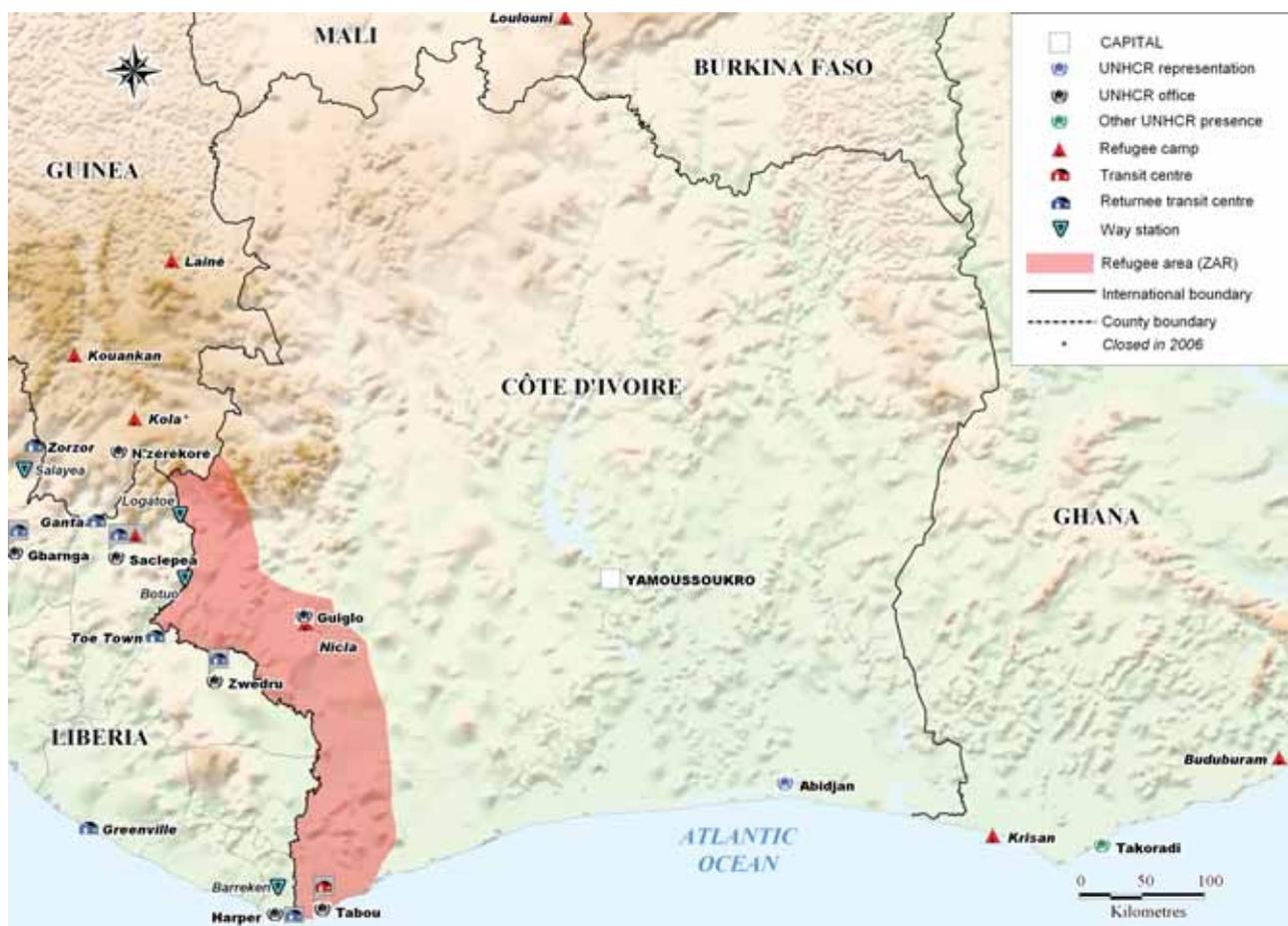


Côte d'Ivoire



Operational highlights

- UNHCR protected and assisted more than 23,200 Liberian refugees, 2,300 asylum-seekers and over 709,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Côte d'Ivoire.
- UNHCR also helped close to 3,400 Liberian refugees return home from Côte d'Ivoire in 2006.
- Security measures for refugees in the western region were heightened following civil unrest in January 2006.
- The Office led the Protection Cluster for IDPs that was formed in 2006.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	23,250	23,250	54	48
	Various	1,700	1,700	47	25
Asylum-seekers	Republic of the Congo	800	-	43	21
	Democratic Rep. of the Congo	400	-	42	23
	Sierra Leone	400	-	35	23
	Togo	200	-	32	26
	Central African Republic	200	-	45	19
	Various	300	-	35	24
	IDPs		709,200	-	-
Total		736,450	24,950		

Working environment

Despite the numerous challenges faced by Côte d'Ivoire since the outbreak of civil war in 2002, it has remained hospitable to refugees and open to new asylum-seekers.

The political climate was tense in 2006, as the country remained divided between the rebel-controlled north and the government-held south. Elections, initially scheduled for October 2005 but postponed to October 2006, were rescheduled for October 2007.

French and UN peacekeepers maintained a fragile buffer zone between the rebel and government forces. However, both UN peacekeepers and humanitarian staff had to be evacuated from the west of the country following an attack on the UN compound in Guiglo which left five Ivorians dead.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's objectives included protecting and assisting refugees and IDPs. The Office also sought to promote repatriation to Liberia by stepping up mass-information campaigns and arranging "go-and-see" visits—though most refugees chose to remain in Côte d'Ivoire, convinced they would be resettled abroad. UNHCR aimed to find durable solutions for this group of refugees only after the conclusion of organized repatriation in June 2007.

Protection and solutions

There is still no refugee legislation in Côte d'Ivoire yet, although a draft bill was finalized with UNHCR's assistance in 2003.

The repatriation of Liberian refugees, which had picked up in 2005 before the general elections in Liberia, slowed drastically. Some 3,400 refugees chose to return in 2006.

UNHCR and its partners registered refugees and asylum-seekers and issued them identity cards. UNHCR's *proGres* registration software was used to update the database on persons of concern, allowing more efficient and targeted protection and assistance. However, the possession of identity documents did not spare some refugees and asylum-seekers from harassment and extortion by armed groups or individuals.

The age, gender and diversity mainstreaming initiative raised awareness of concerns related to project design and implementation. UNHCR's partners and government counterparts were trained to observe UNHCR's Code of Conduct.

Seventy-six refugees were resettled in third countries, and 450 resettlement submissions were pending at the end of the year. UNHCR reviewed resettlement criteria, and decided to submit only the cases of refugees needing international protection or specialized medical care.

As leader of the IDP Protection Cluster formed in 2006, UNHCR helped develop an action plan. It also played a role in United Nations programming processes such as the UN Development Assistance Framework and the Common Country Assessment.

Liberian refugees

By 31 December 2006, 23,250 Liberian refugees remain in Côte d'Ivoire. The Tabou transit centre for refugees was closed at the end of June. The closure of Nicla camp, about 30 km from the Liberian border, was postponed until 2007. Security concerns arising from the attack in Guiglo in January hampered assistance programmes. Some vital assistance was provided by national NGOs and government partners. Assistance programmes had resumed in full by the end of March.

Urban refugees

UNHCR assisted some 1,700 urban refugees and 750 asylum-seekers with health services, primary education, subsistence allowances, accommodation and transportation. The National Eligibility Commission held 37 sessions and granted refugee status to 58 applicants out of 363. Budget cuts restricted the number of sessions, which disrupted assistance and led to protests by asylum-seekers in Abidjan.

Returnees

The political and security conditions prevailing in Côte d'Ivoire in 2006 were not conducive to the return of refugees and IDPs.

The IDP Protection Cluster led by UNHCR conducted inter-agency missions to needs assessments in potential return areas. Training was given to newly recruited monitoring staff. Additional training by OCHA, the Norwegian Refugee Council, and UNHCR was provided on the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to national and local authorities, civil society, members of the Armed Forces and NGOs. An IDP profiling exercise was started in 2006, while protection monitoring and advocacy for IDPs' rights and access to social services continued. The Government ordered better coordination within ministries on IDPs.



UNHCR/S. Langenbach

The Centre Mie-Gou in Yamoussoukro, where some 500 IDPs have lived for several years.

population living in isolated villages because of bad roads and poor security.

Health and nutrition: All urban refugees and asylum-seekers received health care, with special attention given to elderly and chronically ill patients. UNHCR covered 80 per cent of medication and consultation costs. Refugees were sensitized on HIV and AIDS.

Income generation: Given the political and economic situation in the country, refugees and asylum-seekers have difficulty in finding work. Fifty-five refugee women benefited from micro-projects, and others

received training in soap-making, tailoring and fabric-dyeing.

Legal assistance: UNHCR updated the databases for refugees in Abidjan, Guiglo and Tabou. Separated children were reunited with their parents or placed with foster families. Ten protection committees monitored refugee children. Workshops on refugee law apprised law-and-order personnel of refugees' rights and obligations.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR covered staff and administrative costs and trained implementing partners, particularly in programme management.

Sanitation: Refugees and host communities did not participate strongly in maintaining water and sanitation facilities. Some 200 family latrines were built.

Shelter and infrastructure: On closing the transit centre in Tabou, UNHCR distributed over 900 plastic sheets to refugees being relocated to Ivorian villages in the refugee-hosting areas. People with special needs also received shelter materials. At Nicla camp, UNHCR provided some shelter assistance to Liberian refugees with special needs.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR transported returning Liberian refugees by road, sea and air in safety and in dignity. Ten refugees from the Republic of the Congo and one from Viet Nam were assisted to repatriate. Ten trucks, 38 light vehicles and 32 motorcycles were used to support repatriation and assistance during the year. Three bridges in Guiglo were repaired.

Water: A daily average of 15 litres of water per person was available to beneficiaries in refugee-hosting areas, and 180 people were trained to maintain 350 pumps and water points.

Activities and assistance

Community services: Refugees in villages in western Côte d'Ivoire were forced to move to safe havens during spells of violence, which made profiling them difficult. UNHCR assisted some 100 female victims of gender-based violence, and transferred some of them to transit centres. Reception centres for refugees and asylum-seekers were set up in Abidjan.

Crop production: Some 1,000 refugee families living in villages in Nicla benefited from rice-irrigation schemes, vegetable gardening and training in agricultural techniques.

Domestic needs and household support: UNHCR provided refugees in Nicla and Tabou transit centres with firewood. It also distributed non-food items to some 2,050 refugees who moved into host villages after the closure of Tabou transit centre. More than 4,000 female refugees received sanitary kits every month, and 100 people with special needs were given clothes.

Education: As many teachers in most refugee-hosting areas were displaced, educational opportunities for refugee children were few or non-existent. To fill the gap, UNHCR constructed three primary schools and rehabilitated five existing institutions. Another nine community-run, informal schools were built in villages in Tabou district. Forty-five teachers were trained and employed in informal learning institutions. More than 1,800 of the 2,100 refugee children in Tabou attended school. Almost half of them were girls. In Guiglo, 1,700 students attended community schools.

Food: UNHCR distributed WFP food to all camp-based refugees and some 1,000 refugees with special needs. It was not possible to do a nutritional survey of the

Constraints

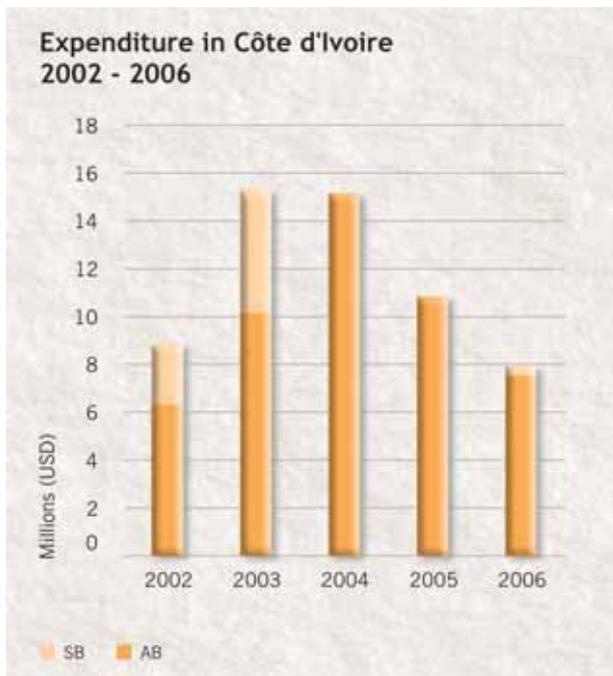
The lack of security continued to hinder assistance, especially in the west, which is riddled with armed groups. Nonetheless, the Ivorian Government has requested UNHCR to maintain its presence in Guiglo prior to the conversion of Nicla camp into Zaago village.

Despite intensified information campaigns and cross-border visits by UNHCR officials, refugee representatives and government authorities from Liberia, Liberian refugees continued to cite the security situation as a major reason for their unwillingness to return home.

Financial information

Funding for the 2006 annual and supplementary programmes in Côte d'Ivoire was inadequate, with contributions reaching only 38.4 per cent of requirements. Consequently, not all the needs of refugees and IDPs could be met. Repeated demonstrations at UNHCR offices by asylum-seekers and refugees because of reductions in assistance raised security concerns for staff and partners. Côte d'Ivoire was among the UNHCR operations that benefited from the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund.

Since 2002, most of the operational budget in Côte d'Ivoire has been devoted to assisting Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees. UNHCR's programmes were focused on finding durable solutions, including local integration in the refugee-hosting area. Over the years, budgets ranged from USD 8 million to USD 15 million, in line with shifting political and security conditions. The large expenditure of 2003 and 2004 relate to the movement of Liberian refugees due to conflict either in



their country or in Côte d'Ivoire, and costs of resettling Liberians in the United States.

Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR has a representation office in Abidjan and field offices in Guiglo and Tabou. The Office had 59 employees, of whom 11 were international staff (including two UNVs) and 48 were national personnel. Seven additional staff members were recruited for the special programme to assist and protect IDPs.

Working with others

UNHCR conducted joint missions in refugee-hosting areas with the Government, national NGOs and UN sister agencies to assess security, protection and implementation of the assistance programme. Inter-agency contingency plans to deal with further political unrest in the country or a possible influx of Guinean refugees were updated during the year.

Overall assessment

Serious security constraints and funding shortfalls hampered UNHCR's capacity to help refugees and IDPs in Côte d'Ivoire. Despite the problems, UNHCR and its partners managed to protect and assist most refugees, although all targets could not be met. The UN Country Team rallied behind UNHCR, and a favourable relationship with the Government prevailed despite the political climate.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: *Ministère de la Solidarité et des Victimes de Guerre, Service d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides.*

NGOs: *Afrique Secours et Assistance, Association de Soutien à l'Autopromotion Sanitaire Urbaine, CARITAS, International Rescue Committee, Search for Common Ground.*

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, IOM.*

Operational partners

NGOs: *CARE, Danish Refugee Council, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children Fund (UK).*

Others: *ICRC, ONUCI, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOCHA, UNV.*

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	9,226,671	2,979,484	4,541,339	7,520,823	7,520,823
SB ³	1,148,236	745,100	(52,157)	692,943	407,986
Total	10,374,907	3,724,584	4,489,182	8,213,766	7,928,810

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

³ The SB figures apply to the IDP operation. The budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Previous years' projects
	AB	SB	Total	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,189,419	108,071	2,297,490	0
Community services	95,158	0	95,158	35,436
Crop production	2,463	0	2,463	5,177
Domestic needs and household support	108,820	20,389	129,209	14,522
Education	95,412	0	95,412	98,312
Food	1,907	0	1,907	6,913
Health and nutrition	383,014	0	383,014	235,269
Income generation	13,721	0	13,721	3,714
Legal assistance	443,967	33,674	477,641	68,267
Operational support (to agencies)	716,722	0	716,722	252,528
Sanitation	25,580	0	25,580	69,132
Shelter and infrastructure	23,698	0	23,698	31,378
Transport and logistics	764,813	132,080	896,893	243,316
Water	25,853	0	25,853	69,586
Instalments with implementing partners	518,808	113,772	632,580	(1,133,549)
Sub-total operational activities	5,409,356	407,986	5,817,342	0
Programme support	2,111,467	0	2,111,467	0
Total expenditure	7,520,823	407,986	7,928,810	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(109,399)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	2,493,339	113,772	2,607,111	
Reporting received	(1,974,531)	0	(1,974,531)	
Balance	518,808	113,772	632,580	
Previous years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1st January				1,349,846
Reporting received				(1,133,549)
Refunded to UNHCR				(38,487)
Adjustments				7,239
Balance				185,049