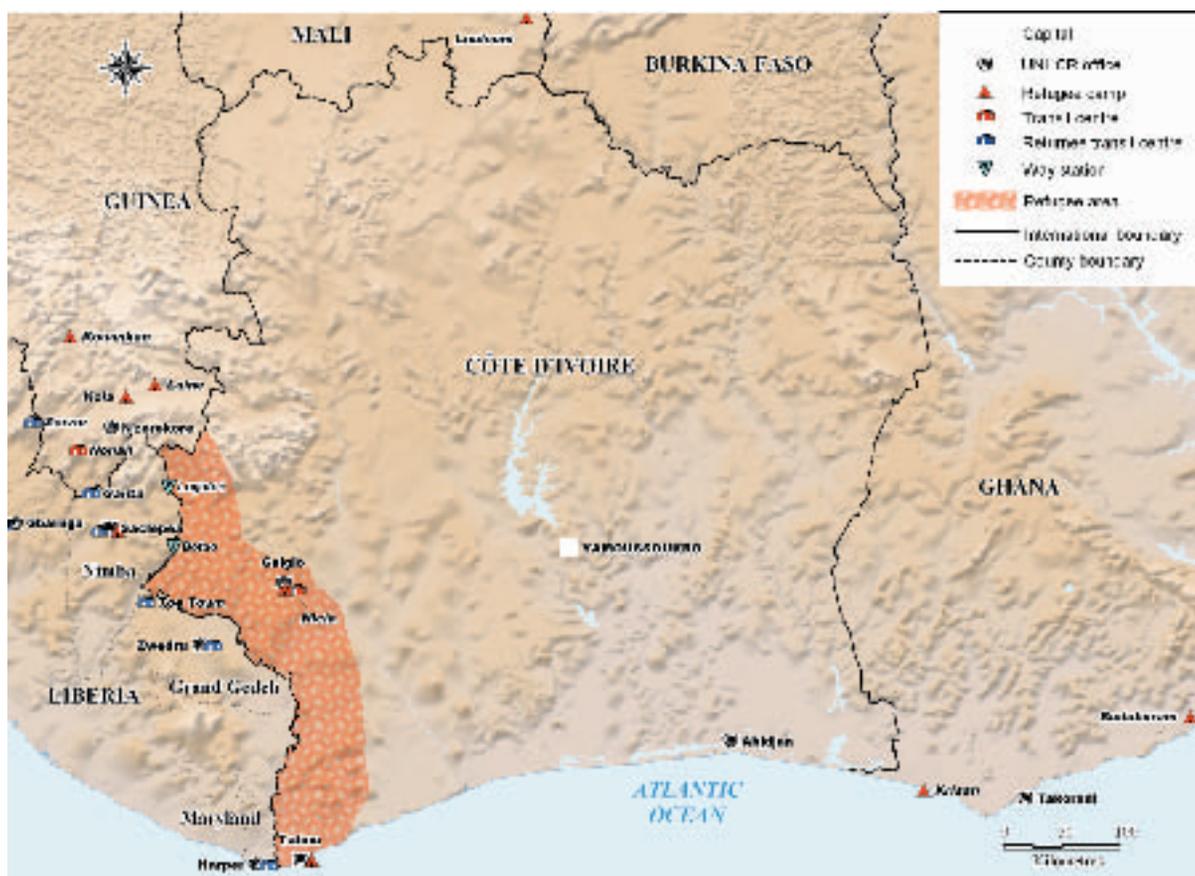


Côte d'Ivoire



Main objectives

- Continue to provide international protection and assistance to urban refugees in Abidjan.
- Promote voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees in safety and dignity.
- Provide international protection to Liberian refugees opting to remain in Côte d'Ivoire and provide them with basic assistance to enhance their self-sufficiency and facilitate their local integration.

Planning figures

Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
Liberia (refugees)	34,400	16,400
Other refugees	1,100	850
Republic of the Congo (refugees)	500	400
Republic of the Congo (asylum-seekers)	600	500
DRC (asylum-seekers)	500	400
Other asylum-seekers	400	300
Total	37,500	18,850

Note: In addition, there are an estimated 500,000 internally displaced people in the country in need of protection and assistance.

Total requirements: USD 9,682,813

Working environment

Recent developments

Three years after the beginning of the Ivorian crisis, peace is still elusive. The country is split, with the north held by the *Forces nouvelles* and the south under the control of Government forces. Peace agreements were signed in Pretoria in April 2005 by all parties to the conflict, with the mediation of South African President Thabo Mbeki (as mandated by the African Union) and a Declaration of Implementation was adopted in June 2005. In September, the United Nations Secretary-General announced that presidential elections would not be held as scheduled in October. Despite initial difficulties in bringing together the two parties in the implementation phase of the peace agreements, the implementation of the Pretoria Declaration registered real progress. However, the controversy that followed the promulgation by the President of some laws, such as the nationality law, delayed the disarmament process and compromised the holding of elections at the end of the presidential term in October 2005, as prescribed by the Constitution. At the time of writing, efforts were taking place to reach political consensus on the way the country will be ruled until the elections take place.

Constraints

Disarmament and disbanding of militias was, according to the peace agreements, a precondition for elections. Although some progress was registered, the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process is by no means complete and the security situation remains volatile. In 2006 militia activity could continue in the west, threatening the civilian nature of the refugee camps (all the refugee camps are in the west of the country). Government supporters have deliberately constrained the movements and activities of UN troops in several areas of the country despite the condemnation of the international community. In summary, fragile security conditions will probably reduce the presence of humanitarian workers and severely limit access to refugees and returnees in some areas.

The stalled peace process will further impede the return of State authority to certain areas in the country and will continue to hinder humanitarian access. Some development agencies and international financial institutions have made the funding of post-conflict reconstruction programmes conditional upon a substantial improvement of the security situation in the entire territory.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

UNHCR's 2006 programme will be mainly oriented towards promoting the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees and of urban refugees of other origins and the local integration of those refugees who choose to stay in Côte d'Ivoire. Those for whom resettlement is the only durable solution will be resettled in a third country.

If the security situation in Liberia improves after the October 2005 elections, as is widely predicted, an estimated 18,000 Liberian refugees are expected to return in 2006, leaving some 16,400 Liberian and 1,550 urban refugees of other nationalities in Côte d'Ivoire.

Maintaining or achieving social cohesion is a crucial element in all humanitarian activities in Côte d'Ivoire, given the existing tensions between communities, particularly in the west of the country where most refugees are hosted. UNHCR will include local populations in its activities.

UNHCR activities will attend to HIV/AIDS awareness, the fight against sexual and gender-based violence, rehabilitation of the environment, and a range of priorities related to women, children, adolescents, older persons and those with chronic diseases. UNHCR programmes in 2006 will be flexible so that they can be reoriented in case of a new emergency.

Liberian refugees

The majority of the 34,400 Liberian refugees in Côte d'Ivoire are hosted in the *Zones d'accueil des réfugiés* (ZAR), the refugee-hosting areas in the



The UNHCR ferry in Prolo used for repatriation from Tabou to Liberia, seconds after it was put on the waters as residents, some Liberian refugees and the technical team look on. *UNHCR / F. Kaba*

west of the country, and some 4,000 live in Abidjan. The majority of those in the ZAR live in villages, and the rest live in two camps, in Tabou and Niela. UNHCR will promote voluntary repatriation in line with the regional multi-year plan and facilitate the local integration of those who choose to stay in Côte d'Ivoire, thereby reducing their dependence on assistance. Urban-based Liberian refugees will be assisted only with health care and primary education. They will be encouraged to return to Liberia, but if they remain they will be assisted to integrate in the ZAR villages (the policy of the Ivorian Government being to provide assistance in the ZAR only). UNHCR will continue its mass information campaign to inform refugees on the situation in Liberia and thus help them make an informed decision on whether or not to return.

Urban refugees and asylum-seekers

It is estimated that some 2,600 urban refugees and asylum-seekers, 51 per cent of them women, will be living in Abidjan at the beginning of 2006. This population comprises students and professionals mainly from the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Burundi and the Central African Republic. Some 450 of these individuals will be resettled. Of the remainder, UNHCR will provide international protection and assistance to the most vulnerable refugees only, in the sectors of education, health, vocational training and income-generating activities. When the new asylum law is passed by Parliament, UNHCR will assist the Government in its implementation, which will require the establishment of a legal framework for the protection of urban refugees.

Assistance

In 2006, basic assistance will continue in the villages, reinforcing national and local structures so that they can progressively take over UNHCR's assistance structures. UNHCR plans to close the refugee camp in Tabou. Initially built in 1999 as a transit centre for repatriation purposes with capacity for 400 persons, it became a camp with a population of 2,600 refugees after new Liberian influxes. Living conditions are very harsh, and overcrowding has resulted in a recurrence of protection problems. The camp is situated in Tabou town and offers few opportunities for self-sufficiency for the residents, who thus rely on humanitarian assistance for their basic needs. UNHCR will assist refugees in Tabou until its closure in mid-2006 and after that will assist the remaining refugees to settle in the surrounding villages. In Nicla camp, basic assistance will gradually be reduced from the latter half of 2006 and limited to health, water, education and community services. Existing structures will be reinforced and handed over to national institutions in order to assist the local population in the villages of the ZAR.

Desired impact

It is expected that all Liberian refugees who wish to repatriate will do so, either spontaneously or with the assistance of UNHCR in safety and dignity and that they will participate in reconstruction efforts. Urban refugees who express the wish to return to their countries will be assisted to do so. UNHCR's 2006 programme will also contribute to the implementation of durable solutions for Liberian refugees and urban refugees of other nationalities who opt to remain in Côte d'Ivoire by ensuring that they continue to receive international protection when this option is desirable.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

In 2006, UNHCR will have a representation in Abidjan and two field offices in Tabou and Guiglo. UNHCR will employ 12 international and 48 national staff.

Coordination

UNHCR will maintain a shared vision of the programme's objectives and strategies through quarterly review meetings and strategic planning workshops with partners. In order to implement the multi-year repatriation of Liberian refugees under optimal conditions UNHCR will continue to work closely with the Governments concerned. Particular attention will be given to the security of transborder movements of children and other vulnerable groups. In collaboration with the United Nations Mission in Côte d'Ivoire (ONUCI), UNHCR will closely observe the evolution of security conditions in the west of the country.

Along with other humanitarian agencies, the Office will take an active role in all coordination and planning initiatives undertaken by OCHA and UNDP in the framework of the *Common Humanitarian Action Plan for Côte d'Ivoire*, including humanitarian staff security. UNHCR will collaborate closely with other UN agencies to ensure that their country programmes cover refugees alongside other beneficiary populations. With UN agencies, ONUCI, the Government and its partners, UNHCR will endeavour to maintain the civilian nature of asylum. UNHCR will contribute with other humanitarian agencies to a responsive and efficient protection network for refugees and internally displaced people.

Offices
Abidjan
Guiglo
Tabou

Partners
Government agency
<i>Service d'aide et d'assistance aux réfugiés et apatrides</i>
NGOs
<i>Afrique Solidarités Assistance</i>
<i>Association de soutien à l'autopromotion sanitaire urbaine</i>
Caritas
International Rescue Committee
<i>Solidarité International</i>
Others
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
IOM

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,808,360
Community services	266,235
Crop production	261,663
Domestic needs	279,783
Education	281,940
Food	149,409
Health	336,836
Income generation	110,762
Legal assistance	405,792
Operational support (to agencies)	547,200
Sanitation	181,247
Shelter/other infrastructure	150,900
Transport/logistics	962,335
Water	565,895
Total operations	7,308,357
Programme support	2,374,456
Total	9,682,813

Côte d'Ivoire