

# Guinea



## Main objectives

- Provide international protection to all refugees in Guinea and improve the quality of asylum by ensuring prompt access to refugee status determination procedures.
- Provide continued care and maintenance for camp-based refugees and targeted assistance for vulnerable members of the urban refugee caseload in Conakry.
- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees.
- Facilitate voluntary repatriation for Ivorian refugees if and when feasible.
- Promote the local integration of remaining Sierra Leonean refugees through a self-reliance programme.
- Integrate age- and gender considerations into all refugee planning and programming activities.

- Rehabilitate the environment in refugee-impacted areas and act as a catalyst in seeking funds for further remedial work.
- Strengthen mechanisms already in place for the prevention of and response to gender-based violence.
- Strengthen the coordinated response to HIV/AIDS.

Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2005	Dec 2005
Liberia (refugees)	101,000	29,100
Côte d'Ivoire (refugees)	10,000	4,950
Other refugees	11,000	1,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>122,000</b>	<b>35,550</b>

**Total requirements: USD 23,002,652**

## Working environment

### Major developments

The political climate in Guinea remains complex. The presidential elections held in December 2003 saw the re-election of President Lansana Conte for a seven-year term of office. Social tensions accompanied an economic downturn which was aggravated by the non-release of development aid to the country when it failed to fulfil certain political and economic requirements set by its development partners. An increase in the price of petroleum products in mid-August 2004 further heightened social tension, and fears that the opposition might inspire protests on the streets of the capital (leading to violence).

Guinea remains vulnerable to security conditions in neighbouring countries. In Côte d'Ivoire, a fragile peace prevails, held together by the deployment of over six thousand UNOCI peacekeepers and the persistent efforts of the African and international communities to push forward the halting progress towards a solution. In Sierra Leone, the consolidation of peace has evidently been helped by the extension of the period of UNAMSIL's deployment. In Liberia, the deployment of over fifteen thousands UNMIL peacekeepers marked an end to 14 years of conflict. Disarmament and demobilization programmes are continuing and the overall security situation in the subregion can be described as steadily improving.

UNHCR was able to complete the organized voluntary repatriation of Sierra Leonean refugees from the camps in Kissidougou, with over 12,000 people returning to Sierra Leone in 2004. The Guinean authorities accepted the requests of some 2,000 residual Sierra Leonean refugees in the Albadaria camps to locally integrate in Guinea. The group has been relocated to Boreah camp, where a local integration programme will be implemented to ensure that the refugees become self-sufficient rapidly.

A verification exercise was carried out in all refugee camps in Guinea in 2004 to check refugee

identification documentation. UNHCR aims in 2005 to introduce the *Profile* registration system and thereby increase the accuracy of data held. In addition to the camp population there are some 10,000 urban refugees of various nationalities in Guinea, but predominantly Liberian refugees who arrived in the early 1990s.

### Constraints

In the forest region of Guinea bordering Sierra Leone and Liberia the fragile security situation continued to deteriorate with the uncontrolled entry of combatants from Sierra Leone and Liberia. There is reportedly a flourishing trade in small arms throughout the country and extending across the border into Côte d'Ivoire and Liberia. Resource constraints limit the capacity of the government counterpart, which is expected to conduct regular refugee status determination (RSD) interviews, both in Conakry and at the field level. Given the difficult operational environment it is hard to fill international posts in Guinea.

## Strategy

### Protection and solutions

In 2005, UNHCR Guinea will strengthen the capacity of the Government through training and workshops, on-the-job coaching and technical support, in particular through RSD expert advice and through specific registration and documentation training and material, to ensure that adequate protection is provided to the refugees.

The facilitation of voluntary repatriation for camp-based Liberian refugees, which commenced in October 2004, will in due course be upgraded to the promotional stage (active encouragement of larger-scale voluntary repatriation) provided that political and social stability are further consolidated after the elections in Liberia (expected in late 2005).

Fewer than 2,000 refugees from Sierra Leone (now in Boreah Camp, Kissidougou) will be assisted to become self-reliant through a local integration



Sierra Leonean refugees as they repatriate to their home country - the trip often involves travel by land and sea and takes days to complete. *UNHCR*

project involving three components – agriculture, vocational training and income-generating activities. UNHCR will be supported by FAO in the agricultural sector while UNICEF will help with the provision of education kits. The Sierra Leonean refugee children will be integrated into local Guinean schools, with UNHCR providing support to those institutions that accept refugee children.

UNHCR will continue to promote awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and seek durable solutions for unaccompanied or separated children. This will include tracing and family reunification, where possible, as well as constant monitoring and intervention for protection needs of refugee children located in and outside camp settings.

The *Brigade Mixte* will continue to provide security in the camps and will help in ensuring effective reporting of cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Effective prevention of a response to SGBV will be pursued vigorously. Legal clinics or SGBV groups will be established in all camps and regular weekly meetings will be held to monitor and coordinate activities in this sector.

Third-country resettlement will be actively pursued as a tool for international protection and as a durable solution for refugees who meet the criteria.

## Assistance

All refugees living in the camps – Liberians, Ivorians and the remaining Sierra Leoneans – will receive material assistance inclusive of domestic and shelter items. Refugee children will be provided with free primary school education and all camp-based refugees will be entitled to health care services. Limited assistance will continue to be provided for urban refugees to help them achieve rapid self-sufficiency and to integrate locally (revolving loans will also be made available). UNHCR will continue to provide medical assistance for vulnerable urban refugees.

The implementation of a reinforced action plan to prevent and respond to HIV/AIDS will be done in a coordinated fashion with other relevant agencies and actors. In particular, UNHCR will implement activities in the camps to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS. The Office will provide assistance to reverse environmental degradation in refugee-impacted areas.

## Organization and implementation

### Management structure

There will be 170 posts comprising 31 international and 139 local staff. The Office will also benefit from the services of United Nations Volunteers.

In 2005, UNHCR Guinea will operate from three offices, including a branch office in Conakry, a sub-office in N'zérékoré and a field office in Kissidougou. The sub-office and the field office will report to the UNHCR representative at the branch office in Conakry.

### Coordination

UNHCR will participate in the various subregional meetings on the organized voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees. UNHCR will also participate actively in inter-agency meetings such as the Consolidated Appeals Process as well as thematic group meetings. Regular meetings will be held with implementing partners. UNHCR's programmes will be coordinated in collaboration with implementing partners and the *Bureau national de coordination des réfugiés* (BNCR), the governmental agency responsible for refugee affairs in Guinea.

The Office will also participate in the Secretary-General's Greater Mano River Initiative, in the interests of continued stability in the subregion.

Offices
<b>Conakry</b> Kissidougou N'zérékoré
Partners
<b>Government agencies</b> <i>Bureau national de coordination des réfugiés</i> <i>Radio rurale de Guinée</i>

#### NGOs

Action by Churches Together  
*Action contre la faim*  
 African Humanitarian Action  
 American Refugee Committee  
 Catholic Relief Services  
*Centre canadien d'études et de coopération internationale*  
 International Rescue Committee  
*Organisation pour le développement intégré communautaire*  
*Première Urgence*  
*Service jésuite des réfugiés*

#### Others

*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*  
 IFRC  
 UNV

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and coordination	6,696,682
Community services	586,520
Crop production	32,000
Domestic needs	427,450
Education	1,132,205
Food	57,250
Forestry	275,840
Health	934,740
Income generation	180,000
Legal assistance	520,130
Operational support (to agencies)	1,234,208
Sanitation	285,000
Shelter/other infrastructure	385,500
Transport/logistics	6,602,000
Water (non-agricultural)	294,458
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>19,643,983</b>
Programme support	3,358,669
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,002,652</b>