

# Guinea

## Main Objectives

- Ensure the international protection of all refugees in Guinea, including new arrivals at border areas; provide multi-sectoral assistance to those living in the refugee camps; and enhance their self-reliance through the development of income-generating activities.
- Promote the voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees if conditions are favourable.
- Consolidate Sierra Leonean refugee camps and assistance programmes (as part of UNHCR's gradual disengagement policy).
- Focus assistance to urban refugees on projects that increase their self-reliance (income-generating activities and skills training), and provide support to the most vulnerable.
- Pursue resettlement opportunities for all refugees who meet the relevant criteria.
- Protect the environment in and around the current camps and rehabilitate zones affected by the presence of refugees.



## Planning Figures

Population	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003
Sierra Leonean Refugees	57,000 <sup>1</sup>	20,300
Liberian Refugees	122,000 <sup>2</sup>	134,500
Urban Refugees	2,500	2,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,500</b>	<b>157,300</b>

<sup>1</sup> UNHCR estimates that some 35,700 Sierra Leonean refugees will repatriate in 2003, of whom 24,300 from the camps will be assisted. Some 11,700 non-assisted refugees living outside camps are expected to return spontaneously. UNHCR also plans to organise the resettlement of some 1,000 refugees.

<sup>2</sup> Depending on the situation in Liberia, some 15,000 refugees are expected to arrive in 2003. UNHCR also plans to relocate some 5,000 refugees from border areas to camps and to organise the resettlement of 2,500 refugees.

## Total Requirements: USD 23,371,111

precarious, and access to certain areas for regular monitoring was restricted because of the presence of military and other armed elements.

The physical security of refugees in the camps continues to be one of UNHCR's main priorities. UNHCR is in the final stages of negotiating with the Government of Guinea an amended Camp Security Agreement to reinforce camp security. The agreement will focus on strengthening the capacity of the mixed brigade (police and *gendarmerie*) through training on basic human rights issues, and the special protection afforded to women under the international conventions.

## Working Environment

### Recent Developments

In 2002, the security situation in Kissidougou and its surrounding districts, where the majority of the refugees are accommodated, remained relatively calm. However, the situation along the border areas in Guéckédou, Macenta and N'zérékoré was

Following reports of the presence of armed elements in the Kouankan refugee camp, the Government was reminded of its obligation to ensure the civilian and humanitarian nature of the camps. Unless a very strict approach is taken to address the issues of security in this camp, UNHCR may be forced to withdraw from the camp and suspend the provision of material assistance. The Government has stated that the only way to ensure the civilian nature of the camp is to relocate the approximately 33,000 refugees presently in Kouankan to a safer location. Subject to Government approval of appropriate new sites, the relocation should start before the end of 2002 and continue into early 2003.

The improvement of the situation in Sierra Leone has raised hopes of return for thousands of refugees. During the first nine months of 2002, 18,622 refugees were assisted by UNHCR through the facilitated voluntary repatriation operation. An agreement was concluded between UNHCR and the Guinean Government on the opening of six additional border points. However, for security reasons and because of bad road conditions in Sierra Leone, the repatriation has thus far only been carried out through the Pamelap border point.

As Sierra Leonean refugees are beginning to return home, renewed and intensified armed conflict inside Liberia has led to a new influx of Liberian refugees into Guinea. As of 12 September 2002, 27,714 new Liberian asylum-seekers had been registered, mostly women (59 per cent) and children (23 per cent), bringing the total number of Liberian refugees in camps to more than 50,600.

## Constraints

The provision of refugee identity cards to registered refugees has been a priority. Although identity cards for the Sierra Leonean refugees living in camps were ready at the end of 2001, the Government has only very recently given its permission to distribute them. It is hoped that there will be no similar delays in the distribution of identity cards to Liberian refugees.

Because of national security concerns, the Government has had difficulty in identifying appropriate sites for the reception and accommodation

of new arrivals from Liberia in the Guinea Forest region. As a result, thousands of refugees have remained for long periods in volatile border areas where UNHCR and its partners could not ensure their protection or provide them with regular material assistance.

## Strategy

### **Sierra Leonean and Liberian Refugees:**

UNHCR will continue to endeavour to ensure the protection of all refugees in Guinea. Basic material assistance will be distributed to new arrivals from Liberia (estimated at 15,000 in 2003) as well as to some 61,500 Liberian and 35,500 Sierra Leonean refugees living in camps. Refugees will participate in the conception, formulation and implementation of activities in the different sectors of assistance. In all refugee camps, committees of democratically elected refugee representatives (of whom 50 per cent must be women) will take decisions on the various activities and contribute to the overall management of the camps. These committees will be governed by codes of conduct drawn up in 2002.

To prevent the sexual exploitation of women and children in the refugee camps, measures were taken to strengthen existing programmes to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). A series of awareness raising workshops for refugees and humanitarian personnel will be organised to enable them to detect, prevent and respond to SGBV related issues. The co-ordination of referral mechanisms will also be enhanced, and psychosocial and legal support will be provided to the victims of violence. In 2002, Humanitarian and Development Agencies (UN country team and NGOs) adopted a Code of Conduct for humanitarian workers in Guinea. The Code included a joint strategy to ensure that measures to prevent and address sexual abuse and exploitation are taken by all actors involved in development and humanitarian assistance programmes.

UNHCR will register all new arrivals in the camps and the existing database will be updated on a monthly basis to reflect population changes, including births, deaths and departures (repatriation and resettlement). The registration operation will also include refugees living outside the camps.

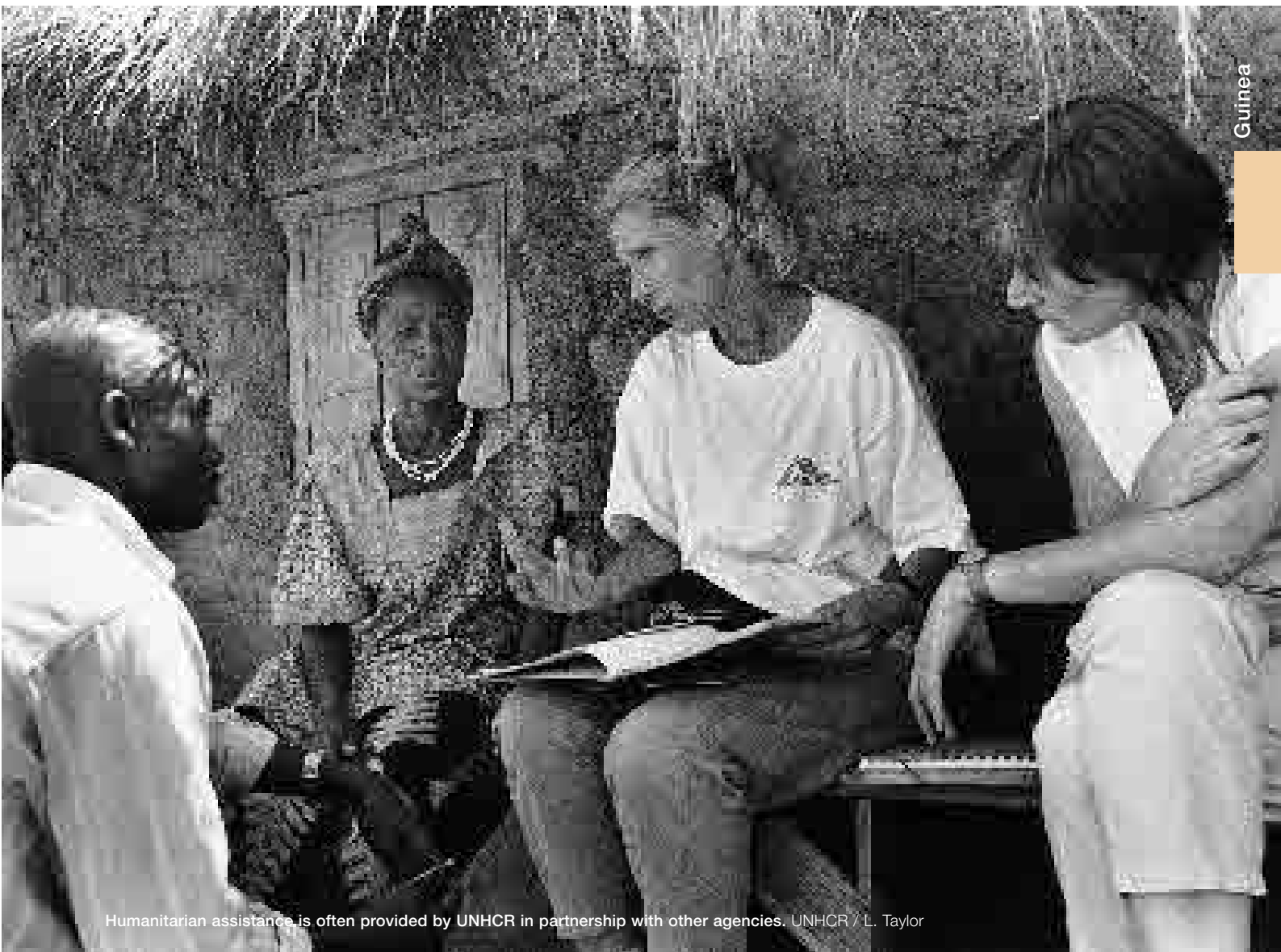
This will allow UNHCR to establish exact statistics as well as to issue identity documents to all refugees.

During 2003, UNHCR estimates that some 15,000 refugees will arrive from Liberia. These 15,000 – plus roughly 5,000 who are to be relocated away from the border areas – will be accommodated in existing refugee camps in Albadaria in shelters that are expected to be vacated by repatriating Sierra Leonean refugees. Refugees in Kola and Lainé camps still living in communal shelters will benefit from technical assistance with the construction of family homes.

UNHCR's assistance programme for both Sierra Leonean and Liberian refugees living in camps will cover all the main sectors including food, water,

health and sanitation, education and vocational training. In addition to the regular food distribution to all refugees in camps, hot meals will be served to new arrivals during their transfer from the transit areas to the camps as well as to refugees who are relocated from one camp to another. To ensure that refugees receive the exact food ration, the monitoring of the food basket will be reinforced. To ensure that refugees receive a sufficient supply of drinking water, existing hydraulic facilities will be maintained and new ones constructed as required.

Refugees living in the camps will all benefit from free medical treatment in the health posts established in each camp. Activities relating to vaccination (yellow fever, measles), reproductive health, and HIV/AIDS will remain a priority. Hygiene kits will be distributed to all women aged 12 to 55. Among



Humanitarian assistance is often provided by UNHCR in partnership with other agencies. UNHCR / L. Taylor

the refugees living outside the camps in Macenta and N'zérékoré, only the most vulnerable will benefit from free health care and supplementary food. In the camps, UNHCR will boost existing special programmes for these vulnerable groups, e.g. psychosocial support and counselling as well as recreational activities for children and teenagers. The Office will also pay special attention to the search for durable solutions for separated children.

All school-aged refugee children will have access to primary and secondary education. UNHCR and its partners will promote school attendance for refugee girls and the recruitment of female teachers. To allow young teenage mothers to attend school, UNHCR will elicit the community's co-operation in organising day-care centres where they can leave their children. Income-generation activities and vocational training will be developed to enhance the refugees' self-reliance. Refugees, and women in particular, will receive training on how to develop and manage small income-generating projects. The vocational training will include carpentry, masonry, electrical work, secretarial skills and computer science.

In September 2002, and in view of the significant improvements of the security and political situations in Sierra Leone, it was decided that UNHCR should no longer merely facilitate the repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees, but promote it within the available resources. In 2003, the Office will continue to promote the voluntary repatriation of refugees if security and other conditions upon return remain favourable. UNHCR estimates that some 24,300 refugees will receive repatriation transport assistance from the camps while another 11,700 refugees living outside the camps will repatriate spontaneously. At the same time, other durable solutions including resettlement will be pursued for 1,000 Sierra Leonean and 2,500 Liberian refugees, in particular for women at risk and other vulnerable groups.

Over the course of the year, UNHCR will proceed with a progressive disengagement policy through the consolidation of camps and assistance programmes to Sierra Leonean refugees. The camp of Sembakounya will be closed and refugees who wish to continue to receive assistance will be transferred to camps in Albadaria. Within the

framework of camp consolidation, a hand-over to the Government of hydraulic, sanitary and educational facilities and other infrastructure is envisaged for transfer to local authorities and populations.

Under the environment protection and rehabilitation projects, the main objective will remain to mitigate environmental damage and prevent its further degradation. The activities to be undertaken will include: the marking of trees in and around the refugee camps to identify those that should not be cut; the development of plant nurseries for reforestation; the production of 'eco-stoves' so that households will be encouraged to use these; and the organisation of environmental education programmes. The clean-up and reforestation of old refugee-hosting sites will also be undertaken.

**Urban Refugees:** There are presently some 2,500 urban refugees in Conakry. To increase the refugees' economic independence, UNHCR will continue to support skills training and income-generating activities. Refugees will receive a monthly allowance, and to benefit from free medical care.

The National Eligibility Committee will hold weekly meetings to grant refugee status to those falling within the scope of the relevant Conventions.

## Organisation and Implementation

### Management Structure

A total of 186 posts, comprising 41 international staff, 142 national staff and three JPOs have been approved for Guinea. The Office will also benefit from the services of 15 UNVs.

As a result of the consolidation process, the Field Office in Dabola will be gradually reduced to a minimum level of staff. Depending on the repatriation operation it may be closed at the end of 2003.

### Co-ordination

UNHCR will continue to participate in the sub-regional meetings on voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees in order to co-ordinate strategies, policies and activities.

In 2003, the PARinAC process will be reinforced, with particular attention to staff training for implementing partners. Bi-weekly co-ordination meetings in Conakry and weekly meetings will be held in the field with governmental, NGO and UN system partners will also continue to be held.

Regarding Inter-Agency Co-operation, UNHCR will actively participate in the regular UN inter-agency meetings on the CCA and UNDAF. The co-ordination of strategies and activities by the UN humanitarian actors and agencies will be assured

Offices
<b>Conakry</b>
Kissidougou
N'Zérékoré
Dabola

Partners
<b>Government Agencies</b>
<i>Bureau national de coordination pour les réfugiés</i>
<i>Ministère de l'administration du territoire, de la décentralisation et de la sécurité</i>
<i>Direction nationale des eaux et forêts</i>
<i>Radio rurale de Guinée</i>
<b>NGOs</b>
<i>Action Contre la Faim</i>
<i>Action of Churches Together</i>
<i>American Refugee Committee</i>
<i>Association pour le développement de la riziculture et du palmier</i>
<i>Centre canadien d'études et de coopération internationale</i>
<i>Croix-rouge guinéenne</i>
<i>Concern Universal</i>
<i>Environnement et développement – Action et coopération</i>
<i>Handicap International</i>
<i>International Rescue Committee</i>
<i>Médecins Sans Frontières</i>
<i>Organisation pour le développement intègre communautaire</i>
<i>Organisation catholique pour la promotion humaine</i>
<i>Première Urgence</i>
<b>Others</b>
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
<i>IFRC</i>
<i>IOM</i>
<i>UNVs</i>

through weekly meetings under the leadership of the Humanitarian Co-ordinator. Every six months, joint missions will take place with WFP on the nutritional situation of refugees, in addition to regular bi-weekly meetings between the senior staff of the two agencies in Conakry.

Regular contacts will be maintained with UNEP and UNDP regarding the financing of environmental programmes. UNHCR will seek financial support for development programmes in the zones affected by the presence of refugees from other development agencies such as the AfDB and the World Bank.

UNHCR will facilitate joint missions with donors in its operational zones and continue information-sharing with donors through monthly meetings in Conakry.

Budget (USD)	
Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	5,968,726
Community Services	811,339
Crop Production	356,426
Domestic Needs	939,403
Education	884,171
Food	628,423
Forestry	347,784
Health	779,608
Income Generation	550,078
Legal Assistance	661,101
Operational Support (to Agencies)	3,422,137
Sanitation	269,331
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	571,887
Transport / Logistics	3,420,187
Water	315,825
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>19,926,426</b>
Programme Support	3,444,685
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,371,111</b>