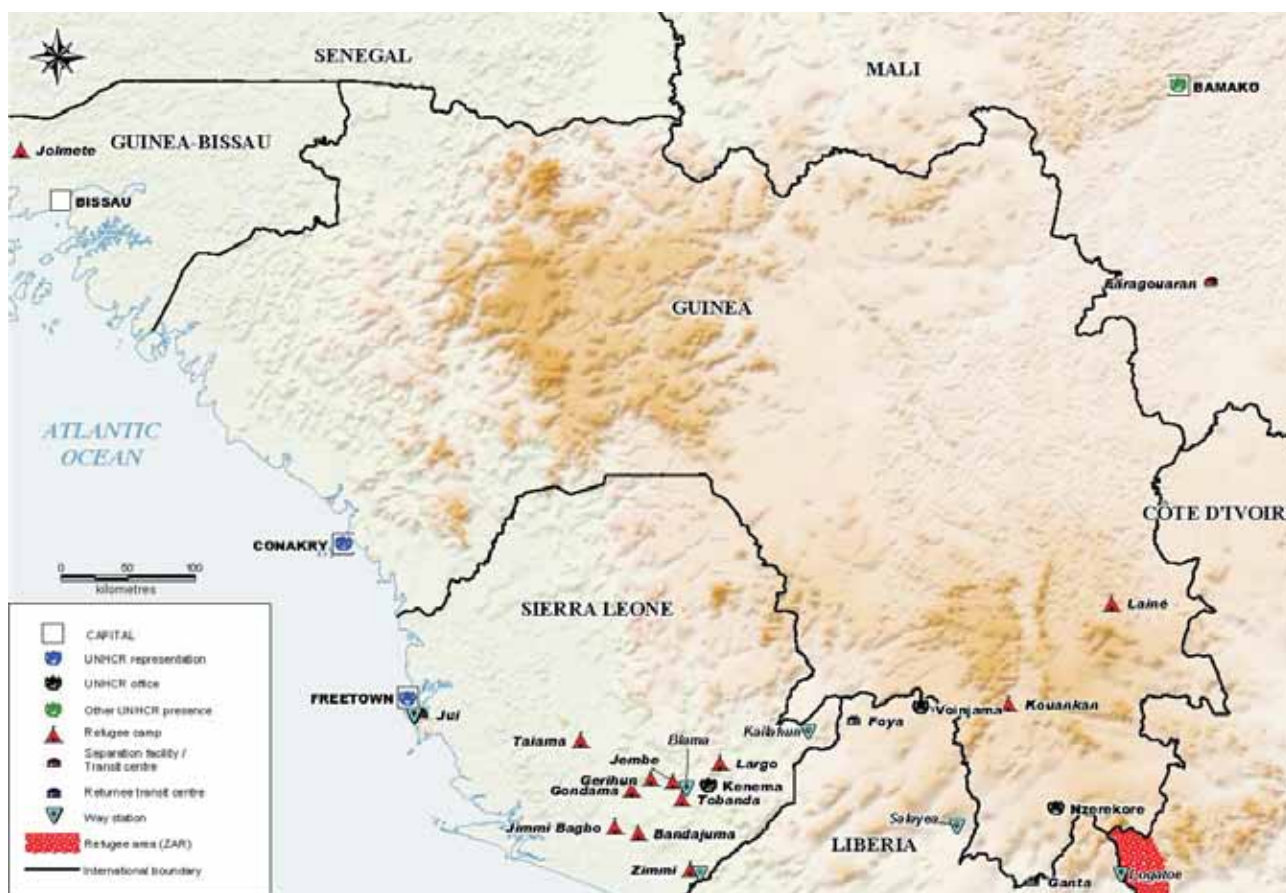


# Guinea



## Working environment

### The context

Almost all of Guinea's 10 million people are impoverished. A majority live without public services, even though the country controls half of the world's bauxite reserves and has immense potential for agricultural development. In early 2007, a two-month general strike and civil unrest left 140 people dead and more than 1,700 wounded. President Lansana Conté then declared a state of emergency and imposed martial law to crack down on widespread protests and violence. The troubles ended with the nomination of Lansana Kouyaté as Prime Minister in February 2007, allowing humanitarian organizations to resume work in the country.

UNHCR's main national counterpart, the *Bureau National de Coordination de l'assistance aux Réfugiés* (BNCR) was replaced by the *Commission Nationale pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés* (CNISR) by government decree in August 2007. In mid-2007 new governors and prefects were nominated in *Guinée Forestière*, UNHCR's main area of operations. Poor road conditions in this isolated and poverty-stricken region have hindered access to people of concern.

### The needs

After ending the voluntary repatriation programme for Sierra Leonean refugees and facilitating the voluntary repatriation of more than 51,000 Liberian refugees, UNHCR and the Government have agreed to prioritize local integration as a durable solution for the remaining 12,000 refugees (70 per cent from Liberia and 30 per cent from Sierra Leone) who have been unable or unwilling to return to their countries of origin. These refugees will need UNHCR's support for local integration through self-reliance programmes.

Refugees remaining in camps will be encouraged to move to host localities, which in turn will need community-based projects to help them absorb the new residents. These programmes will also target the geographical areas where the Government claims some 50,000 unregistered Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees have settled in the past decade. Areas surrounding refugee camps need environmental rehabilitation.

UNHCR will lobby the Government to grant all the remaining refugees a progressively wider range of rights and entitlements. These include freedom of movement; access to education, the labour market, public services

and health facilities; the right to buy and sell property; and valid travel and identity documents. Over time the process should lead to the right to permanent residence and, ultimately, citizenship.

### Total requirements

2008: USD 7,009,896

2009: USD 4,690,268

## Main objectives

- Promote and support the local integration of the residual groups of Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees in both rural and urban areas in line with national development priorities.
- Protect and assist Ivorian refugees and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of all those willing to return.
- Lobby for the enactment of amended national asylum legislation and assist the Government to issue documentation to refugees.
- Hand over camps and services to local communities or national authorities and join other UN agencies to rehabilitate the environment in refugee-impacted areas.

### Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

- Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees unable to return to their country of origin settle locally with UNHCR's help.
- Camp infrastructure in Kouankan and Lainé (schools, health posts, vocational training centres, water systems, warehouses) is handed over to the Government and the local population.
- Areas surrounding refugee camps are rehabilitated in line with the needs of those who live there.
- UNHCR lobbying encourages Parliament to adopt a new refugee law. The CNISR takes over the management of refugees and asylum-seekers with UNHCR's support.
- Some 2,500 Ivorian refugees repatriate voluntarily with UNHCR assistance.
- Refugees of various nationalities repatriate to their country of origin assisted by the regional repatriation project for West Africa.

## Strategy and activities

Local integration will be the main durable solution for Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees who have not availed themselves of voluntary repatriation. The



UNHCR helps Guinea to locally integrate Liberian refugees.

Government is embracing this strategy, which links support for individuals and families to community-based programmes. Refugees and host communities will decide on issues such as self-reliance, the transformation of camp facilities for use by the whole community, and management of the environment. Age, gender and diversity considerations will also be taken into account.

UNHCR and the Government will make a special effort to persuade a group of several hundred Sierra Leonean refugees living in precarious conditions in and around the former refugee camp of Boreah, near Kissidougou, to take an active part in the new local integration scheme. These refugees have refused to consider any solution but resettlement. In coordination with other offices in West Africa, UNHCR will promote broader application of the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) free movement protocols.

UNHCR will also push to address the specific needs of some 9,000 urban refugees who lack documentation and opportunities to work.

In *Guinée Forestière*, the Office and its partners will provide food and basic services to the 3,000 Ivorian refugees in Kouankan camp. This camp provides access to fertile land where many households, thanks to training and material assistance, are increasingly self-sufficient. UNHCR will provide logistical and financial help to Ivorian refugees wishing to repatriate.

## Constraints

Political change, for instance the appointment of new governors, prefects and officials to the CNISR, adds to difficulties in coordination with the Government on

## Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008 - Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Liberia	10,000	10,000	8,000	8,000	7,000	7,000
	Sierra Leone	4,500	4,500	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
	Côte d'Ivoire	4,000	4,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Various	40	40	40	40	40	40
Asylum-seekers	Sierra Leone	1,700	1,700	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000
	Liberia	1,300	1,300	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	Côte d'Ivoire	600	600	500	500	500	500
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,140</b>	<b>22,140</b>	<b>16,040</b>	<b>16,040</b>	<b>14,540</b>	<b>14,540</b>

refugee matters. The Office will also need to manage the expectations of urban refugees eager for third-country resettlement.

## Organization and implementation

### UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	2	2
Total staff	64	52
International	8	7
National	56	45

### Coordination

UNHCR cooperates with the CNISR on all refugee issues, leads the inter-agency working group on local integration, and teams with donors, UN agencies and NGOs to rehabilitate the environment and boost economic recovery. UNHCR also works closely with the European Union on the latter's recovery programme in *Guinée Forestière*, which focuses on rehabilitation of infrastructure, income generation and peacebuilding in refugee-impacted areas.

UNHCR's initiative for the local integration of refugees is in line with national priorities on poverty reduction which, in *Guinée Forestière*, will be implemented through the Joint Programme (2007-2011) of the UN Country Team. This seeks to mitigate tensions among communities and achieve strategic objectives in areas such as food security, health, HIV and AIDS prevention, water, sanitation and education.

## Partners

### Implementing partners

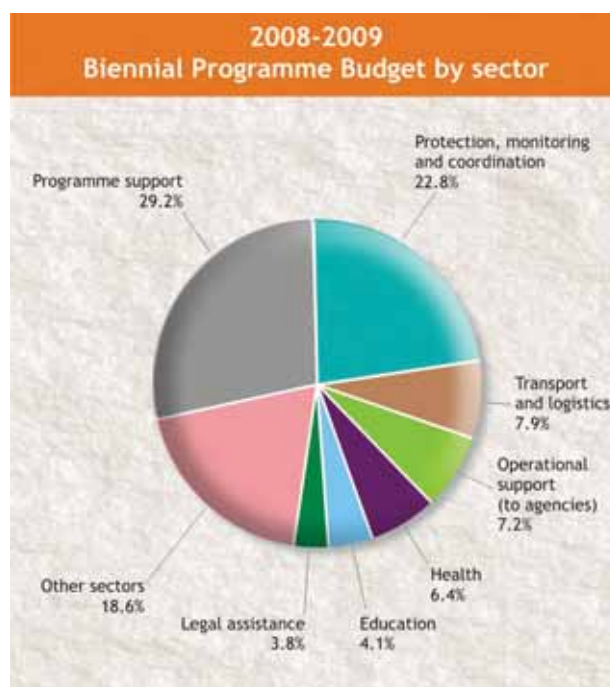
**Government agencies:** *Commission Nationale pour l'Intégration et le Suivi des Réfugiés, Radio Rurale de Guinée.*

**NGOs:** International Rescue Committee, Lutheran World Federation/Action by Churches Together, *Organization pour le développement intégré communautaire*, Search for Common Ground.

**Others:** UNV, WFP.

### Operational partners

**Others:** ICRC, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF.



Budget (USD)			
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget		
	2007	2008	2009
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,973,073	1,525,505	1,147,716
Community services	243,000	185,000	85,000
Crop production	70,000	140,000	110,000
Domestic needs	235,000	190,000	75,000
Education	355,000	305,000	170,000
Food	32,000	10,000	5,000
Forestry	80,000	130,000	90,000
Health	480,000	490,000	255,000
Income generation	90,000	180,000	155,000
Legal assistance	400,000	250,000	190,000
Operational support (to agencies)	760,000	550,000	295,000
Sanitation	65,000	165,000	60,000
Shelter and other infrastructure	115,000	210,000	140,000
Transport and logistics	2,170,000	690,000	240,000
Water	155,000	165,000	80,000
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>7,223,073</b>	<b>5,185,505</b>	<b>3,097,716</b>
Programme support	2,336,841	1,824,391	1,592,553
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,559,914</b>	<b>7,009,896</b>	<b>4,690,268</b>