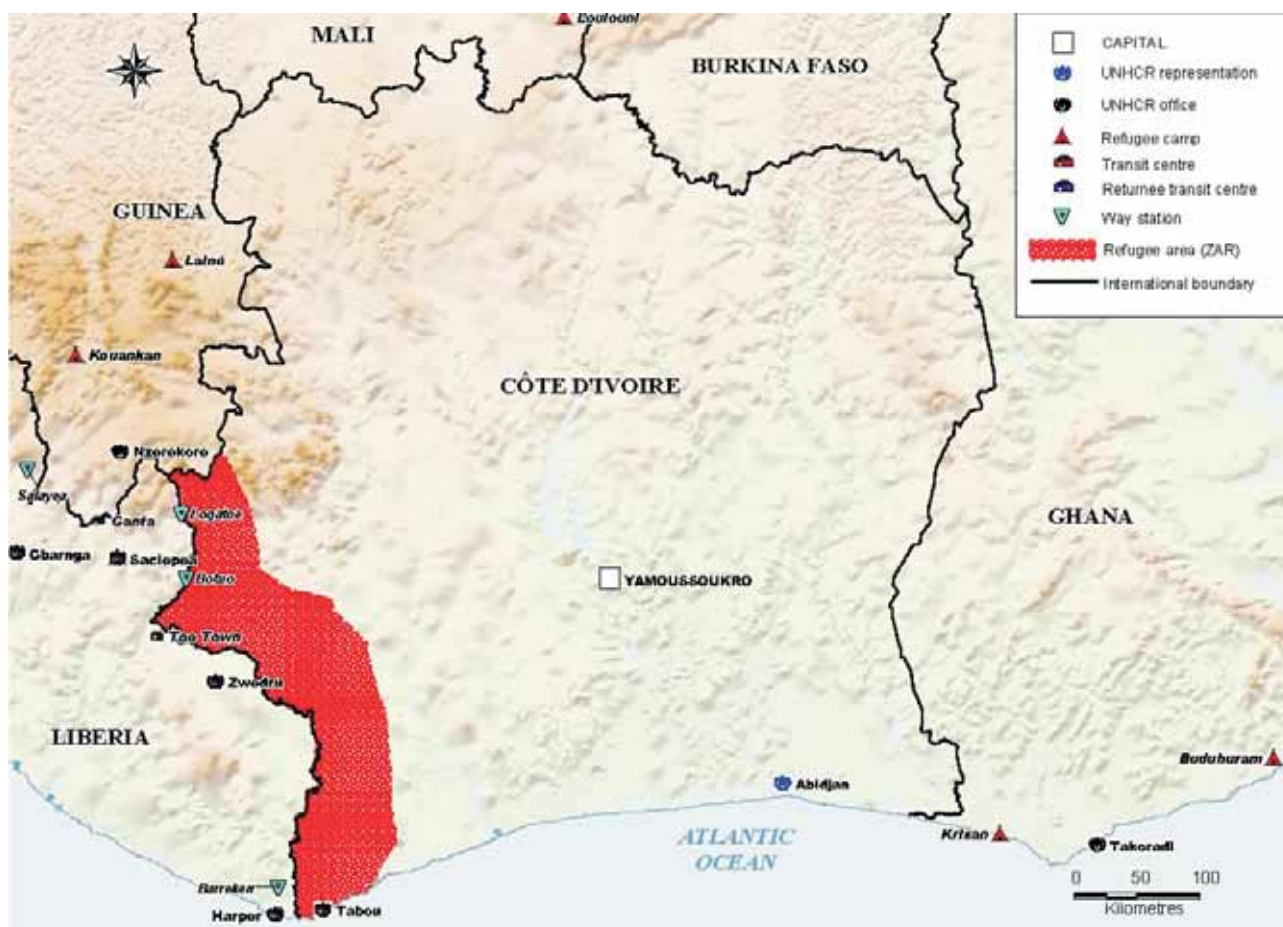


Côte d'Ivoire



Working environment

The context

The signing of a peace agreement in March 2007 by President Laurent Gbagbo and the leader of the rebel *Forces Nouvelles* (FN), Guillaume Soro, marked a turning point in resolving the crisis in Côte d'Ivoire. The Accord, signed in the Burkina Faso capital of Ouagadougou, confirmed the signatories' commitment to peace and stability, a move welcomed by the international community.

The Ouagadougou Agreement included provisions for a joint military command; a new government; the disbanding of militias and armed groups; the assisted returns of internally displaced persons (IDPs); and elections within ten months. Also agreed was the gradual removal of the *zone de confiance*, a buffer strip set up by international peacekeepers to separate government troops in the south from the FN in the north, and the resumption of the *audiences foraines*, or public hearings related to the granting of birth certificates, of identity papers, and possibly settlement of nationality issues.

The relative stability that followed the peace accord was shaken by an attack on the aircraft of Prime Minister Soro, in Bouaké on 29 June 2007. The Government has commissioned an internal investigation of the attack.

The needs

UNHCR will need to implement self-reliance projects for the remaining Liberian refugees in Côte d'Ivoire to help with their local integration. Urban refugees, who are seriously affected by the current economic crisis in the country, need aid to maintain minimum living standards. Furthermore, Ivorian refugees require assistance to return to Côte d'Ivoire and reintegrate in their areas of origin.

Total requirements

2008: USD 7,241,611

2009: USD 5,891,612

(Annual programme only. The financial requirements for the supplementary programme for IDPs are being finalized.)

Main objectives

- Promote the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of Ivorian refugees.
- Protect and assist urban refugees in Abidjan.
- Help locally integrate some 19,000 Liberian refugees through self-reliance projects.
- Provide community-based assistance in health, education, sanitation and water supply.
- Prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Resettle to third countries the refugees whose cases cannot be solved durably in Côte d'Ivoire.

Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

- Some 19,000 Liberian refugees who chose to remain in Côte d'Ivoire integrate locally and have favourable prospects for naturalization.
- Some 8,000 Ivorian refugees are reintegrated.
- Gaps in water, sanitation, health and education are bridged with the assistance of the Government and humanitarian and developmental actors.
- Two former refugee sites, in Guiglo and Tabou, are rehabilitated.
- All urban refugees receive adequate assistance.
- Fifty graduates from the UNHCR-assisted secondary school obtain technical and professional diplomas.
- Seventy refugees receive microcredits for income-generation projects.

Strategy and activities

Liberian refugees

The programme in Côte d'Ivoire is a part of UNHCR's regional strategy to find durable solutions for Liberian refugees in West Africa. UNHCR will channel local integration assistance through the community, and ensure that refugees have access to local services. The Office will also help the Government to improve services in health, education, sanitation and water supply to respond to local integration needs. In administrative terms, local integration will include issuance of refugee identity cards, the granting of residence permits as provided for in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) treaty, and naturalization. UNHCR will work with the Government to rehabilitate former refugee sites in Tabou and Nicla in Guiglo.

Urban refugees of various nationalities

In 2008, UNHCR will transfer more responsibility for managing urban refugees to the Government. The Office will promote respect for the fundamental rights of urban asylum-seekers and refugees while helping them attain self-reliance and find durable solutions. Resettlement as a durable solution will be pursued for eligible cases.

Ivorian returnees

With the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement, it is expected that the majority of Ivorian refugees who are currently abroad will return home in 2008. UNHCR will monitor the conditions of return and facilitate reintegration; support water and sanitation services; and address the specific needs of the most vulnerable individuals. UNHCR's Côte d'Ivoire office will work closely with its counterparts in host countries to organize the voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008 - Jan 209		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Liberia	30,210	30,210	29,010	29,010	28,360	28,360
	Various	1,530	1,530	1,580	1,580	1,630	1,630
Asylum-seekers	Various	2,050	2,050	1,580	1,580	1,110	1,110
Returnees (Refugees)		3,000	3,000	5,000	5,000	2,000	2,000
IDPs		509,230	235,000	209,230	209,230	59,230	59,230
Returnees (IDPs)		200,000	-	300,000	-	150,000	-
Total		746,000	271,780	546,390	246,390	242,320	92,320



UNHCR/S. Kpanofji

IDPs at the Guiglo transit centre.

Stateless people

UNHCR will monitor the returnee identification process, including the *Audiences Foraines*, undertaken pursuant to the Ouagadougou Accord. It will collaborate with the Ministry of Justice, the United Nations and civil society partners to implement solutions to the problems related to nationality which arise during this process. In particular, UNHCR will provide information and legal assistance to individuals who are seeking birth certificates and/or to establish their nationality, thereby contributing to efforts to prevent statelessness. The Office will provide training on the prevention of statelessness, targeting all parties involved, particularly the Government. Lastly, UNHCR will lobby for Côte d'Ivoire's accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions.

Constraints

Despite the Ouagadougou Agreement, there has been no action on the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former rebel groups and militias, or the registration of returnees and issuance of identity cards. Security in the main area of refugee returns remains fragile. The absence of a national refugee law hampers the protection of urban asylum-seekers and refugees.

There are currently more than 700,000 IDPs in Côte d'Ivoire. The protection cluster, under the leadership of UNHCR, continues to prepare for the safe and dignified return of IDPs to their places of origin. These activities include monitoring and go-and-see visits. Indeed, in September 2007, 371 IDPs based in the Mie-Ngou centre in Yamoussoukro were helped to return to their homes in Bouake and Beoumi. But UNHCR's plans to assist IDPs in Côte d'Ivoire remain highly challenged by lack of donor support and funding.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	2	2
Total staff	45	42
International	10	8
National	33	34
UNVs	2	-

Coordination

UNHCR will work with other UN agencies to ensure that their assistance and development programmes benefit refugees. For its part, UNHCR will support the activities of the wider UN system, the national authorities, NGOs and civil society partners.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Service d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides (SAARA)*.

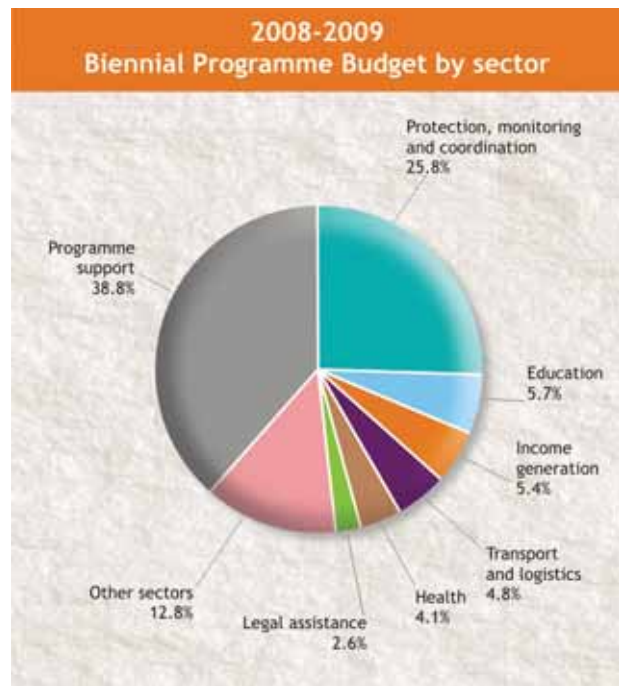
NGOs: *Afrique Secours et Assistance (ASA)*, *Association de Soutien à l'Autopromotion Sanitaire et Urbaine (ASAPSU)*, Caritas, International Rescue Committee.

Operational partners

Government agencies: Prefectures of Tabou and Guiglo.

NGOs: CARE, Danish Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Norwegian Refugee Council, Save the Children Fund (UK, Sweden).

Others: IOM, OCHA, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOCI, WHO.



Budget (USD)

Activities and services	2007			2008	2009
	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,932,891	572,036	2,504,927	1,696,816	1,696,816
Community services	267,500	0	267,500	194,480	112,960
Crop production	131,250	0	131,250	216,000	86,480
Domestic needs	110,000	0	110,000	146,480	90,577
Education	462,500	0	462,500	523,151	221,727
Food	101,250	0	101,250	12,000	8,000
Forestry	110,000	0	110,000	54,000	30,288
Health	280,000	0	280,000	332,864	201,535
Income generation	0	0	0	412,142	291,919
Legal assistance	293,750	1,777,701	2,071,451	218,576	128,312
Operational support (to agencies)	293,750	0	293,750	160,345	114,571
Sanitation	106,250	0	106,250	102,000	60,384
Shelter and other infrastructure	100,000	0	100,000	30,000	20,000
Transport and logistics	575,000	0	575,000	441,963	190,672
Water	168,750	0	168,750	156,000	92,575
Total operations	4,932,891	2,349,737	7,282,628	4,696,817	3,346,817
Programme support	2,080,749	0	2,080,749	2,544,795	2,544,795
Total	7,013,640	2,349,737	9,363,377	7,241,611	5,891,612

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget excludes a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.