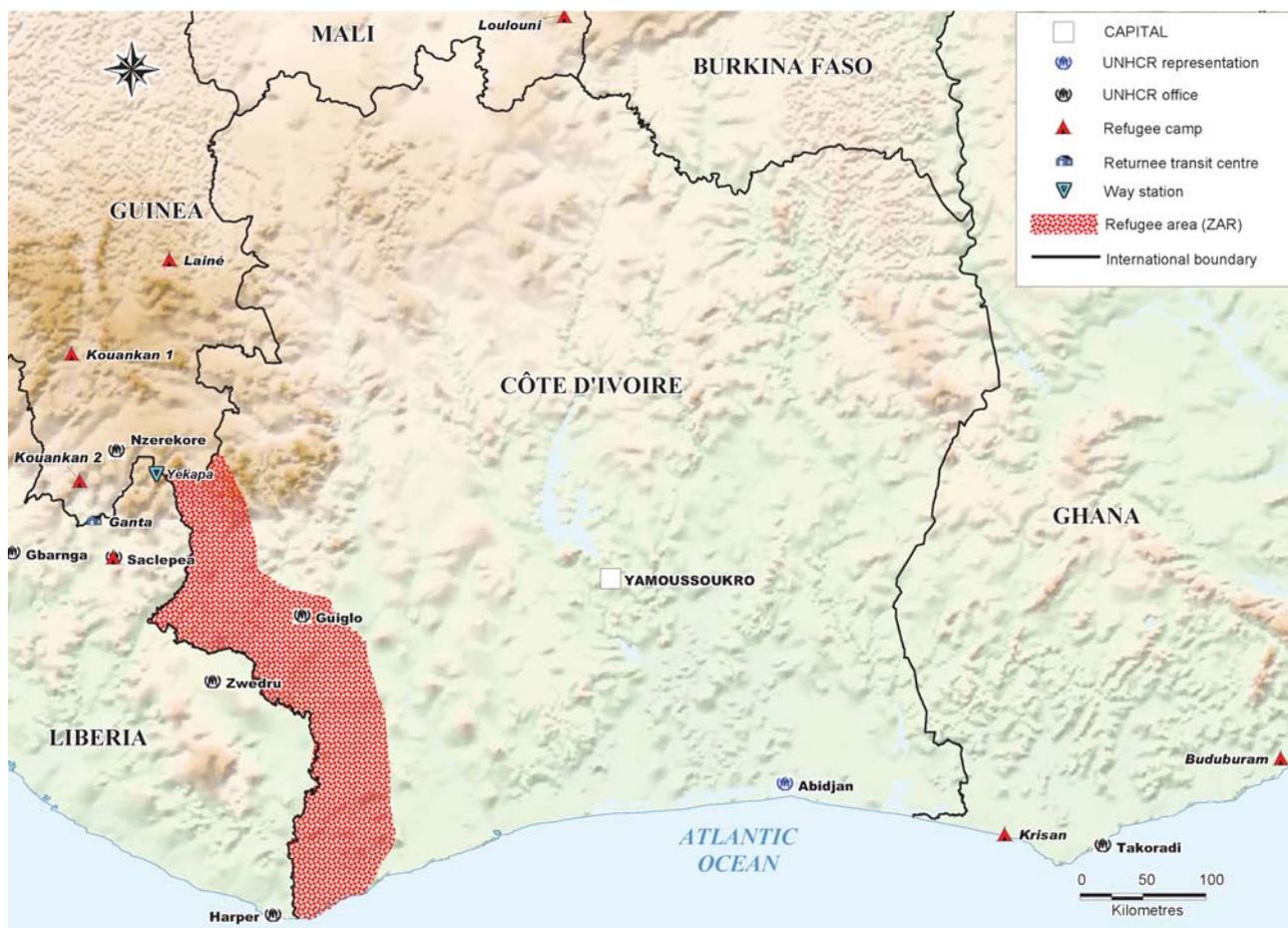


Côte d'Ivoire



Operational highlights

- In 2007, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 4,500 Liberians. Between October 2004 and the conclusion of the repatriation operation in June 2007, the Office assisted more than 21,000 Liberians to return home.
- The voluntary repatriation of Ivorian refugees did not start in 2007 due to the slow pace of the peace process.
- The Office gave financial and technical support to the Government of Côte d'Ivoire to help it provide identity cards and birth certificates for refugees.
- UNHCR led the inter-agency protection cluster for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Liberia	24,100	24,100	54	50
	Various	500	500	-	-
Asylum-seekers	Rep. of Congo	600	-	33	18
	Sierra Leone	340	-	40	23
	Central African Republic	180	-	35	21
	DRC	180	-	44	38
	Togo	150	-	32	26
	Various	290	-	-	-
	IDPs		709,900	-	52
Returnees (refugees)	Various	30	20	-	-
Returnees (IDPs)		180	-	-	-
Total		736,450	24,620		

- The Office conducted an awareness-raising campaign on statelessness directed at the authorities, civil society, UN agencies and other humanitarian actors. UNHCR also advocated for the ratification of the 1954 and 1961 Conventions on Statelessness.

Working environment

With the signing of the Ouagadougou Peace Agreement in March, 2007 was the most stable year in Côte d'Ivoire since the outbreak of civil conflict in 2002. Landmark developments included the progressive dismantling of UN observation posts in the "zone of confidence"; establishment of a new multi-party Government; the visit of the President of Côte d'Ivoire to areas under the rebel control; and adoption of an amnesty law for politically motivated crimes. Economic activity revived, particularly in Abidjan. Legal documentation clinics were set up for citizens without papers.

Apart from the area of Guiglo, where tensions arose between the local population, IDPs, migrants from other regions of the country and foreigners over land issues, there were no major security incidents.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's objectives in Côte d'Ivoire were to protect and assist refugees and IDPs; promote return and reintegration of Ivorian refugees; promote the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees; and facilitate the local integration of Liberian refugees opting to remain in Côte d'Ivoire through self-reliance projects. The Office also aimed to provide community-based assistance in the water, sanitation, health and education sectors, with particular focus on the prevention of, and response to, sexual and gender-based violence. Another objective was to implement income-generation projects to promote the self-reliance to more than 20,000 refugees.

Protection and solutions

Côte d'Ivoire gave asylum to people of concern to UNHCR. The National Eligibility Commission met regularly, and a Recourse Commission considered

appeal cases. UNHCR helped build the capacity of its governmental counterpart, *Service d'Aide et d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Apatrides*, through staff training and technical support. The draft refugee bill, finalized in 2003 with UNHCR's assistance, is awaiting adoption by Parliament.

Following a verification exercise in the summer, and a participatory assessment using age, gender and diversity considerations, UNHCR funded the Government's distribution of identity cards to 15,000 refugees of 14 years and above and birth certificates to some 500 others. The programme will be completed in the first quarter of 2008.

An ILO-UNHCR report on child labour and exploitation was presented to the Government. The report highlighted the problems in refugee-hosting areas and proposed solutions to fight child abuse and exploitation.

As leader of the protection cluster, UNHCR promoted the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement to instil respect for international standards in IDP protection. UNHCR also closely monitored the functioning of legal clinics for those who have difficulty in obtaining documentation. A profiling exercise was conducted for more than 70,000 IDPs to register them in a database and identify their needs more accurately. IDPs' main concerns included loss of documentation, loss of income, insecurity in their places of origin precluding their return and confiscation of their assets.

By the end of the voluntary repatriation programme for Liberian refugees in June, UNHCR had assisted more than 21,000 Liberians to return home, including some 4,500 refugees in 2007. However, more than 24,000 Liberians remained in Côte d'Ivoire. Following a UNHCR campaign to promote local integration among host communities, the authorities and refugees, the Government announced that it would assist Liberian refugees to integrate locally.

Continued insecurity in the main areas of return and the slow pace of the peace process prevented the repatriation of Ivorian refugees from abroad as well as the return of IDPs to their places of origin or choice. However, the Office assisted with the return of some 400 IDPs from the Mié Ngou Centre in Yamoussoukro. UNHCR's programmes covered peacebuilding, monitoring, documentation, the needs of elderly persons, the reintegration of returning IDPs, and protection coordination.



UNHCR/S. Lagenbach

Internally displaced persons collecting water in Guiglo.

Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR drafted standard operating procedures for the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence which were shared with all stakeholders in Côte d'Ivoire. Village committees were trained to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, and some 80 victims of such violence received assistance. Furthermore, some 3,400 persons were made aware of gender-equity issues.

Crop production: Since the end of the WFP food distribution programme in 2006, refugees have cultivated more than 250 hectares of land through local agreements. More than 1,000 refugees received assistance to farm for their own needs.

Domestic needs and household support: More than 100 women were helped to set up small businesses.

Education: Some 1,100 pupils were helped to get a primary education, some 100 to obtain a secondary education, and 20 students were assisted to enrol in post-secondary classes. Three classrooms were rehabilitated and three others built in primary schools in Tabou to allow them to take in more refugee and IDP children. The technical training centre in Tabou was rehabilitated prior to its transfer to the local authorities.

Food: Some 56 families with specific needs received food assistance.

Health and nutrition: Six health posts were constructed and 16 others rehabilitated. Two ambulances were donated to Guiglo and Tabou hospitals. With the assistance of UNHCR's implementing partner, the district authorities supported the establishment of health committees in villages. Thirty peer educators on HIV and AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases and 20 radio presenters were trained. In addition, more than 600 children were immunized prior to their voluntary repatriation to Liberia. Urban refugees had access to local health clinics and some 1,800 consultations were conducted in three health facilities.

Income generation: UNHCR's partners were assisted to implement income-generating programmes targeting women.

Legal assistance: Five information, counselling and legal assistance centres provided information to legal clinics addressing statelessness, land and property issues.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR covered the programme support costs of all its implementing partners, all of whom were audited by a local firm. The audit recommendations were conveyed to the partners.

Sanitation: The Office trained and gave technical assistance to sanitation committees in camps so they could maintain facilities.

Shelter and other infrastructure: More than 400 urban refugees received rental allowances. Thirty-nine people living at the centre for unaccompanied minors were relocated to Tabou, where they could stay with host families.

Transport and logistics: A total of 34 convoys were organized for the voluntary repatriation of some 4,500 Liberians from Tabou and Guiglo. Seven refugees from the Great Lakes region were assisted to repatriate by air.

Water: Refugees and host communities had regular supplies of safe drinking water. Thirty-six wells were dug, while 10 pump structures were constructed and another 25 repaired or refurbished in refugee-hosting areas. Refugees and local community leaders were trained to manage, maintain and repair water distribution points.

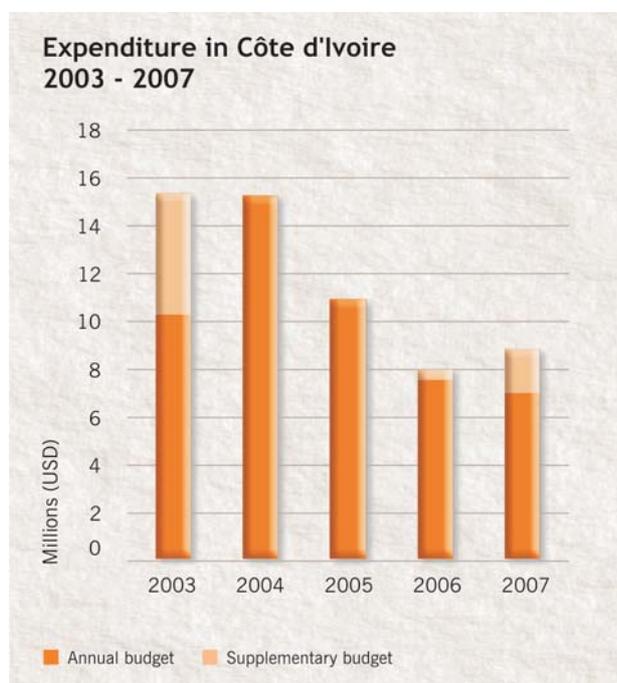
Constraints

Insecurity remained a major constraint for the operations in the western part of the country. Likewise, the slow pace of the peace process constrained the voluntary repatriation, return and reintegration of Ivorian refugees and IDPs. Liberian refugees remaining in the country have refused local integration opportunities.

Financial information

Although, UNHCR's annual programme was well-funded, the supplementary programme suffered from a significant shortfall. As a result, the initial Supplementary Appeal budget was decreased from USD 7 million to USD 2.5 million in mid-2007. Furthermore, most of the funding for this programme was contributed towards end of the year, which slowed implementation of activities for IDPs.

UNHCR's expenditure for the main refugee population – Liberians – has declined steadily since it reached a high in 2004. As repatriation activities went forward expenditure dropped from USD 15 million that year to just over USD 7 million in 2007.



Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR had a Representation Office in Abidjan and field offices in Guiglo and Tabou. The Office had 59 staff members, including nine international and 46 national employees and four UNVs. Another five staff (two international and three national) worked with the IDP programme.

Working with others

As leader of the protection cluster, UNHCR conducted joint missions with other UN agencies and cluster members to review the protection and assistance needs of IDPs. Inter-agency contingency plans were updated for possible emergencies in the sub-region. The Office participated in the UNDAF and Humanitarian Reform processes.

Overall assessment

The conclusion of the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees was a landmark for UNHCR's programme in Côte d'Ivoire. By June 2007, more than 21,000 Liberians had returned home. Assisting those Liberian refugees who have chosen to stay in Côte d'Ivoire realize the benefits of local integration remains a challenge, as resettlement is unlikely. UNHCR's cooperation with the Government in the provision of identity cards and birth certificates for refugees proved highly successful.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: *Ministère de la Solidarité et des Victimes de Guerre, SAARA*

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

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*

Operational partners

Others: *EU, FAO, ICRC, IOM, ONUCI, UNDP, UNICEF, UNIDO, UNOCHA, WB, WFP, WHO*

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	7,368,137	2,526,691	4,443,736	6,970,427	6,965,115
IDP SB	2,349,737	1,123,923	1,952,513	3,076,437	1,781,399
Total	9,717,874	3,650,614	6,396,250	10,046,864	8,746,514

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.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,952,982	377,921	2,330,903	0
Community services	168,968	236,057	405,026	30,019
Crop production	41,101	0	41,101	(180)
Domestic needs and household support	54,651	22,740	77,391	4,528
Education	153,909	17,718	171,627	53,672
Food	3,401	0	3,401	2,308
Health and nutrition	280,633	0	280,633	81,505
Income generation	23,378	0	23,378	892
Legal assistance	855,762	667,120	1,522,882	85,761
Operational support (to agencies)	527,629	33,794	561,423	265,502
Sanitation	14,032	0	14,032	9,583
Shelter and infrastructure	8,723	524	9,247	(1,956)
Transport and logistics	329,328	174,947	504,276	175,726
Water	78,356	0	78,356	22,828
Instalments with implementing partners	514,571	250,577	765,148	(730,189)
Sub-total operational activities	5,007,426	1,781,399	6,788,825	0
Programme support	1,957,690	0	1,957,690	0
Total expenditure	6,965,115	1,781,399	8,746,514	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(1,540)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	2,467,457	880,864	3,348,321.75	
Reporting received	(1,952,886)	(630,287)	(2,583,173.55)	
Balance	514,571	250,577	765,148.20	
Previous years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1st January				817,629
Reporting received				(730,189)
Refunded to UNHCR				(83,907)
Adjustments				0
Balance				3,533