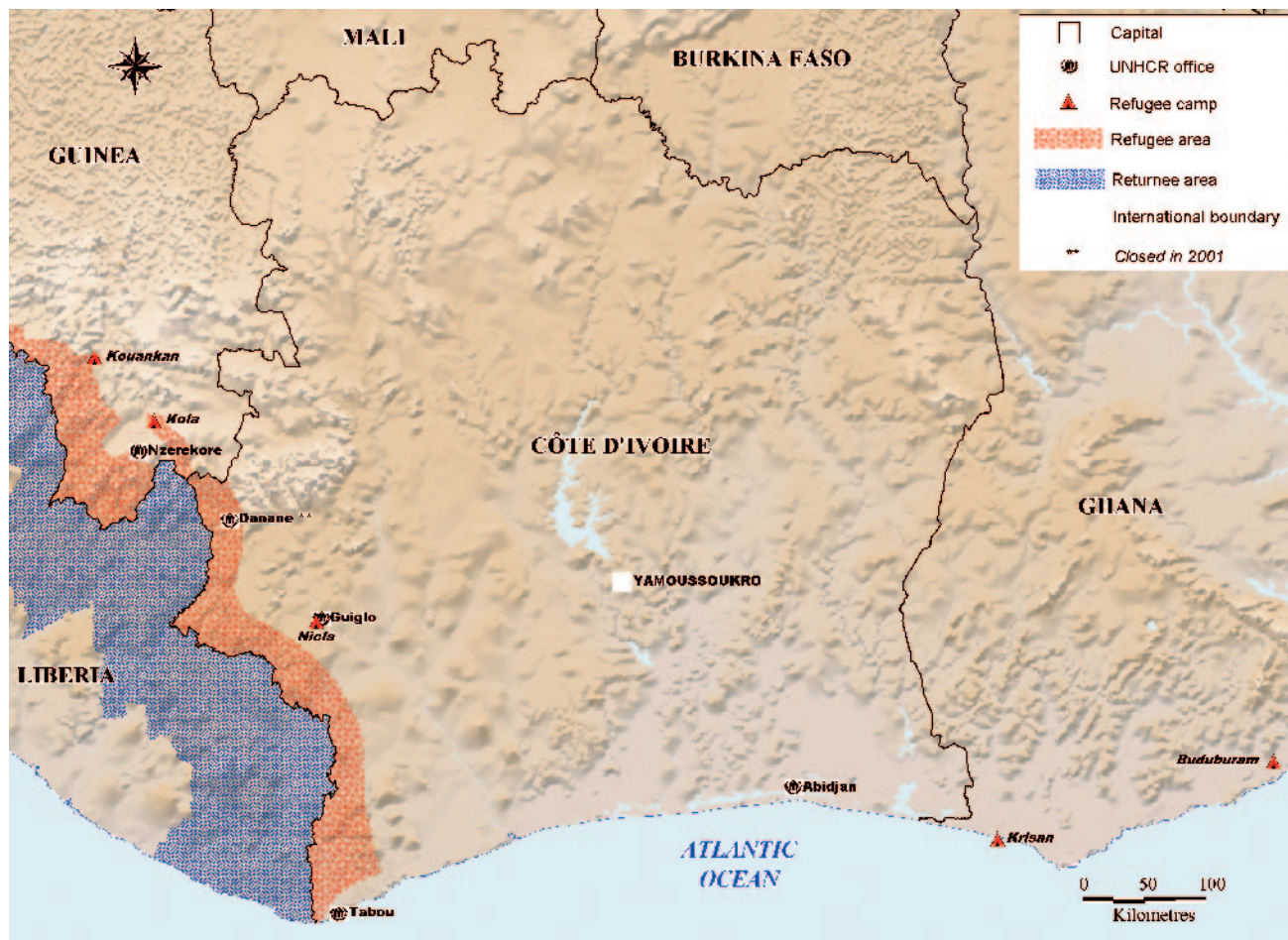


Côte d'Ivoire



Main Objectives

Continue to facilitate repatriation of Liberian refugees (mainly those at Niola camp); assist remaining Liberian refugees to reach adequate levels of self-reliance and socio-economic integration; facilitate repatriation of a small group of Sierra Leonean refugees, when conditions permit; endeavour to transfer health and educational services to the Government to allow a gradual scaling down of UNHCR's involvement; support the *Service d'aide et d'assistance aux réfugiés et apatrides (SAARA)* and other government agencies, to strengthen the legal framework for refugee protection; maintain contingency planning for possible new influxes of refugees from neighbouring countries; reinforce existing operational capacities of

UNHCR's main implementing partners, who will continue to carry out assistance activities in the *Zone d'accueil des réfugiés (ZAR)*; carry out a thorough evaluation of refugees' socio-economic integration in the *zone d'accueil* with assistance from UNHCR's Evaluation and Policy Analysis Unit.

Impact

- Until their suspension in May 2001, on account of security problems, repatriation programmes had assisted 2,041 Liberian returnees from Côte d'Ivoire.
- Funding for 2,147 small-scale income-generating projects for 785 refugee households represented a new route to self-sufficiency in terms of care for vulnerable members of the community.

- UNHCR and the Government successfully concluded protracted negotiations over the transfer of responsibility for primary education of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees. Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees living in the ZAR continued to enjoy access to basic health services (against a small fee, as for nationals). Vulnerable refugees of both nationalities were assisted by UNHCR as necessary.
- Assistance was provided for an influx of 2,200 Liberian refugees placed at Nicla camp in 2001. Regular inter-agency contingency planning meetings made this possible, and ensured compliance with the government requirement that relief be provided only at recognised settlement camps.

Working Environment

The Context

The socio-political tensions that marred elections in October and December 2000 abated and Côte d'Ivoire entered a period of comparative stability. This was reflected in the national reconciliation forum which took place in October 2001 and ushered in a return to normal parliamentary business and the restoration of multilateral aid. Furthermore, municipal elections in 2001 were contested by opposition candidates who had boycotted elections in 2000.

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin/ Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Liberia (Refugees)	122,800	122,800	54	54
Sierra Leone (Refugees)	2,100	2,100	49	57
Liberia (Asylum-seekers)	1,300	1,300	55	57
Republic of the Congo (Asylum-seekers)	610	610	44	19
Republic of the Congo (Refugees)	510	510	49	48

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget				
Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
9,562,156	2,330,000	6,918,161	9,248,161	9,248,161

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).

Constraints

Despite some welcome and important changes in government thinking, UNHCR made only slow progress in attempting to build official understanding of complex refugee issues. Delays with census-taking caused further delays to the introduction of refugee identification documentation to support refugees' rights as expressed within the context of the December 2001 nationality legislation. There were two significant obstacles to self-reliance for refugees: the denial to aliens of the right to own land, and high unemployment in refugee communities. Funding limits restricted the extension of income-generating micro-projects in 2001, despite the identification of an implementing partner for such projects. An evaluation of the Liberian refugee situation in Côte d'Ivoire included recommendations on the question of self-reliance, but these ideas still await the funding needed to put them into action.

Funding

The high price of farming equipment restricted the farming-related aid so badly needed by refugee farmers. Limited funds also restricted the aid needed to secure high enrolment of refugee children in Ivorian schools.

Achievements and Impact

Protection and Solutions

The refugee status determination procedure is the joint responsibility of UNHCR and the Government. Financial incentives introduced in 2001 to speed up refugee status determination procedures failed to produce the desired results – asylum-seekers continued to face long waiting periods before having their claims processed. The procedures remained firmly under government control through the *Commission nationale d'éligibilité (CNE)* in Abidjan, and the *Com-*

missions d'agrément (CA) in the ZAR. By the end of December 2001, the backlog of outstanding asylum-cases had run to 2,324 including 1,328 Liberians and 605 from the Republic of the Congo. Only 15 out of 24 scheduled sessions of the CNE were held to decide status determination issues whilst the *Commissions d'agrément* remained inactive in the ZAR. Notwithstanding these setbacks, recent political events in Côte d'Ivoire provided the basis for long-term stability and hence offer hope of a durable solution involving integration of the long-staying Liberian refugee community.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: Innovations in community care for the vulnerable involved finance for 147 small projects benefiting 785 households representing a total of 3,694 beneficiaries (including 424 women). The projects included small shops, food processing, shoe repairs, chicken-rearing, bakeries and tailoring.

Crop Production: 893 metric tons of rice and 25 metric tons of vegetables were produced by 512 refugee households (including 283 women), who received technical assistance and materials as well as the use of land, which previously benefited from UNHCR irrigation projects undertaken between 1994 and 1996.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: 517 extremely vulnerable refugees (including 289 women) received limited financial assistance for subsistence, including rent and a few vital goods and services.

Education: In 2001, UNHCR-managed primary education for refugees came to an end. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed in August by the Ivorian Government, WFP, UNICEF and UNHCR set terms for the Ivorian Government to manage the integration of refugee children into the local primary education system. According to the MOU: (i) the Ivorian Government affirmed its commitment to article 35 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and article 22 of the 1951 Refugee Convention, i.e. to make basic (primary) education accessible to refugee children in the ZAR, on the same terms as nationals; (ii) UNHCR committed itself to increase the absorption capaci-

ty of schools in the ZAR, and to sensitise the donor community to the development needs of the ZAR region; (iii) UNICEF agreed to supply technical expertise and teaching materials for each newly built classroom; (iv) WFP agreed to support canteens in 25 new UNHCR-supported schools in accordance with national criteria on school meals. Following the agreement, UNHCR funded the construction of 90 classrooms in addition to six existing schools.

At three UNHCR-funded professional training institutes in the ZAR, 347 young people (82 of them girls) comprising 285 refugees and 62 Ivorians took full advantage of courses on masonry, accountancy, agriculture, road maintenance, vehicle maintenance, carpentry and plumbing. 138 urban refugee children of primary school age, including 66 girls, received scholarships to attend private schools in Abidjan (all such requests were granted). 86 more scholarships were extended in the 2000/2001 school year to urban refugees for post-secondary education; 22 girls were in this group. Over the course of the year, 40 urban refugees obtained professional qualifications in areas such as computer skills, driving and tailoring.

Health/Nutrition: A National Health Co-ordinator was hired to co-ordinate integration of both the Health Centre at the Nicla refugee camp and health-care arrangements for vulnerable refugees within the Ivorian national health system. The centre recorded 11,285 medical consultations in 2001. Overall, UNHCR facilitated treatment for 1,606 vulnerable refugees in national centres; 14 patients were hospitalised, 97 malnourished refugees were treated at the Nicla feeding centre whilst severely malnourished children were sent to the Guiglo Regional Hospital for attention. A survey of children aged one to five at Nicla camp revealed an overall malnutrition rate of seven per cent as compared to 12 per cent for new arrivals. Remedial measures were taken. At the same time, a mobile health care team was set up. This provided medical screening, immunisations and emergency health services to new arrivals and the 2,041 refugees being repatriated. Anti HIV/AIDS activity included a sensitisation campaign on World Aids day. Amongst urban refugees, 1,262 received health assistance. The consultations were free but other costs (e.g. drugs, or surgery) were not.

Income Generation: UNHCR funded individual projects aimed at achieving self-reliance for eleven families and their 26 dependants. A revolving fund was set up for the benefit of a women's group providing training for women in tailoring.

Legal Assistance: Meetings held between UNHCR and Ivorian authorities and SAARA to review the draft refugee legislation remained inconclusive on account of issues relating to refugees' employment rights. UNHCR made several interventions when law enforcement officers had failed to respect refugee identification cards and temporary cards. The authorities issued travel documents for refugees, allowing them to travel as needed within the country. From May to December 2001, 8,142 people (including 7,805 Liberians) sought refuge from fighting in Lofa County in Liberia.

Some 2,297 opted for residence in Nicla camp to qualify for assistance. 160 cases (266 persons) were submitted to the CNE for refugee status determination: 40 cases/64 persons were granted refugee status under the 1951 Convention; 82 cases/139 persons were recognised under the 1969 Protocol; 15 cases/20 persons were denied refugee status; and 23 cases/43 persons had decisions pending at year's end.

Operational Support (to Agencies): In accordance with Ivorian labour law, the administrative costs of implementing partners, including redundancy fees, were covered. Financial support was provided to implementing partners. In accordance with UNHCR's financial regulations, all, bar one of UNHCR's implementing partners who operated during the years 1999 and 2000, had their sub-projects audited at the end of 2001.

Sanitation: Six refugees at Nicla Camp regularly maintained all the sanitation facilities. Cleaning campaigns were regularly organised and no epidemics were reported.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: At Nicla camp, 123 huts were renovated and 30 new shelters were built



UNHCR provides material assistance to some urban refugees: urban refugees from Burundi. *UNHCR / D. Marie*

for the benefit of newly-arrived refugees (for 153 households comprising 561 persons).

Transport/Logistics: Support was provided for the logistics of all project activities including distribution of repatriation packages to 2,041 Liberian refugees, evacuation of refugee patients, registration of 8,142 new arrivals. This was made possible through a well maintained vehicle fleet. Non-food items were distributed to 4,441 vulnerable refugees as well to 327 refugee participants at celebrations marking World Refugee day in Danané.

Water: At Nicla camp, 14 boreholes equipped with 25 pumps were kept in good working order throughout the year.

Organisation and Implementation

Management

At the end of the year, there were 34 UNHCR staff members: seven internationals including one JPO, one UNV, and 25 national officers. 31 posts were cut as a result of Action 2. Two sub-offices in Danané and Tabou were closed on 30 September 2001, and steps were taken to close the field office in Guiglo. This decision had far-reaching political repercussions and led to diplomatic pressure on the part of the Ivorian Government and one of UNHCR's major donors. Consequently, the office in Guiglo remained open and Tabou was reopened as of 1 January 2002 as a small field office.

Working with Others

In 2001, UNHCR enjoyed the continued support of the Government and worked in partnership with four NGOs. UNHCR also maintained close working relations with UNICEF, WFP and other UN and international agencies operating in the country.

Overall Assessment

The initial UNHCR objectives and strategy for Côte d'Ivoire in 2001 were sound and remain valid, with the exception of some assumptions associated with the planned repatriations to Liberia. This became evident when insecurity caused suspension of repatriations and there was a new influx of refugees into Côte d'Ivoire in May.

UNHCR's field presence in Danané and Guiglo at the time of the new refugee influx proved essential, in order to monitor the border and to register the newly-arrived refugees from the outset. WFP's co-operation in providing food aid to the new refugees, only two months after the influx had started, was most welcome, and helped to facilitate a smooth voluntary transfer of more than 2,000 new arrivals to Nicla camp. This enabled them to benefit from basic health, food and shelter assistance.

The signing of the MOU, which was firm evidence of the political will of the Government, came rather late in the year and too close to the start of the new school year. As a result, school enrolment was disappointing. A strong partnership now exists between the parties to the MOU and, thanks to a concerted approach, the Office is confident that the next school year will see a substantial increase in the enrolment rate, not least because of UNHCR's early start on the school construction and extension programme.

UNHCR continued to play a lead role in the integration process and provided some financial support, together with UNICEF and WFP, for the implementation of a number of special measures needed if refugee children are to attend school regularly enough to complete the Ivorian primary school curriculum. Given the substantial investment by UNHCR in refugee education over the

past decade under care and maintenance projects, it would be unreasonable for the Office to withdraw abruptly and suspend all forms of assistance (as had been considered). Much remains to be done to see these projects through to a respectable conclusion: satisfactory basic education for some 20,000 refugee children.

There are insufficient funds for UNHCR to address all the needs of refugees in the vulnerable categories, particularly those of older refugees, or all the needs of the recent arrivals. For the foreseeable future, local integration will be the only viable option for the majority of Liberian refugees living in the ZAR. However, following budget cuts, some of UNHCR's operations and partnerships with six international and national NGOs came to an end. Except for the school construction project being implemented by one of the international NGOs, other types of assistance for refugees in the ZAR are being implemented by a single, national NGO, which does not have all the expertise it needs in various sectors. The Office cannot envisage an exit strategy at present.

Offices

Abidjan
Danané
Guiglo
Tabou

Partners

Government Agencies

Service d'aide et d'assistance aux réfugiés et apatrides

NGOs

Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Afrique Secours et Assistance

Association de soutien à l'autopromotion sanitaire urbaine

Caritas Côte d'Ivoire

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

UNVs

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Annual Programme Budget		Annual Programme Budget	
	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	874,087		2,981	
Community Services	66,621		164,155	
Crop Production	6,581		(25,937)	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	28,349		24,613	
Education	681,719		303,239	
Food	0		6,128	
Forestry	0		85,066	
Health / Nutrition	67,664		190,469	
Income Generation	68		99,658	
Legal Assistance	106,965		67,054	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	127,276		254,710	
Sanitation	1,583		11,200	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	7,338		25,389	
Transport / Logistics	190,119		73,053	
Water	1,220		(677)	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	1,997,388		(752,992)	
Combined Projects	0		(11,668)	
Sub-total Operational	4,156,978		516,441	
Programme Support	4,688,017		33,045	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	8,844,995	(3)	549,486	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	403,166	(3)	0	
TOTAL	9,248,161	(1) (3)	549,486	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	3,172,478		2,375,616	
Reporting Received	1,175,091		3,128,608	
Balance	1,997,387		(752,992)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		1,104,795	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		97,253	
Currency Adjustment	0		50,616	
Outstanding 31 December	1,997,387		305,166	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1st January	0		785,064	(5) ¹
New Obligations	9,248,161	(1)	0	
Disbursements	8,844,995	(3)	549,486	(5)
Cancellations	0		235,578	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	403,166	(3)	0	

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(5) Schedule 5

(5)¹ This balance includes USD 15,639, outstanding from operations before 2000. It is also reported under "Unearmarked" in Schedule 5, page 46 of UNHCR's Accounts.

Includes costs related to the Regional Office in Abidjan.