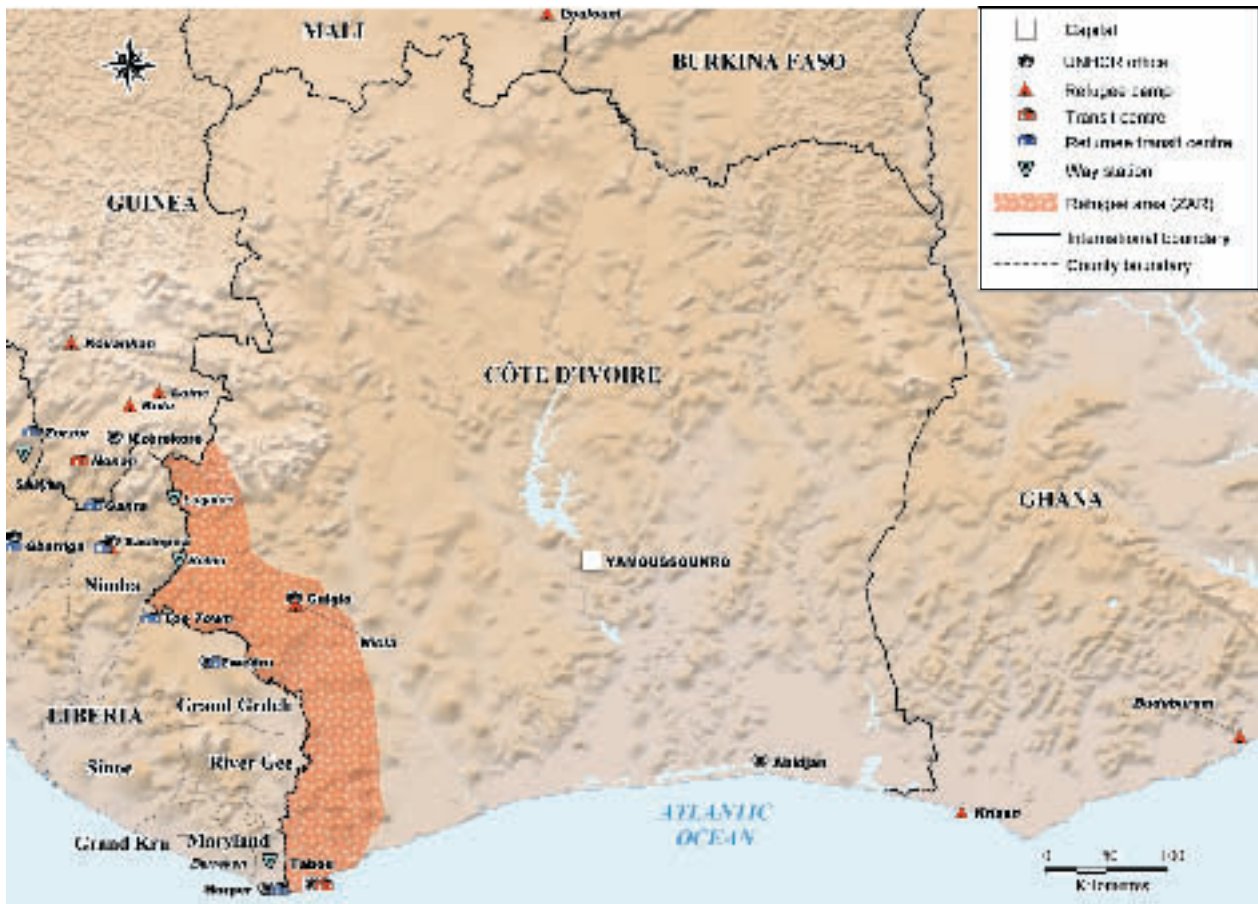


# Côte d'Ivoire



## Main objectives

In 2005, UNHCR aimed to provide international protection and assistance to urban refugees living in Abidjan as well as Liberian refugees residing in Nicla camp, in Tabou transit centre and in the communities of western Côte d'Ivoire; facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees; provide support to Ivorians who return of their own accord; and, if feasible, facilitate the repatriation and reintegration of any other refugees who choose to return.

## Impact

- The census and verification exercises organized in 2005 clarified the number of refugees in Côte d'Ivoire, and enabled more than 90 per cent of the refugee population to obtain identity documentation. Over the course of the year, 16,600 Liberian refugees returned of their own accord, in addition to some 13,500 Liberian refugees who returned with UNHCR's assistance through the facilitated voluntary repatriation programme.
- In 2005, UNHCR continued the emergency resettlement programme in order to offer durable solutions

for refugees in Côte d'Ivoire for whom return was not an option. In total, 473 refugees were resettled in 2005.

- Care and maintenance activities in 2005 addressed the assistance needs of all Liberian refugees residing in Tabou transit centre and Nicla camp (representing some 20 per cent of the total Liberian refugee population in the country). The majority of Liberian refugees in the country (some 70 per cent) lived with host families and also benefited from care and maintenance assistance.
- Activities for the reintegration of Ivorian returnees included the restoration of a water distribution system including new wells and boreholes. As a result, the sanitary conditions of some 31,200 people in 17 villages greatly improved (water points had been non-functional or contaminated, and latrines scarce).

## Working environment

### The context

The crisis that had gripped Côte d'Ivoire since September 2002 persisted in 2005 and continued to divide the country. The signing of the Pretoria Agreement in April

2005 under the auspices of the South African President refocused efforts towards disarmament, reunification of the country and the organization of presidential elections. However, the lack of political goodwill on all sides compromised these efforts. In October, the involvement of the United Nations' Security Council prevented a further deterioration of the situation. After the country failed to organize elections as planned, a new cabinet was selected in December 2005, bringing hopes for positive developments. An international working group, comprised of representatives from key UN member States and the Secretary-General's Special Representative, was tasked with monitoring the implementation of the peace agreement and the disarmament process.

## Constraints

The volatile security situation continued to be the major obstacle in 2005. UNHCR once again faced limited access to refugees and Ivorian returnees in the non-governmental zones in the North-West. Field activities were restricted due to inter-ethnic conflicts in April and June, and during the final quarter of 2005 when all humanitarian organizations limited their activities as a precautionary measure. The growing political and economic instability sharply reduced the likelihood that refugees would integrate locally. The redeployment of administrative, economic and social services personnel, in particular to the West of the country, was further delayed. Residents in the West, where the majority of refugees are located, continued to face serious obstacles in accessing social and administrative services.

## Funding

Despite financial difficulties encountered towards the end of the year, the necessary resources were mobilized to cover the needs of target groups as described in UNHCR's 2005 Global Appeal and the Consolidated Appeal for Côte d'Ivoire. This included adequate funding of the 2005 emergency resettlement programme for refugees who could neither stay in Côte d'Ivoire nor return to their countries of origin for security reasons.

## Achievements and impact

### Protection and solutions

The main protection concerns were freedom of movement for refugees in a volatile security context; maintaining the civilian character of the refugee camps; access to refugees in non-governmental zones; and the difficulties of local integration for urban refugees. Monitoring of the return of Ivorian returnees in the West was virtually impossible. Nevertheless, substantial progress was achieved in many other areas. Following census and verification exercises, more than 90 per cent of refugees in Côte d'Ivoire, including urban refugees, received identity documentation. In 2005, close to 13,500 Liberian refugees repatriated with UNHCR's assistance, while another 16,600 returned home spontaneously. UNHCR continued its emergency resettlement programme and as a result, 437 refugees were resettled, 411 of whom were Liberian. By the end of the year, over 6,300 of the almost 7,000 candidates identified in 2003 were resettled in the United States.

Though militias were active in the Guiglo area, where Nicla camp sheltered over 6,000 refugees, no recruitment of refugees was reported. United Nations peacekeeping forces deployed in the West of the country contributed to the security of refugees in the areas they patrolled.

UNHCR continued building the capacity of the *Commission nationale d'éligibilité* (National Eligibility Commission, CNE), and of its national counterpart, the *Service d'aide et d'assistance aux réfugiés et apatrides* (Office for Assistance of Refugees and Stateless Persons, SAARA). The CNE examined 238 of its 351 cases, and granted refugee status to 60 individuals. Though the refugee status determination procedure in Côte d'Ivoire was fair, it was slow, with over 2,400 people awaiting decisions on their claims at the end of the year. The various SAARA offices delivered travel documents and attestations to refugees. In collaboration with SAARA, UNHCR also provided support to state services, which permitted the issuance of over 2,500 birth certificates for refugee children born in Côte d'Ivoire.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
IDPs		38,000	38,000	52	-
Refugees	Liberia	39,900	39,900	69	48
	RoC	600	600	40	26
	Various	1,100	1,100	51	28
Asylum-seekers	RoC	800	-	42	37
	DRC	600	-	37	38
	Sierra Leone	400	-	32	29
	Togo	200	-	27	33
	Central African Republic	200	-	32	43
	Various	300	-	31	35

## Activities and Assistance

**Community services:** In 2005, UNHCR focused on consolidating the emergency resettlement programme, in addition to focusing on the efficiency and sustainability of activities with a view to gradual withdrawal. UNHCR adopted a participatory approach, aimed at increasing the capacity of refugees and locals to meet their own socio-economic needs. Committees were established to deal with the protection of refugee women and children; health and hygiene; water and sanitation; the distribution of food and other items; general security; and the special interests of parents and young people. Women's participation in the management of sites and in newly established community committees increased. The supply of firewood to refugees with special needs in Nicla camp and to all refugees in Tabou transit centre spared women and children the burden, and dangers, of collecting wood in unprotected areas.

**Crop production:** In 2004, tools, seeds and agricultural advice were given to over 2,400 families. In 2005, this was followed up with agricultural training for more than 400 youths and adults at technical training centres in Nicla and Tabou.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Refugees in Nicla and Tabou received domestic items, including kitchen utensils, pails, blankets, mats, jerrycans and mosquito nets. In addition, each refugee received 400 grams of soap on a monthly basis. Distribution of domestic items targeted groups at risk and with special needs. Pregnant women received mosquito nets and benefited from medical kits for safe delivery and care of newborns.

**Education:** The language barrier prevented many Liberian parents from enrolling their children in local schools. Given the lack of teachers, only a few Ivorian schools were operational within the *Zone d'Accueil des Réfugiés* (refugee-hosting area, ZAR) and UNHCR continued to support the informal educational system established in 2004. Other activities included teacher recruitment and training, construction of classrooms, purchase of furniture, procurement of teaching and learning resources and support to parents' associations. In the southern ZAR, over 2,400 children aged from 3 to 17 years benefited from these activities, as did almost 1,000 children aged from 3 to 15 years in the northern ZAR. All 236 school-aged children from the urban refugee community, including 84 adolescents, received assistance to attend primary and secondary schools and post-secondary education. Secondary education could not be provided to Liberian refugees again because of the language barrier, but some 1,500 youths received training in agriculture, construction, basic computer skills and sewing at informal technical centres in Tabou and Nicla.

**Food:** Throughout the year WFP provided dry food rations of 1,700 kcal per person per day to refugees at Nicla camp, and of 2,100 at Tabou transit centre. Successful income-generating activities and small gardens also enabled refugees to complement their food ration.

**Health and nutrition:** At the transit centres and Nicla camp, health indicators for both children and adults were almost within standard levels. The crude and child mortality rates were respectively less than 1.5 deaths per 1,000/per month, and of 60 deaths for every 1,000 live births among children less than a year old. All children at the sites were vaccinated against measles and several other diseases. Refugees in Nicla camp received treated mosquito nets. All sites had health centres with qualified staff, medication and supplies, offering basic preventive and curative services and referring serious cases to specialized facilities. In the Tabou area, 19 health centres were in operation and covered the needs of some 25,000 refugees and locals. HIV/AIDS sensitization campaigns were carried out in refugee areas. More than 500,000 condoms were distributed to refugees. UNHCR rehabilitated the nutritional centre at Tabou Hospital, which treats refugees referred to it. Treichville reception centre in Abidjan was rehabilitated during the year.

**Income generation:** Income-generating activities mostly targeted refugee women. A large number of refugees in the villages, Tabou transit centre and Nicla camp worked in the plantations or in small trades.

**Legal assistance:** In 2005, no cases of *refoulement* were reported. UNHCR maintained contact with administrative authorities and the judicial system. Cases concerning refugees were reported and solutions sought, in conformity with international conventions pertaining to the protection of refugees.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR's operational partners received material assistance and participated in various training workshops organized by UNHCR on humanitarian law, international protection, education and programme management.

**Shelter and infrastructure:** Refugees in Tabou transit centre and Nicla camp had access to more than 3.5 square metres of living space each. Those living in villages in the Tabou area built their own shelters or lived with locals, and those with special needs received assistance in the villages, Tabou transit centre and Nicla camp alike.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR's activities in this sector included the transportation of refugees and support extended to implementing partners. Given the poor state of the office's fleet, UNHCR had to rent buses and private trucks to transport refugees and their belongings.

**Water:** All refugees at Tabou transit centre and Nicla camp had access to 20 litres of potable water per day. Maintenance of 13 boreholes and 25 pumps at Nicla helped to achieve this standard. At Tabou transit centre, water was supplied daily by tanker trucks, while the two existing boreholes were rehabilitated. In addition, some 60 water points and 500 family latrines were rehabilitated or built for over 31,000 inhabitants of the 17 villages of Bolequin (in the context of the reintegration of Ivorian returnees).

**Sanitation:** Sanitation conditions at the sites were maintained at the internationally recognized standard levels. The number of wells increased from 120 to 127, while 24 latrines were constructed, raising the total number to 620. At the same time, the population dropped from some 30,000 in 2004 to some 16,500 following the repatriation of Liberian refugees, with the result that living and sanitary conditions in the sites improved. New committees were also formed to help manage water, sanitation and maintenance of the sites; hygiene kits were made available through these committees. An evaluation report revealed a notable improvement in the level of hygiene among both refugees and the local population.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

UNHCR maintained three offices in Côte d'Ivoire: a representation in Abidjan and field offices in Tabou and Guiglo. In 2005, UNHCR in Côte d'Ivoire had 65 posts, 12 international, 51 national and two UNVs. Supervision and monitoring were carried out through regular field missions and through exchange of activity reports between the representation in Abidjan and the field offices.

### Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with SAARA, its government counterpart responsible for refugee issues. In addition, UNHCR's implementing partners included two national and two international NGOs. UNHCR also cooperated with all humanitarian organizations present in Côte d'Ivoire. UNHCR played an active part in the Consolidated Appeals Process and in the sessions and forums organized by the United Nations system.



Voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees by ferry from Tabou, Côte d'Ivoire, to Prollo, Liberia. *UNHCR / S.Kpandji*

## Overall assessment

Overall, UNHCR realized its objectives, and its activities helped to improve the protection of refugees, address their basic needs and also encourage and strengthen their social cohesion with the local population. Nevertheless, at times, UNHCR was affected by the tension in the country and in particular by the insecurity in western Côte d'Ivoire. Activities related to the repatriation and reintegration of Ivorians were implemented in the communities of Bolequin and in the Guiglo-Bolequin area. However, the volatile security situation in this zone during the first half of 2005 seriously affected activities related to this programme.

In search for durable solutions, the operation in Côte d'Ivoire partly achieved its objectives with 85 per cent of those Liberian refugees who had planned to return home in 2005 having repatriated; another 16,500 having returned spontaneously; and some 473 refugees, mostly Liberians, having benefited from emergency resettlement.

Offices
Abidjan
Guiglo
Tabou

## Partners

**Government agencies**  
Service d'aide et d'assistance aux réfugiés et apatrides (SAARA)

**NGOs**  
Afrique Secure Assistance

Association de soutien à l'auto-promotion sanitaire et urbaine

Caritas  
International Rescue Committee

**Others**  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit  
IOM

### Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

#### Annual programme budget

Final budget	Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other funds available <sup>2</sup>	Total funds available	Total expenditure
11,422,605	2,691,295	8,151,398	10,842,693	10,842,693

<sup>1</sup> Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

<sup>2</sup> Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

### Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Annual and supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,336,013	0
Community services	189,161	81,829
Crop production	13,175	7,004
Domestic needs and household support	269,106	86,057
Education	241,105	58,477
Food	53,404	18,036
Health and nutrition	522,206	139,325
Income generation	62,635	57,202
Legal assistance	1,023,156	309,401
Operational support (to agencies)	1,070,686	893,519
Sanitation	162,780	85,195
Shelter and infrastructure	247,452	395,705
Transport and logistics	1,011,264	235,642
Water	229,516	93,425
Instalments with implementing partners	1,244,860	(2,460,817)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>8,676,519</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	2,166,174	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>10,842,693</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on prior years' expenditure</b>		<b>(347,850)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Payments made	5,093,663	
Reporting received	(3,848,803)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,244,860</b>	
<b>Prior years' report</b>		
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Outstanding 1st January		2,879,741
Reporting received		(2,460,817)
Refunded to UNHCR		(426,385)
Adjustments		112,447
<b>Balance</b>		<b>104,986</b>