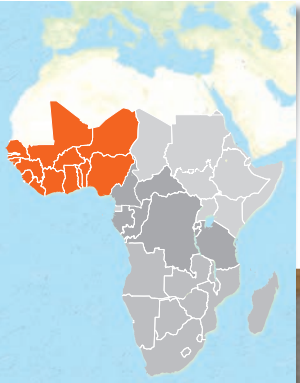


WEST AFRICA



UNHCR

2013 GLOBAL REPORT

- Benin
- Burkina Faso
- Cabo Verde
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Gambia (the)
- Ghana
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Mali
- Niger
- Nigeria
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Togo



After registration, this family of Malian refugees undergoes medical screening upon arrival in Mauritania

UNHCR / B. MALUM



Overview

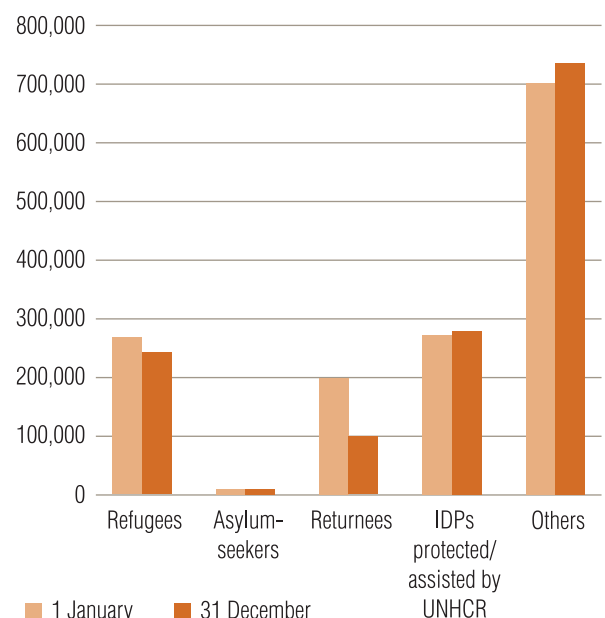


Highlights

- Despite domestic challenges, Burkina Faso and Niger continued to observe the principle of *prima facie* refugee status for Malian refugees. UNHCR supported the protection and material assistance of over 86,500 refugees, including 77,600 Malians, in these two countries.
- In 2013, UNHCR assisted some 19,500 Ivorians and almost 2,300 Malians to voluntarily return to their countries, providing them with transportation and cash grants.
- The organization resettled more than 2,100 refugees in the region to third countries, mainly people originating from Cameroon, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan and Togo.
- More than 4,200 survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were registered and supported in 2013 in West Africa. There was a significant improvement in the reporting of SGBV incidents, as well as the effectiveness of prevention and response activities, compared to previous years.
- Operations in several countries took steps to improve the living conditions of refugees in countries of asylum, notably by improving shelter. In Ghana, UNHCR constructed more than 360 housing units, while in Sierra Leone, 46 shelters with 54 latrines were constructed. In Burkina Faso, some 7,700

- families received shelter, and more than 4,200 traditional shelters were provided in Niger.
- Thanks to UNHCR and partners' nutrition programmes, global acute malnutrition rates decreased significantly in refugee camps in Burkina Faso and Niger.

People of concern to UNHCR in West Africa | 2013



Working environment

While an improved security situation in Côte d'Ivoire enabled UNHCR to repatriate some 19,500 Ivorian refugees from neighbouring countries, the political and security situations in some areas of Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and Nigeria had an impact on UNHCR's operations in West Africa. The Government of Mali reported the voluntary return of some 14,270 Malian refugees only, mainly due to instability in much of Mali, while new influxes of Malian refugees into Burkina Faso and Niger were observed.

In Nigeria, armed conflict in the north of the country triggered the influx of more than 8,000 Nigerians into Niger.

Thanks to return programmes implemented by UNHCR and its partners, the number of people in need of international protection in West Africa decreased from 276,600 in 2012 to 250,300 in 2013, of whom 7,960 were asylum-seekers.

Achievements and impact

In 2013, UNHCR successfully provided 276,600 people in West Africa with protection, basic items and services, and support for durable solutions.

The organization supported access to documentation for people of concern. In Benin, it processed individual cases of ceased refugee status and long-standing asylum-seekers. Consequently, over 3,700 applicants received residency privileges, including 3,200 Togolese refugees. Moreover, with the Ghana Refugee Board, UNHCR distributed approximately 7,400 refugee identity cards to refugees in Ghana, allowing them freedom of movement in the country and access to basic social services.

UNHCR recorded more than 4,200 SGVB incidents in West Africa in 2013. The Office and partners pursued efforts to support survivors through the provision of medical, and psycho-social treatment.

The organization supported livelihood initiatives for Mauritians in Mali and Senegal, Togolese in Benin and Ghana, Ghanaians in Togo and Senegalese in Gambia and Guinea-Bissau. Sewing activities and small businesses were supported, helping increase refugees' self-reliance pending durable solutions.

In support of durable solutions, UNHCR confirmed the return from Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger of some 7,000 of the 14,200 refugees reported by the Government of Mali. Of these, some 2,270 received UNHCR transportation and cash grants for their return to Mali. In addition, some 19,500 Ivorian refugees living in neighbouring countries were assisted by

UNHCR to return home. Overall, the Office surpassed its resettlement target by 175 per cent in West Africa, resettling more than 2,100 refugees. The regional resettlement team trained West African operations personnel on combatting fraud, and distributed flyers to refugees to raise their awareness about resettlement scams.

Constraints

The region's political situation overall remained largely unstable, affecting UNHCR's programmes, particularly the potential for returns. Moreover, capacity limitations affecting many of UNHCR's partners, as well as a lack of social services and infrastructure in many situations, posed challenges for operations in West Africa.

Statelessness remained an issue in the region as it is not widely understood. UNHCR is committed to continuing to raise awareness among governments and the public on this issue.

Operations

The operations in **Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali and Niger** are covered in separate country chapters.

At the end of April 2013, the Government of **Benin** agreed to grant over 3,000 residency cards to Togolese willing to locally integrate. Moreover, some 100 refugees opted for voluntary repatriation, while more than 950 sought exemption from cessation of refugee status – claiming a need for continued international protection.

In **the Gambia**, refugees were mainly from the Casamance region in Senegal. As the situation in this region remained unstable, UNHCR was unable to facilitate voluntary repatriation. However, refugees received livelihood support, mainly farming equipment, livestock and training, resulting in increased agricultural productivity and food security.

In **Ghana**, refugees are mainly from Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Togo. After several years of UNHCR advocacy, the Government of Ghana recognized an old caseload of Togolese asylum-seekers in Ghana as refugees. Meanwhile, the organization assisted more than 5,100 Ivorians to return to their country.

More than 8,400 Senegalese refugees lived in **Guinea-Bissau**. At least 650 Senegalese opted for naturalization in 2013. The Government generously made land available for the refugees for food and cash crop production. Access to land assisted the refugees to achieve food security.

Guinea continued to host refugees, mainly from Liberia. After the cessation clause for Liberians entered into force, some 200 families opted for local integration in Guinea while around 300 families requested exemption. Another 387 former refugees were issued with ECOWAS residence permits and some 400 Ivorians returned home voluntarily with UNHCR assistance. The organization also enhanced the self-reliance of some 100 families, through the allocation of grants.

In **Nigeria**, a verification exercise in both urban and rural areas resulted in a significant number of case closures and a corresponding decrease in the number of refugees from over 3,100 to just under 1,700 by the end of 2013. Assistance for refugees in Nigeria included: naturalization for 42 individuals; access to primary health care, education, microfinance, vocational training; and cash grants for 198 individuals who repatriated voluntarily.

The **Regional Office** in Dakar continued to support West African operations in areas such as protection, resettlement, public information and resource mobilization.

The majority of refugees in Senegal in 2013 were Mauritians who had arrived more than 20 years before. UNHCR, with the Governments of Mauritania and **Senegal**, explored solutions for these individuals. Pending durable solutions, the refugees' self-reliance was bolstered by UNHCR-supported social and economic activities, such as livestock, market gardening, microcredit, small business and access to health services.

In **Sierra Leone**, UNHCR worked to locally integrate Liberians by the end of 2013. The local integration package, including construction kits, passports, a work permit, a residence permit and non-food items, enhanced living conditions for some 260 former refugees in 2013. UNHCR continued to advocate for Sierra Leone's adoption of the UN statelessness conventions.

Togo hosted refugees, mostly from Ghana. A system was established to ensure the continued registration of Ivorian refugees arriving in Togo. UNHCR advocated for the revision of the asylum laws in order to establish an independent body for reviewing appeals of asylum decisions.

| Financial information |

In 2013, UNHCR's revised financial requirements increased from USD 257.7 million in 2012 to USD 284.1 million in 2013. This increase was mainly due to a need to strengthen operations in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger in 2013. The budget was adjusted for some of the countries within the subregion, as planning figures were revised according to the outcome of level 2

registration. However, the overall needs for West Africa remained the same.

Of the USD 284.1 million required for the subregion, available funding allowed for the expenditure of USD 154.6 million – representing 54 per cent of the needs.

Budget and expenditure in West Africa | USD

Operation		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
Burkina Faso	Budget	32,908,285	0	0	0	32,908,285
	Expenditure	24,169,051	0	0	0	24,169,051
Côte d'Ivoire	Budget	20,022,340	1,809,192	4,632,223	1,381,809	27,845,564
	Expenditure	11,525,928	1,185,138	2,082,935	823,984	15,617,985
Ghana	Budget	11,769,404	0	329,926	0	12,099,330
	Expenditure	6,766,510	0	58,555	0	6,825,065
Guinea	Budget	4,107,174	0	1,319,319	0	5,426,493
	Expenditure	3,292,988	0	956,201	0	4,249,189
Liberia	Budget	42,559,986	0	0	0	42,559,986
	Expenditure	22,365,145	0	0	0	22,365,145
Mali	Budget	5,210,614	0	0	27,000,194	32,210,807
	Expenditure	2,858,713	0	0	14,738,413	17,597,125
Niger	Budget	56,451,690	0	0	0	56,451,690
	Expenditure	30,655,972	0	0	0	30,655,972
Senegal Regional Office¹	Budget	72,199,088	582,224	230,000	1,635,937	74,647,249
	Expenditure	31,328,467	337,350	108,155	1,351,822	33,125,794
Total budget		245,228,581	2,391,416	6,511,468	30,017,940	284,149,405
Total expenditure		132,962,774	1,522,489	3,205,846	16,914,218	154,605,327

¹ Includes activities in Benin, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo.

Voluntary contributions to West Africa | USD

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
WEST AFRICA OVERALL					
Canada				2,466,247	2,466,247
Finland				1,277,139	1,277,139
Liechtenstein				107,991	107,991
Luxembourg				1,428,571	1,428,571
Private donors in Australia				9,780	9,780
Private donors in Canada				6,331	6,331
Private donors in France				1,542	1,542
Private donors in Germany				1,350,382	1,350,382
Private donors in Italy				81,559	81,559
Private donors in Japan				557	557
Private donors in Spain				127,284	127,284
Private donors in Switzerland	735			10,617	11,352
Private donors in the United Kingdom				62	62
Private donors in the United States of America				3,468	3,468
Sweden				4,923,903	4,923,903
Switzerland				2,103,049	2,103,049
WEST AFRICA OVERALL Total	735			13,898,484	13,899,219
CÔTE D'IVOIRE					
Belgium		654,450			654,450
Denmark	1,898,230	501,770			2,400,000
Japan	2,551,926	948,074			3,500,000
United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS	49,000				49,000
United States of America				4,300,000	4,300,000
CÔTE D'IVOIRE Total	4,499,156	2,104,294		4,300,000	10,903,450
GHANA					
Denmark	1,200,000				1,200,000
Japan	1,600,000				1,600,000
GHANA Total	2,800,000				2,800,000
GUINEA					
Japan	791,050	308,950			1,100,000
GUINEA Total	791,050	308,950			1,100,000
LIBERIA					
Private donors in Japan	221,021				221,021
United States of America				6,600,000	6,600,000
LIBERIA Total	221,021			6,600,000	6,821,021
SENEGAL REGIONAL OFFICE					
Brazil	140,000				140,000
Central Emergency Response Fund			1,418,753		1,418,753
Denmark	500,000				500,000
Nigeria				63,735	63,735
SENEGAL REGIONAL OFFICE Total	640,000		1,418,753	63,735	2,122,488

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
BURKINA FASO					
Denmark	1,700,000				1,700,000
European Union	2,437,221				2,437,221
France	320,000				320,000
Germany	663,130				663,130
Holy See	5,000				5,000
Japan	5,000,000				5,000,000
Private donors in Switzerland	37,250				37,250
United Kingdom	5,727,417				5,727,417
United Nations Children Fund	71,500				71,500
United Nations Development Programme	202,254				202,254
United States of America	5,175,000				5,175,000
BURKINA FASO Total	21,338,773				21,338,773
MALI					
Central Emergency Response Fund			1,630,997		1,630,997
Japan	500,000		6,500,000		7,000,000
Republic of Korea	400,000				400,000
Saudi Arabia			2,000,000		2,000,000
United Kingdom			6,430,868		6,430,868
United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS			58,000		58,000
MALI Total	900,000		16,619,865		17,519,865
NIGER					
Belgium	1,293,661				1,293,661
Central Emergency Response Fund	1,003,272				1,003,272
Denmark	2,333,083				2,333,083
European Union	3,233,626				3,233,626
France	841,512				841,512
Germany	663,130				663,130
Italy	1,356,852				1,356,852
Japan	7,000,000				7,000,000
Private donors in Switzerland	20,800				20,800
Private donors in the United States of America	49,902				49,902
Spain	974,026				974,026
United Kingdom	2,728,238				2,728,238
United Nations Development Programme	34,787				34,787
United States of America	8,375,000				8,375,000
NIGER Total	29,907,891				29,907,891
Total	61,098,626	2,413,244	18,038,618	24,862,218	106,412,706

Note: Includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM)