



# **COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN**

## **OVERVIEW**

**Country: Nigeria**

**Planning Year: 2006**

## 2006 COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN FOR NIGERIA

### Part I: OVERVIEW

#### 1. Protection and socio-economic operational environment

At the end of 2004, there were some 9,000 refugees in Nigeria. Most of these refugees were from Liberia, Sierra Leone, DRC, Chad and Sudan. The 2006 programme is planned on the basis of durable solution of these refugees through repatriation, making strategic use of resettlement to third countries and making efforts for local settlement of remaining Liberians and other nationals. In 2006, UNHCR Nigeria is expecting repatriation of some 2,000 Liberians through information campaigns while 1,000 are planned to be repatriated in 2005. Due to elections, planned in October 2005 in Liberia, more refugees are expected to return to Liberia because of perceived future stability in that country. UNHCR Nigeria will make, while maintaining transparency and mitigating risks of abuse, strategic use of resettlement as one of the durable solutions and in 2006 the office is planning for resettlement of some 240 refugees in close coordination with Regional Hub in Accra.

In 2006, UNHCR Nigeria is also expecting to receive some 5000 Nigerian refugees from Cameroon while expecting more that 2000 already repatriated in 2005. The office will continue to coordinate with all the stakeholders for their smooth reintegration, reconstruction and rehabilitation inline with 4Rs concept.

UNHCR Nigeria will continue to provide protection and assistance to asylum seekers and refugees both camp based and urban population. Due to the persistently difficult circumstances in which refugees are accommodated and assisted in Nigeria and general conditions of unemployment in the country coupled with very high poverty rate (more than 70% population lives below poverty line), beneficiary population will continue to rely on UNHCR and its partners for basic necessities such as food, shelter, health, education, water and sanitation till the maturity of self reliance programmes such as micro-credits and skill building trainings of refugees.

UNHCR Office in Nigeria enjoys good relations with the host government in order to fulfill its protection and assistance mandate. The office will continue to collaborate with Government institutions dealing with refugee and returnee matters: National Commission for Refugees (NCFR), National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Office of the Special Assistant to the President on Migration and Humanitarian Affairs are the Governmental agencies coordinating Refugees, returnees and IDP matters in Nigeria.

#### 2. Operational goals and potential for durable solutions

Derived from UNHCR's Global strategic objectives as well as Regional Objectives and priorities (ROP) for Africa for 2006-07, the following are the overall strategic goals and objectives of Nigerian refugee and returnee programme in 2006:

- a) **Facilitation of the return and reintegration of Nigerian Refugees from Cameroon and their smooth reintegration into their places of origin:**
- Facilitate return of some 5000 Nigerians from Cameroon;
  - Facilitate smooth and sustainable reintegration of returnees at their places of origin inline with 4Rs concept;
  - Ensuring physical and material safety, legal safety and civil administration (Law & Order ) for returnees

- Needs assessment and conducive conditions in areas of return;
  - Community Empowerment Projects (CEPs) and self reliance schemes;
  - Rehabilitation and reconstruction of selected educational and health facilities;
  - Building Government capacity on protection and human rights issues;
  - Integrate sound environmental policies and concerns into the process of reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction
- b) **Repatriation of Liberians and other nationals to their respective countries:**
- Facilitate repatriation of some 2,000 Liberians to their home country;
  - Facilitate, on ad hoc basis, repatriation of some selected cases of other nationals;
  - Focus on *Priority Policy* issues for repatriating refugees especially related to returnee women, elderly, adolescents and issues like HIV/AIDS.
- c) **Seeking Durable Solution through resettlement and local integration for residual refugee population.**
- Assist some 240 cases of various nationalities in their resettlement in a third country (strategic use of resettlement);
  - Explore with the host government the feasibility of comprehensive plan for self reliance and local settlement/integration through community development (DLI concept) in the exiting camp or other areas through the ECOWAS provisions; and
  - Continuation of micro-credit and skill building activities.
- d) **Mandated protection and assistance services for camp based & urban refugees and asylum seekers**
- Enhance capacity of Government to assume primary role in management and delivery of protection and assistance (while working towards exit strategy);
  - Enhance security and material welfare of refugees focusing on policy priorities;
  - Ensure minimum humanitarian assistance in sectors of nutrition, shelter, health care, water, sanitation and community services.
- e) **Promote community development through gender and age balance and participation**
- Work towards eradication of SGBV in refugee and returnee settlements and mainstreaming HIV/AIDS in the design and implementation of all projects;
  - Promote Gender balanced participation and decision making in all refugee/returnee settlements;
  - Promote child rights and equal opportunities for boys and girls; and
  - Promote special care for vulnerable groups
- f) **Enhance capacity of UNHCR Nigeria for Emergency Preparedness and for building effective partnership**
- Build office capacity for emergency preparedness and response;
  - Build effective partnership with other UN agencies, donors, host government and ECOWAS as the essential platform for attaining the objectives of the 2006 programme, while enhancing the role and capacity of the Government to assume a primary management and delivery role in protecting and assisting refugees;
  - Build Office capacity to contribute to IDPs situation through inter-agency collaboration;
  - Continue to give priority to ethical conduct by humanitarian personnel in line with UNHCR, the Inter-Agency and other relevant Codes of Conduct or instruments mandating ethical conduct.

- Optimize the management and implementation of the Nigerian refugee programme with particular emphasis on established operational goals and the policies, rules and regulations;
- Enhance quality, effectiveness and efficiency of the Nigerian operation through results-based management; and
- External relations: raise awareness on the Nigerian refugee programme among the public at large, civil society and special constituencies such as the donor community, UN Country Team and ECOWAS on matters related to humanitarian affairs.