Main Objectives

Consolidate and stabilise living conditions of refugees in the newly established camps; register and issue identity cards to refugees inside and outside the camps; ensure protection of refugees and asylum-seekers; regularly inform Sierra Leonean refugees about the situation in their country to enable them to make an informed decisions on repatriation; prepare a contingency plan for a potential influx of 10,000 Liberian refugees; relocate Liberian refugees from border areas to safer sites, further inland where adequate material assistance can be provided; promote a comprehensive environmental rehabilitation programme for regions which are adversely affected by the presence of refugees.

Impact

• A total of 63,662 refugees (55,291 Sierra Leoneans and 8,371 Liberians) were relocated away from the volatile border areas to five new camps to resume their lives in conditions of dignity and relative security. This contributed to the restoration of the institution of asylum, to the overall protection regime in the country and to stabilisation of the sub-region.
• A total of 77,162 refugees, including the Kuankan refugee population (13,500) and 270 new arrivals from Liberia, had access to basic assistance (nutrition, shelter, sanitation, schools, healthcare).
• UNHCR’s sensitisation campaign contributed to maintaining harmonious relationships
between the refugees and the local population surrounding the camps.

- Over 4,000 refugee families were able to supplement and vary their food rations by engaging in agricultural activity, other income-generating activities or through access to reimbursable loans.
- Refugee protection, programme monitoring and reporting were improved by the registration of all 55,068 Sierra Leonean and 2,641 other refugees in the four new camps in Albadaria and Dabola.
- Security and the civilian character of refugee camps were maintained by the deployment of a mixed brigade of male and female security agents who were provided with incentives, communication equipment and transport, as well as housing in the vicinity of the refugee camps.
- Some 30,173 Sierra Leonean refugees were provided with transportation to enable them to return home.
- Refugees, including women and children, actively managed their lives and communities through camp committees (some headed by women), associations and clubs which participated with implementing partners and donors in the planning and revision of UNHCR’s programme.
- UNHCR conducted campaigns to promote protection of the environment in and around new refugee sites, especially 1,860 hectares of tree cover (in Albadaria, Dabola, N’zérékoré). The habit for arbitrary cutting was brought under control by the use of 15,131 energy-saving stoves.

### Working Environment

#### The Context

In 2001, UNHCR had to deal with the consequences of internal political tensions and armed conflicts in the southern and south-eastern border regions. This meant the protection of thousands of dispersed refugees fleeing areas of conflict. UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies had very limited access to refugees in Guéckédou, Macenta, and Forecariah, which remained under UN Security Phase IV. Offices in these locations were officially closed in August 2001, while new offices were opened in Albadaria and Dabola. The permanent presence of armed, non-state actors operating freely in Guinea, the permeability of the borders, the mixing of the populations, and the uncontrolled circulation of small arms in the sub-region combined to further undermine stability. There were particularly grave concerns about the region bordering Liberia, as fighting was reported between the Government and the rebels in Lofa county and beyond. The Government of Guinea endeavoured to contain the crisis, and was widely perceived by neighbouring countries to have played a role as a stabilising factor in the sub-region as a whole. These factors largely explain its election as a non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2002-2003, a move which improved the external image of the country. However, the country’s economic and social circumstances gave little reassurance. Although potentially one of the richest countries in the sub-region, Guinea has the lowest level of human development in Africa and is one of the 20 countries with the lowest life expectancy in the world.

#### Constraints

UNHCR had to re-establish its presence, managing staff security while responding to the protection and assistance needs of thousands of dispersed refugees fleeing towards relatively secure inland regions. These tasks amounted to enormous challenges, which required accommoda-
tion to the Government’s slow decision-making process and limited capacity to respond to rapidly evolving emergency situations and operations. The institution of asylum was the first casualty of political volatility and general insecurity; for example, the relocation of refugees was unfortunately complicated by the Government’s hesitant and delayed release of land for the establishment of new camp sites, and the absence of safety guarantees for UNHCR staff.

While UNHCR generally enjoyed the financial and political support of the donor community, there were often divergent views on the overall strategies and implementation of the programme. There was a tendency for donors to increase bilateral funding of NGOs. This had the effect of short-circuiting some of UNHCR’s co-ordinating functions and thus adversely affected the quality of UNHCR’s operation. UNHCR’s operations were severely hampered by poor communication networks in Guinea. There was no reliable telephone system outside Conakry. Transportation of supplies had to be carried out on poor quality roads or roads still under construction by UNHCR. The development of new sites and infrastructure were a race against time (i.e. impending rainy season). UNHCR’s truck and light vehicle capacity could not meet the simultaneous needs of camp construction, relocation, repatriation, and care and maintenance activities in the camps. At the peak of the relocation operation, additional trucks and light vehicles were hired at great cost but they were largely unfit for the poor road conditions, resulting in further delays.

**Funding**

The initial budget was insufficient to cover the combined exigencies of the emergency operation, care and maintenance, the relocation and building of new refugee camps, and voluntary repatriation. Owing to budget constraints some projects were budgeted for an initial period of six months only.

Although the response by the international community to the emergency was immediate and favourable, there was no special budget for the emergency and all activities were charged to the approved regular budget for 2001. It then proved very difficult to obtain additional funds for the latter half of the year. Additional funds were finally obtained, but unfortunately their release was delayed, with predictable consequences for the welfare of the refugees.

**Achievements and Impact**

**Protection and Solutions**

During the reporting period, a total of 55,291 Sierra Leonean refugees were relocated to Telikoro, Kountaya, and Boreah camps (in Albadaria) and to Sembakounya camp (in Dabola) while another 30,173 were assisted in returning to Sierra Leone. A total of 2,641 Liberian refugees living in Guéckédou were transferred to camps in Albadaria and Dabola, while 5,730 Liberian refugees from the border settlements and those displaced from the N’zérékoré area were transferred to the Kola camp. 2,617 urban refugees (74 per cent Liberian, 15 per cent Sierra Leonean, 15 per cent other nationalities) were registered with UNHCR. During the year, the National Eligibility Committee recognised 1,293 refugees and 874 asylum-seekers’ cases were pending at year’s end. UNHCR provided assistance to urban refugees in the form of monthly allowances. As part of the policy to facilitate local integration and self-sufficiency, 52 families ceased to benefit from monthly allowances and were encouraged to apply for loans to undertake income-generating projects. Their progress was monitored and counselling was provided.

Local integration initiatives and programmes for Liberian refugees commenced in 2000 were discontinued in 2001, due to the deteriorating security situation in the border region and the subsequent governmental refusal to continue local integration. UNHCR was forced to provide humanitarian assistance (including reopening of nutrition and distribution centres) to 19,453 refugees in Kouankan and Kola; extremely vulnerable refugees residing outside camps received primary healthcare. A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Government and UNHCR set minimum national standards for camp security. Some 140 security officers (men and women) were trained in protection principles and 70 were deployed in the Albadaria, Dabola and N’zérékoré camps. Efforts were made to ensure that armed elements and ex-combatants were not transferred to the new sites, and many
chose to remain close to the border rather than to relocate. However, the objective of excluding all former combatants (Kamajors) from the camps was not accomplished and a small group were, reportedly, accommodated in the camps. A comprehensive registration of the entire population in the Albadaria and Dabola camps was undertaken, and ration cards were issued. The Office signalled its increased focus on resettling Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees with the arrival of three resettlement consultants in Kissidougou, N’zérékoré and Conakry at the end of the year. It was considered a priority to resettle a significant number of Liberian refugees who were unlikely to repatriate due to their political profile. A total of 137 refugees were accepted for resettlement, of whom 126 departed. Among the urban caseload, a number of resettlement applications were reviewed and two cases (six persons) were resettled. None of the urban refugees requested voluntary repatriation.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: Refugees actively participated in camp committees on security, education, health, community services, sanitation and youth. Associations were active in areas of conflict resolution, prevention of abuse within the community, sensitisation against abusive drinking, prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS. A number of disabled refugees benefited from vocational training and orthopaedic aids (tricycles and crutches). Women and children benefited from centres for psycho-social counselling, rehabilitation and social reintegration and income-generating activities. Some 184 women victims of domestic violence in Albadaria and 114 women in Dabola camps were assisted. Four cases of rape of girls under the age of 18 were reported in Albadaria and six in Dabola camp; the victims received treatment and support. Some 140 Liberian refugee women victims of sexual and gender-based violence (out of 741) received support to set up small businesses and were offered training grants in N’zérékoré camps. Petrol lamps were distributed, with a monthly distribution of petrol and matches in communal shelters, in an attempt to increase security and reduce sexual violence in camps. Associations promoted women’s rights through drama, dance and painting. By the end of the year, the rate of sexual violence gradually decreased (at the beginning of the year an average of four cases per night were being reported).

Committees for the protection of children were active in camps and neighbouring villages, conducting training for various social groups. Four recreational centres were established for 6,000 children in the Albadaria camps, monitored by 240 trained refugee youths. All camps were equipped with sports facilities: football, volleyball and basketball matches were organised between refugee children and the local youth. Centres for separated children were active in all camps, 582 Sierra Leonean unaccompanied children were registered and 99 per cent of them were placed in host families. 378 separated children were registered in N’zérékoré region and three family reunifications were successfully arranged during 2001. Among the urban refugees in Conakry some 130 vulnerable families (560 persons) received assistance and social counselling.

Crop Production: As most refugees in Guinea come from rural backgrounds, assistance in agriculture was provided to make them less dependent on international assistance. With the support of the local authorities and population, land was made available for refugees to cultivate. Some 4,333 households and 20 agricultural associations in Albadaria camps (85 per cent women and ten per cent local population) received seeds, tools and fertilisers. In Dabola, 1,350 refugee households and 150 Guinean nationals in the neighbouring villages received seeds and tools. In the Kouankan and Kola camps, 1,415 Liberian refugee households received land, tools and seeds.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: During the year 77,162 refugees (57,709 in Albadaria and Sembakunya camps, 5,953 in Kola and 13,500 in Kouankan) received individual/family aid packages. These packages were distributed in different quantities based on the size of the family. They included mats, jerry cans, blankets, soap, and cooking kits. Plastic sheeting was distributed as part of the construction material package. Some 2,509 petrol lamps were distributed in Albadaria and Dabola camps and 2,633 lamps were distributed in N’zérékoré camps. Refugee women regularly received sanitary material. Vulnerable refugees received aid items based on their specific needs.
Education: Children in all refugee camps had free access to primary and secondary education. During the transition period of relocation to the new camp sites, it was not possible, however, to run regular school programmes. Some 17,430 children enrolled after temporary classrooms were made available in the new sites. A total of 28,720 children were enrolled in Albadaria, Dabola, Kouankan and Kola camps by the end of the year. 23,530 children (43-49 per cent girls) were enrolled in primary school. 5,200 children attended secondary schools, where enrolment of girls varied from 21 per cent in Albadaria camps, 25 per cent in N’zérékoré and 45 per cent in Dabola camp. 628 young persons (141 girls) in N’zérékoré, and 150 in Conakry benefited from vocational training, and one university student continued his studies under the DAFI scholarship project. The issue of sexual exploitation was addressed in schools. Peace education was initiated in all camps and Train-the-Trainers sessions were held.

Food: Before and during the relocation of refugees, WFP distributed 30-day food rations to 100,000 refugees and local populations affected by the conflict in the Languette area and to 15,700 refugees in camps in Forecariah. The 63,662 Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees relocated to new sites in Kissidougou, Dabola and N’zérékoré, as well as refugees in Kouankan camp in Macenta, received regular food rations consisting of cereals, beans and oil. A new food distribution method (scooping) adopted in all the camps increased women’s access to food at the distribution stage. Women’s names were recorded on the ration card and distribution partners were instructed to accept either the male or female as head of the household entitled to collect food. Food distribution was regularly monitored. While the food pipeline functioned throughout the year, the food basket of maize and bulgur wheat was an alien diet for refugees accustomed to rice as a staple, and adaptation proved difficult. There was no school feeding programme.

Forestry: Trees covering 1,860 hectares were marked to identify which ones should not be cut. In total, 112,4 hectares were reforested: 70.5 hectares in the three Albadaria camps, 28 hectares in Dabola camp and 13.9 hectares in N’zérékoré camp.

Health/Nutrition: Curative, preventive and reproductive healthcare was provided free of charge to 77,162 refugees living in camps. Before relocating, refugees were medically screened and an immunisation campaign against measles and polio was carried out for children. All camps had health centres, therapeutic feeding centres and medical supplies where children under five were checked for malnourishment and treated. In Albadaria and Dabola camps, only malnourished women received rations, but in N’zérékoré camps all lactating women were assisted. Educational nutritional activities are conducted at all supplementary feeding centres. Nutritional screening was carried out on all under-fives in families that registered to repatriate; two nutritional surveys were undertaken.

Income Generation: Income-generating activities were disrupted by deteriorating security conditions but were resumed after the opening of the
new camps. The lack of freedom of movement for refugees, lack of access to local markets, and the slow development of markets in and around the camps hampered the expansion of income-generating activities. Despite these difficulties, UNHCR and its partners provided small business grants to 1,990 heads of families (83 per cent women) in the three Albadaria camps and reimbursable loans to 1,419 refugee families (53 per cent elderly; 42 per cent female single heads of household; two per cent disabled). In Dabola camp, 1,335 refugees (52 per cent women) received micro-credits while 452 Guineans in Sembakounya village benefited from income-generating activities to ensure good neighbourly relations between refugees and the host communities. Another 138 vulnerable women received grants to set up small businesses. In N’zérékoré, seven micro-projects were financed for women and the elderly. 52 urban refugee families also benefited from micro projects.

**Legal Assistance:** Legal assistance was provided to asylum-seekers, particularly women and children, to help them with the refugee status determination (RSD) procedures. UNHCR participated as an observer in the deliberations of the National Eligibility Committee. The Office conducted a seminar on international protection for new committee members and others involved in RSD. In order to improve general understanding of refugee and asylum issues, public awareness campaigns were conducted, targeting all levels of society and involving regular meetings with national, district and village representatives.

**Sanitation:** In transit camps and community shelters in Albadaria camps, 1,718 latrines and 1,631 showers rooms were built for refugees. Building materials and 4,117 concrete slabs were distributed to refugees to enable them to build their own toilets. Water-borne diseases were minimised and no epidemics related to poor sanitation were reported. In 2001, HIV/AIDS-related activities focused on preventative measures such as distribution of condoms. In hospitals, blood transmission security improved, thanks to special laboratory equipment made available for tests against HIV and syphilis. The annual incidence of sexually transmitted diseases was 11.62 per 1,000 and drugs were made available to AIDS patients throughout the year.

**Shelter/Other Infrastructure:** With the Government’s support, UNHCR identified 11 new sites in Dabola, Kissidougou and N’zérékoré for relocation of refugees. Five of these (Kountaya, Boreah, Telikoro, Sembakounya and Kola) were built to take a total of 85,000 people, and one was retained in case of a large influx of refugees from Liberia. As new camps were built, UNHCR and its partners constructed 85 kilometres of the main access roads to Kountaya, Boreah and Sembakounya camps and 100 bridges were built. Some 400 temporary collective hangars were constructed to accommodate refugees during the relocation from the Languette area to the new sites in Katkama. Refugee families capable of building their own mud-brick house received construction materials and 491 communal construction kits were distributed in Albadaria and Dabola camps while houses for vulnerable refugees were built by UNHCR’s implementing partners. The lack of availability of appropriate transport and poor road conditions delayed some of the construction work. The simultaneous pressures of relocating refugees and camp construction, coupled with a shortage of staff to monitor camp activities, led some refugees to demonstrate their unwillingness to build individual shelters, even when building materials were provided. Thus some refugees remained for prolonged periods in the communal shelters, increasing the risk of exposure to sexual violence and abuse. In the Albadaria camps, 1,380 temporary shelters and 730 houses for vulnerable families were built, and 10,904 plots were allocated to families. In Sembakounya camp, 2,458 plots were given to families to build their houses; 1,250 shelters were completed. In N’zérékoré camp, 2,000 new houses for 224 vulnerable families were built. In the Kola camp, 130 houses and 30 individual shelters were built, 665 plots were given to families. Community-based infrastructure was completed, including 43 school buildings for Kindergardens, primary and secondary schools. In Dabola, three schools were built; two were built in N’zérékoré camps. Premises were constructed for camp committee offices, women’s centres and offices for implementing partners/security personnel. Repatriation departure centres were constructed in each of the camps for registration of candidates for voluntary repatriation to Sierra Leone.

**Transport/Logistics:** Some 72 UNHCR trucks, along with rented vehicles, helped in the timely transportation of refugees, construction material
(for schools, health centres, offices, collective and family shelters) and aid items to the new sites. 30,173 refugees opting for repatriation were also transported from Mambiya Transit Centre, Dabola and Albadaria camps to Conakry. Additional storehouses were rented in Kissidougou and Dabola and two warehouses were erected in Kuntaya and Dabola for the storage of non-food items. UNHCR’s transportation capacity was not sufficient to meet the simultaneous demands of camp construction, relocation, repatriation and care and maintenance activities. Additional trucks and light vehicles were hired at considerable cost on the local market, but they proved unfit for the poor road conditions and caused delays.

**Operational Support (to Agencies):** Implementing partners were provided with the necessary resources and equipment. Material assistance was provided to government counterparts.

**Water:** The refugees’ drinking water requirements during the emergency period were met through water trucking, surface water pumping and the use of storage bladders. Refugees received 17-23 litres of safe water per person per day. Sustainable water distribution systems were developed in three Albadaria camps, housing 50,000 refugees. A total of 34 boreholes, 8 wells, 13 pumping stations, 13 water towers, three catchment systems equipped with pumps, 93 stand-posts of six water taps each, and 101 washing areas were completed. The system was maintained and water quality was tested regularly. In Sembakounya camp (Dabola), 11 boreholes, 15 wells (including three for Sembakounya villages) and latrines for vulnerable refugees, showers, and washing areas were constructed. During the relocation and repatriation operations, sufficient quantities of safe water were made available to refugees in transit camps.

**Organisation and Implementation**

**Management**

UNHCR had one main office (Conakry) and six other offices (in Guéckédou, N’zérékoré, Forecariah, Macenta, Kissidougou, Ouende Kenema) until April 2001. Following cross-border attacks on refugees in Macenta, Guéckédou and Forecariah, UNHCR relocated the refugees away from these areas. Two new offices were opened in Albadaria and Dabola in May 2001 and offices in Forecariah, Macenta and Ouende Kenema were closed. In September 2001, the Albadaria office was closed following a staffing review. In May, 101 posts were created, 11 of which were international posts. At the end of the year, Guinea had one main office in Conakry and three others in N’zérékoré, Kissidougou and Dabola. The offices were run by 46 international and 180 national staff. Owing to harsh living conditions in field locations, 16 posts still remained vacant at the end of the year despite new financial incentives.

**Working with Others**

UNHCR was assisted in the planning and implementation of its activities by 19 implementing partners (ten international NGOs, four local NGOs and five NGO partners providing services to asylum-seekers and refugees with their own funding). UNHCR also collaborated with seven governmental bodies, four UN agencies and IOM.

**Overall Assessment**

UNHCR adopted a three-pronged strategy to respond to emergency situations, namely, the provision of immediate humanitarian assistance, the relocation of refugees away from the borders and the facilitation of voluntary repatriation. This strategy was supported by the Government, implementing partners and donors, except that some donors continued to question the appropriateness of relocating refugees to new camps and thereby making them dependent on international assistance. They argued, instead, for the direct relocation of Sierra Leonean refugees to their country of origin. By contrast, other donors fully supported the relocation of Sierra Leonean refugees to new camps but did not consider the relocation of Liberian refugees to new sites to have been an adequate response. Although income-generating activities and agricultural activities were initiated immediately, their impact on the self-sufficiency of the refugees was limited. UNHCR was able to ensure the protection of the relocated refugees but security conditions and limited staff prevented...
UNHCR’s access to refugees in the Languette area. While border conflicts did not affect the refugees directly, it resulted in large-scale internal movements of the local population and prevented access by UNHCR and other humanitarian actors. There were no reports of *refoulement* of refugees.

Some posts remained vacant at the end of the year. This was a threat to programme delivery and the monitoring of refugees, and it did not go unnoticed by key donors. The immediate humanitarian needs and continuing fragile security situation were not conducive to bridging the gap between humanitarian assistance and longer-term development programmes. Humanitarian assistance became the priority and monopolised the available resources.

### Offices

**Conakry**
- N’zérékoré
- Kissidougou
- Dabola

### Partners

#### Government Agencies
- Bureau national de coordination pour les réfugiés
- Direction nationale de la santé publique
- Directions préfectorales de la santé
- Direction nationale des eaux et forêts
- Inspections régionales de la santé
- Inspections régionales de l’éducation
- Programme nationale de lutte contre le VIH-SIDA

#### NGOs
- Action by Churches Together
- Action Contre la Faim
- American Refugee Committee
- Association pour le développement de la riziculture intensive et du palmier
- Centre canadien d’études et de coopération internationale
- Croix-Rouge guinéenne
- International Rescue Committee
- Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium)
- Organisation Catholique pour la Promotion Humaine
- Organisation pour le développement communautaire intégré de la Guinée
- Première Urgence
- Search for Common Ground/Talking Drum Studio.

#### Others
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
- IFRC
- IOM
- UNDP
- UNICEF
- WFP
- WHO
## Financial Report (USD)

### Current Year’s Projects

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<tr>
<th>Expenditure Breakdown</th>
<th>Annual Programme Budget</th>
<th>Supplementary Programme Budget</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>notes</th>
<th>Annual and Supplementary Programme Budget</th>
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### Instalments with Implementing Partners

| Payments Made                      | 15,971,461               | 0                             | 15,971,461 |       | 5,117,657                                 |       |
| Reporting Received                 | 12,582,284               | 0                             | 12,582,284 |       | 7,462,077                                 |       |
| Balance                             | 3,389,177                | 0                             | 3,389,177  |       | (2,344,420)                               |       |
| Outstanding 1st January            | 0                        | 0                             | 0          |       | 2,468,236                                 |       |
| Refunded to UNHCR                  | 0                        | 0                             | 0          |       | 221,503                                   |       |
| Currency Adjustment                | 0                        | 0                             | 0          |       | 261,774                                   |       |
| Outstanding 31 December            | 3,389,177                | 0                             | 3,389,177  |       | 164,087                                   |       |

### Unliquidated Obligations

| Outstanding 1st January            | 0                        | 0                             | 0          |       | 5,247,348                                 | (5)   |
| New Obligations                    | 33,611,349               | 2,003,818                     | 35,615,167 |       | 0                                          |       |
| Disbursements                      | 30,043,744               | 1,900,658                     | 31,944,402 |       | 2,747,949                                 | (5)   |
| Cancellations                      | 0                        | 0                             | 0          |       | 2,499,399                                 | (5)   |
| Outstanding 31 December            | 3,567,605                | 103,160                       | 3,670,765  | (3)   | 0                                          | (5)   |

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:
(1) Annex to Statement 1
(3) Schedule 3
(5) Schedule 5
(5) This balance includes USD 912,713, outstanding from operations before 2000. It is also reported under “Unearmarked” in Schedule 5, page 46 of UNHCR’s Accounts.