

# GUINEA

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## INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Ensure the protection of Sierra Leonean refugees. Provide refugees with basic humanitarian assistance, and initiate income-generating activities (including agricultural projects) to enhance their self-reliance.
- Disseminate information on the aspects of repatriation and conditions in areas of origin to enable refugees make informed decisions on their future. Facilitate the repatriation of refugees who opt to return.
- Complete the transfer of Liberian refugees to new sites and continue to ensure their protection. Provide refugees in camps with basic humanitarian assistance, and organise the registration of all refugees.
- Facilitate the repatriation of Liberian refugees on an individual basis, security permitting.
- Focus assistance to urban refugees, with a view to increase their self-reliance (income-generating activities and skills-training). Provide support to the most vulnerable refugees.
- In co-operation with the Government and development agencies, reforest areas affected by the presence of large numbers of refugees.

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRESS ACHIEVED, AND CONSTRAINTS

### Sierra Leonean Refugees

After a year of uncertain security, the situation in Kissidougou and surrounding districts improved during the first half of 2002. However, conditions along the border areas in Gueckedou remained precarious, and the presence of military forces restricted access to border locations for regular monitoring purposes.

Although the relocation of refugees to new camps was completed, some still continued to leave Gueckedou to seek protection and assistance in camps.

The consolidation of the peace process and the holding of general elections in Sierra Leone in May 2002 raised the hopes of refugees for an early return home. While the borders are still closed, the Government opened the Pamelap border point for UNHCR repatriation convoys on humanitarian grounds. Negotiations were concluded between UNHCR and the Government to secure the opening of other border points to enable refugees to return, with or without UNHCR assistance. As of 30 June 2002, 17,930 refugees were assisted by UNHCR through the facilitated repatriation.

Additional measures to prevent sexual exploitation of children in the refugee camps were taken. Improving co-ordination, referral mechanisms, as well as psychosocial and legal support to victims, strengthened Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV) programmes. The capacity of UNHCR and its partners to address SGBV issues was improved with new training. Standards of accountability for the humanitarian workers were adopted and assistance strategies reviewed.

At the end of June 2002, a total of 44,580 refugees received protection and assistance in UNHCR camps at Sembakounya, Kountaya, Telikoro, and Boreah.

25,000 refugees registered to be repatriated to Sierra Leone under the facilitated repatriation exercise. The ongoing mass information campaign ensures that refugees are aware of the prevailing situation in their country of origin to help them make an informed decision.

Enhancing the protection of refugees through the issuance of identity documents is a priority of the Office for 2002. Although registration for the Sierra Leonean refugees was completed last year, the Office was unsuccessful in obtaining permission to distribute the cards. Civil status registration is ongoing and birth certificates will also be provided. The physical security of refugees in the camps is a major priority. Efforts were made to improve the capacity of the mixed brigade of police and gendarmerie in charge of the camp security to respond to incidents of SGBV.

The Office provided legal assistance to refugees held in detention for over a year, due to the security incident that took place in Telikoro. Out of 83 prisoners, 38 refugees (29 adults and 9 minors) were freed, while 33 adults and 12 minors were imprisoned, following a judgement of the Criminal Court. Several adults and minors were sentenced to serve between six months to four years in prison. Those released, returned back to the camp and/or opted for repatriation.

### **Liberian Refugees**

Since February 2002, the intensification of armed conflicts inside Liberia led to a new influx of Liberian refugees to Guinea. During the first half of the year, a total of 17,360 new Liberian refugees were registered. The security situation in the border areas remained precarious and limited UNHCR's access to monitor and assist refugees immediately upon arrival.

The relocation of Liberian refugees away from the border areas was put on hold due to the necessity to respond to the needs of the new refugee influx from Liberia, and the lack of resources and availability of

appropriate sites for camp construction. No repatriation took place due to the deteriorating security situation.

Despite the closure of the border, the Guinean government continued to allow refugees seeking safety to cross into Guinea. By the end of June 2002, a total of 17,360 new arrivals (59 per cent women), were transferred from the border to Kouankan and Kola camps, and to Nonah Transit Centre. This increased the total number of refugees in Kouankan from 13,500 to 25,600, and in Kola from 5,950 to 6,190, bringing the total number of refugees in the camps and transit centre to 36,820 as of 30 June 2002.

Mixed police and gendarmerie brigades continued to ensure security in camps. Reports of visits to the camp by armed groups were taken up with the Government, and the need to ensure the civilian and humanitarian nature of the camps stressed.

Refugees were allowed to enjoy their basic human rights, although freedom of movement remained restricted. All prisons and detention centres were accessible to UNHCR and other agencies, with the exception of asylum-seekers arrested at border areas. They were suspected of being members of rebel groups. 34 prisoners were recorded, 16 were released and the cases of the remaining refugees continued to be monitored.

Over 200 refugees applied for resettlement to third countries, and 68 cases were submitted to UNHCR for onward referrals. Eight were recommended for interviews by the US government, and the Australian government interviewed one case to be resettled to Australia.

**Progress as measured against indicators**

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress	
	Sierra Leonean Refugees	Liberian Refugees
Refugees living in and around camps receive adequate international protection and assistance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identity cards were available for the four camps (Sembakounyah, Boreah, Kountaya, Telikoro), but the negotiation process with the authorities delayed their delivery.</li> <li>• Sensitisation campaigns were organised in the camps to raise awareness on the sexual exploitation of refugee children.</li> <li>• 44,580 refugees were assisted in the four camps as of 30 June 2002.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17,360 new arrivals were transferred to the camps for better protection.</li> <li>• No relocation of long-staying refugees took place because priority was given to the new arrivals, as well as due to the lack of funds and space in the camps.</li> <li>• 36,820 refugees were assisted in the camps of Kouankan and Kola, and at the Nonah transit camp as of 30 June 2002.</li> </ul>
20,000 Sierra Leonean refugees who opt to return to their country of origin are assisted through the facilitated repatriation process.  5,000 Liberian refugees will repatriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17,930 Sierra Leonean refugees were assisted through the voluntary repatriation process.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to the intensification of the war in Liberia, no repatriation took place.</li> </ul>
Refugees in the existing camps had access to appropriate shelter and basic facilities according to the required standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two departure centres were erected in Kountaya and Boreah camps and the Mamou transit centre is operational.</li> <li>• 160 shelters were built for vulnerable groups in the four camps.</li> <li>• 43 km (87 per cent) of Kissidougou and the Albadariah access road were rehabilitated, as were 4 km in Boreah and 3,5 km in Kountaya, and 10 km of the Pamelap road.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 80 per cent of the refugees who arrived in Kouankan and Kola during 2002 still live in communal hangars.</li> <li>• Efforts were made to supply refugees with construction kits. Sensitisation is still under way to speed up the construction of family shelters by the refugees themselves.</li> </ul>
The refugees receive a sufficient quantity of satisfactory quality water each day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On average, every refugee in the four camps had access to over 30 litres of potable water per day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An average of 18 litres per person per day was available at Kouankan, 20 litres at Kola, and 12 litres at the transit camps.</li> </ul>
All school-age children living in the camps had access to primary and secondary school education, and vocational training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the 17,701 refugee students in the four camps, 11 per cent were enrolled in secondary school (2,002) and 89 per cent in primary school (15,699).</li> <li>• 1,490 refugee adolescents were enrolled in vocational schooling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Among the 9,086 students in Kouankan, Kola and N'Zérékoré, 21 per cent were enrolled in secondary school (1,940) and 79 per cent in primary school (7,146).</li> <li>• 661 pupils were enrolled in vocational schooling.</li> </ul>
2,000 Sierra Leonean refugee (500 families), and 2,000 Liberian refugees are resettled to third countries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 persons accepted to be resettled in a third country.</li> <li>• 27 Sierra Leonean refugees were submitted for resettlement to a third country.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resettlement is ongoing. 123 Liberian refugees living in camps submitted to a third country.</li> </ul>

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress	
	Sierra Leonean Refugees	Liberian Refugees
Improve self-sufficiency through the implementation of income-generating activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 157 refugees in Sembakounya camp received training in management skills.</li> <li>• 929 clients received small business training and were served by loan group disbursements.</li> <li>• 133 refugees served by training grants received artisan/skills-training in Albadaria camps.</li> <li>• 7,390 beneficiaries were provided with tools, seeds and technical expertise in agricultural activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In agriculture, the number of refugees increased from 1,415 (in 2001) to 3,500, including 500 members of the local communities.</li> <li>• More than 90 per cent of the planned inputs were purchased. Distribution is under way.</li> <li>• 60 out of 80 planned micro-projects were established for 255 beneficiaries in Kola, Kouankan and N'Zerekore, of whom 10 to 20 per cent are from the local community.</li> </ul>

### Urban Refugees

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress
Needy refugees had access to basic facilities and health care.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 125 families of refugees (464 refugees) received a monthly subsistence allowance to meet their basic needs.</li> <li>• The expenses related to the health care of 107 refugees was covered.</li> </ul>
Increase job opportunities through vocational and skills-training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 refugee students, including 30 girls, are assisted with monthly allowance in Conakry and Labé for vocational training.</li> <li>• A scholarship was provided to one student to continue medical studies. Additional allowance was given to 10 DAFI graduate students to finalise their thesis.</li> </ul>
Improve self-sufficiency though the implementation of income-generating activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 23 refugees, including 18 women received training in management skills.</li> <li>• 14 small projects (involving eight women) were funded.</li> </ul>

### REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER 2002

- Efforts aiming at preventing the sexual exploitation of refugee children will continue. In this respect, the Regional Plan of Action will be implemented depending upon the availability of funds.
- The consolidation plan for camps and programmes in Dabola and Kissidougou areas, will be gradually implemented in accordance with the repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees.
- As and when the situation in Sierra Leone permits, UNHCR will shift from a facilitated return to the actual promotion.
- Provide all new refugees arriving from Liberia (estimated figures of 40,000 until end 2002) with adequate protection and basic assistance. In this respect, ensure that the duration of their stay in transit centres and/or at border areas is kept to a minimum, prior to their transfer to secure areas.
- Pursue the development of the Laine site to its authorised capacity of 6,000 for immediate transfers of new Liberian refugees.

- Enlarge the existing care and maintenance programmes to meet the needs of the increasing number of Liberian refugees in camps (from 22,000 in January 2002 to 62,500 beneficiaries, foreseen at the end of December 2002).
- Initiate studies in preparation for self-reliance programmes to be undertaken in 2003.

### Financial Data (USD)

Annual Programme Budget				Supplementary Programme Budget			
Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level	Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level
24,591,972	24,199,033	15,502,569	12,748,516	0	4,062,057	400,000	400,000