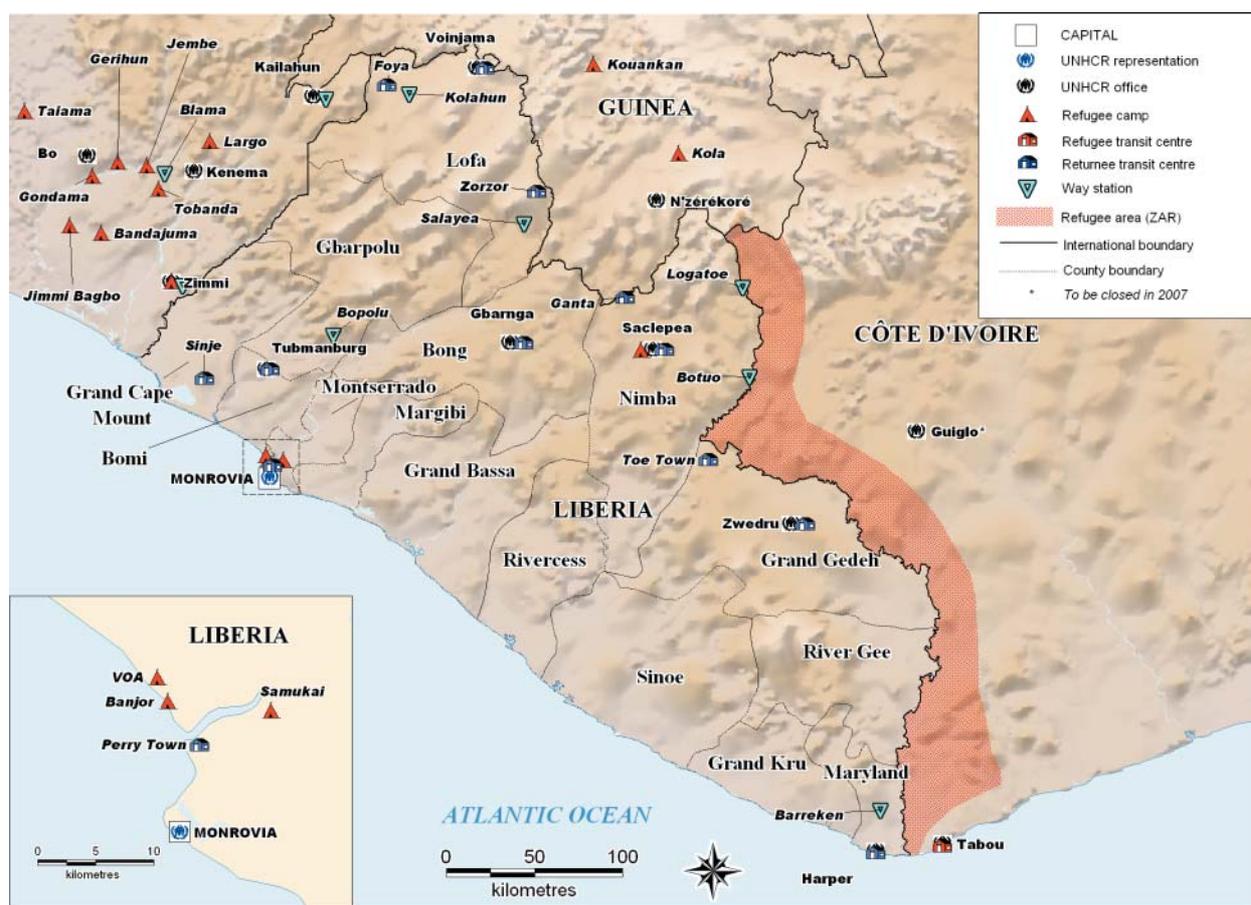


Liberia



Working environment

The context

After more than 15 years of civil war, a new Government was installed in Liberia in January 2006. Led by Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first female president, it is establishing its authority in the country. Security improved enough to allow UNHCR to start promoting repatriation in

February 2006; by October more than 80,000 Liberian refugees had returned home from Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. In the same period, UNHCR assisted some 50,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return to their areas of origin.

Despite these positive developments, Liberia has only just started to recover following years of economic and social collapse. Extremely poor road conditions impede repatriation operations and hamper reintegration projects.

Planning figures

Type of Population	Origin	January 2007		December 2007	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in Country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Côte d'Ivoire	12,580	12,580	12,580	12,580
	Sierra Leone	3,610	3,610	3,610	3,610
	Various	30	30	30	30
Asylum-seekers	Various	20	20	30	30
Returnees (refugees)		92,100	92,100	56,000	56,000
Returnees (IDPs) ¹		51,630	51,630	-	-
Others of concern	Third country nationals	50	50	50	50
Total		154,730	154,730	77,300	77,300

¹ The January 2007 figure reflects the number of IDPs that will have returned during 2006. In 2007, UNHCR will give reintegration assistance to IDPs that have returned prior to 2007.

The needs

Between December 2005 and February 2006, the partners in the Community-Based Recovery Joint Action Plan — UNDP, UNICEF, WFP and UNHCR — and the Humanitarian Information Centre undertook assessment missions to seven field locations. After discussions with local authorities, units of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), NGOs and local communities, the assistance needs in the short, medium and long term were determined. Major gaps were identified in protection, food, education, health, water, sanitation, shelter, crop production, income generation activities and in the rehabilitation of roads and bridges. Furthermore, all agencies lacked sufficient field presence. The gaps in basic services affect most districts and areas of return.

Total requirements: USD: 32,265,201

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

Main objectives

The emphasis of UNHCR's programme in Liberia will shift from repatriation to support for reintegration. As it manages the transition from relief to development, UNHCR's programme in Liberia will have two components. The first is the annual programme for the repatriation and reintegration needs of returnees. This will also cover assistance and protection for Ivorian refugees living in camps and among local communities along the Liberia-Côte d'Ivoire border. The second component is a supplementary programme for the return and reintegration of former IDPs.

Overall objectives

- Promote the voluntary return of refugees and IDPs in safety and dignity and provide reintegration assistance.
- Build the Government's capacity to assume primary responsibility for protecting refugees, returnees and IDPs through training and material support.
- Continue care and maintenance activities for Ivorian refugees in camps and community-based assistance for those being hosted by the local communities.
- Ensure the sustainable reintegration of former refugees and IDPs through the "4Rs" approach, which brings together development and humanitarian actors to deal with the problems of post-conflict societies.
- Strengthen the use of local integration and resettlement for those refugees for whom voluntary repatriation is not an option.

Key targets for 2007

- 100 per cent of returnees are transported in safety and dignity to their areas of origin.
- 100 per cent of returnees receive non-food items and a four-month WFP food ration.
- 90 per cent of all refugee children attend primary school.
- 100 per cent of camp based refugees continue to have access to health care.
- 125 new wells are constructed and all existing wells maintained in good working order.
- Standard procedures for prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence in all camps are established and 30 per cent of reported cases brought to court.
- 56,000 returnees with special needs are given access to pit latrines.

Strategy and activities

UNHCR will support the development of conditions conducive to the sustainable reintegration of all returnees. It will strengthen existing partnerships and create new ones with the Government of Liberia, UN agencies, NGOs and other humanitarian actors. It will also work with national institutions dealing with human rights and rule of law to mitigate shortcomings in the delivery of justice.

One of UNHCR's main priorities is to help the Government revive mechanisms established by the Refugee Act to determine the status of asylum-seekers. Asylum procedures are not fully functional and there have been significant delays in individual status determination. UNHCR will support the Government in this endeavour by providing training, logistics support and office equipment. On a positive note, following introduction of the *ProGres* registration software in Liberia in 2005, the rate of registration reached 100 per cent.

Through community-based activities and returnee monitoring, UNHCR will help women gain their social and economic rights and become self-reliant. It will promote gender equality and emphasize the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence. In partnership with UNDP and UNICEF, the Office will construct and rehabilitate water and sanitation facilities, particularly in schools and clinics.

Ivorian refugees

The security and political situation in Côte d'Ivoire is still fragile and it is unlikely that Ivorian refugees will return home in the foreseeable future. Therefore, UNHCR will need to continue to protect and assist them through the year. Refugees with special protection needs will be considered for resettlement.

Sierra Leonean refugees

The transitional nature of the previous government did not allow UNHCR to pursue local integration for Sierra Leonean refugees. UNHCR will now actively seek local integration for this group while providing them with basic protection and health services.

Urban refugees

There is very little likelihood that the urban refugees of various nationalities will return home. However, the possibility remains open for those wishing to do so depending on the situation in the countries of origin. Resettlement on protection grounds and local integration will have to be pursued on a case-by-case basis; some refugees may qualify for naturalization under the Liberian Constitution.

Constraints

Many years of conflict and the mismanagement of public resources have generated widespread poverty. Institutions which provided services and safeguarded people's rights have been eroded. Administrative and law enforcement structures are not yet in place throughout the country. This makes the reintegration process difficult.

The villages and communities receiving returnees live in great hardship. Reintegration assistance must be community-based, involving the rehabilitation of entire villages, the road system and most of the national infrastructure. There is a funding gap, and more donor support is required to complement the efforts of UNHCR and other agencies if reintegration is to be sustainable.

Furthermore, the impasse in resolving the political situation in Côte d'Ivoire has the potential to trigger insecurity not only in Liberia but the entire subregion.



Komolahun Town in Lofa County is one of the most destroyed areas in Liberia. UNHCR provided plastic sheeting to the roof during the dry season to give time to returnees to procure roofing materials.

UNHCR / E. Compte Verdaguer

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

Number of offices	7
Total staff	239
International	51
National	168
UNVs	14
Deployees	6

Coordination

UNHCR's primary interlocutor is the Liberian Government. The Office is a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Country Team, and cooperates with the International Committee of the Red Cross, the Liberian Red Cross, NGOs and IOM.

Internally displaced people

The IDP return process, which began in November 2004, officially ended in April 2006 after more than 314,000 people had returned home. As cluster lead on protection, camp management and emergency shelter, including the distribution of non-food items, UNHCR has established a comprehensive monitoring framework for these returnees. It has also focused on aiding the re-establishment of national institutions such as the police, judiciary and community structures to deal with child welfare and property disputes. Among the issues that need to be addressed are lack of awareness of HIV/AIDS, human rights and sexual exploitation and abuse.

In 2007, UNHCR will continue the integration of IDPs in their areas of origin. Former IDP camp sites will be rehabilitated to minimize environmental damage. Consultations with the early recovery, health and education cluster lead agencies and ministries on schools and health clinics for communities will ensure the sustainability of efforts to alleviate the plight of the displaced.

The main strategic objectives for UNHCR's IDP project are:

- Monitor the sustainability of return of IDPs and the viability of the peace and reconciliation process.
- Expand operational areas to provide community-based reintegration assistance in districts of high IDP returns.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Liberia Refugee, Repatriation and Resettlement Commission.

NGOs: Africa Concern International, Africa Humanitarian Action, American Refugee Committee, Caritas Cape Palmas, Christian Children's Fund, Danish Refugee Council, Environmental Foundation for Africa, International Medical Corps (UK), Liberia National Red Cross Society, Medical Emergency Relief Cooperative International, Norwegian Refugee Council, Peace Winds Japan, Smile Africa International, ZOA Refugee Care.

Others: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, FAO, UN Habitat.

Operational partners

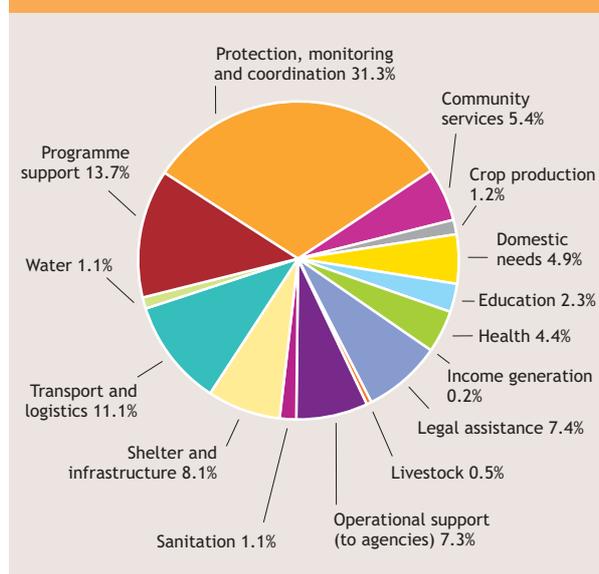
NGOs: International Rescue Committee.

Others: UNDP, UNICEF, UNMIL, WHO.

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Protection, monitoring and coordination	12,247,955	10,813,712
Community services	2,120,000	1,345,000
Crop production	450,000	0
Domestic needs	1,920,000	1,226,000
Education	910,000	500,000
Food	0	112,000
Health	1,720,000	1,239,000
Income generation	80,000	660,000
Legal assistance	2,890,000	2,032,600
Livestock	205,000	0
Operational support (to agencies)	2,845,000	1,142,000
Sanitation	440,000	631,000
Shelter and infrastructure	3,155,000	1,054,000
Transport and logistics	4,325,000	6,011,000
Water	440,000	747,400
Total operations	33,747,955	27,513,712
Programme support	5,337,035	4,751,489
Total	39,084,990	32,265,201

2006 Annual Programme Budget by sector



2007 Annual Programme Budget by sector

