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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE  
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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR  
1993-1994 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1995

PART I. AFRICA

Section 6 - Côte d'Ivoire

(Submitted by the High Commissioner)

## I.6 COTE D'IVOIRE

Country overviewCharacteristics of the refugee population

1. The inflow of the first Liberian refugees to Côte d'Ivoire began in January 1990 and continues uninterrupted. At 31 December 1993, a total of 251,517 refugees, including 250,861 Liberians and 736 of other nationalities, lived in Côte d'Ivoire. They are settled in a reception area located in three departments in the western part of the country: Danane, Tabou and Guiglo. Compared to last year's figure of 173,719 refugees, this is an increase of 77,798 refugees.

Nationality	Number 1 Jan. 93	Number 31 Dec. 93	Percentage men/women/ children	Place	Type of assistance
Liberians	173 719	260 670	10/30/60	Danane Tabou	LS RP RE
Non-Liberians	738	736	60/25/15	Abidjan	CM
Total	174 457	261 406			

2. The Liberian refugees, most of whom are from rural areas, are 60 per cent children aged between 0 and 18, 30 per cent women and 10 per cent men. They belong to the Gio, Mano and Krahn ethnic groups from Nimba, Margibi, Lofa, Bong, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Bassa counties; a few others are from Monrovia.

3. In addition to the Liberian caseload, Côte d'Ivoire hosts 736 urban refugees of various nationalities (Chadians, Sudanese, Iranians and Vietnamese) residing in Abidjan.

Major developments

4. At 31 March 1994, the number of refugees rose from 250,863 to 260,670, an increase of 9,807 in three months. Despite the peace agreements signed in Cotonou in July 1993, new factions emerged, particularly in Lofa and in Grand Gede. Fighting continued in 1993 and early 1994, giving waves of new arrivals and bringing the total number of Liberian refugees to 260,670 at 31 March 1994, 86,951 more than at 31 December 1992.

5. During the reporting period, a mission from the UNHCR technical section made an assessment of the implementation of the agricultural programme and income-generating activities, as well as the action taken on the previous year's recommendations.

6. In February 1993, a joint World Food Programme (WFP)/UNHCR mission, expanded to include USAID, a major donor, and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, went to the refugee reception area, where it assessed the progress made by the refugees in food crop production.

7. The Commission of XV of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on African refugees also fielded a mission to the refugee reception area in the first quarter of 1994.

8. The 50 per cent devaluation of the CFA franc in early January 1994 was accompanied by a widespread price increase of between 30 and 70 per cent depending on the item. The UNHCR Branch Office in Côte d'Ivoire therefore had to revise UNHCR programme budgets in local currency.

#### Programme objectives and priorities

9. Assistance for Liberian refugees will continue to focus on self-sufficiency, which actually became an objective only in 1993. The progress made in this regard does not make it possible to determine the actual percentage of refugees who have achieved self-sufficiency. Agriculture and micro-projects are the main income-generating activities. In the case of agriculture, although there has been a large number of beneficiaries since 1991, it is difficult to identify a specific group that has become self-sufficient because there has been chronic shortage of available land, whereas micro-projects were assessed and reoriented following the October 1992 UNHCR technical mission. Micro-projects were started up again in the second half of 1993, but it will be necessary to wait until the end of the first quarter of 1994 to see what effect they have had. With the introduction of swamp land reclamation for rice cultivation, better prospects are taking shape for farmers in terms of the durability of their efforts.

10. As part of such efforts, the Branch Office will work closely with the Government of Côte d'Ivoire in 1994 to strengthen the prima facie procedure for the recognition of refugee status and decide to distribute identity documents to the refugees, while continuing to prepare for isolated individual repatriations. Efforts will be made to improve census monitoring in order to establish a useful and reliable database. In 1995, achievements will have to be consolidated and efforts continued to do what was not done in 1994, in the hope that conditions for large-scale repatriation will have been created in the country of origin.

11. The non-Liberian refugees are all urban refugees who will continue to receive extra assistance in 1994 for shelter, health, transport and other domestic needs, as well as assistance for local integration through vocational training for two persons. Efforts will continue to be made to obtain recognition of asylum-seekers from the countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). However, the awareness campaign that started in 1993 will continue in 1994 for long-term refugees from countries where their repatriation could take place in proper conditions of security and dignity. At the same time, the UNHCR Branch Office in Côte d'Ivoire will work with local training agencies to train some refugees in various occupations (drivers, tailors, hairdressers, etc.) in order to facilitate their integration.

12. In 1995, assistance will be maintained, as will the promotion of voluntary repatriation, for which the necessary conditions should be met.

13. Women and children refugees: as part of the local integration project, the special attention already given to women and children in earlier projects will be intensified in 1994 in agriculture, micro-projects and community development, where participation by women is already substantial, i.e. about 20 per cent. The identification of unaccompanied minors, which began in 1993, will continue in 1994-1995 in order to protect them from any form of harassment and isolation from a family environment.

#### Arrangements for implementation/related inputs

14. Thus, 13,370 t of foodstuffs from the United States are to be mobilized through WFP. This amount will be revised downwards in 1995 depending not only on the level of self-sufficiency achieved by the refugees, but also on the progress of the project for their large-scale repatriation.

15. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will assume responsibility for the cost of storage, handling and the maintenance of the main warehouses in the reception area, while providing technical and material support for the local Red Cross for monthly distributions of foodstuffs and non-expendable items.

16. As a result of the appeal made in 1990, the Government's rural health sector will take over the Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI).

17. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) will earmark \$20,000 from its primary and secondary education programme for UNHCR's account.

18. On the basis of the arrangements between UNHCR and WFP and in accordance with the recommendations of the joint mission, WFP will provide additional basic food items in 1994 to cover the calorie and protein needs of 245,000 refugees until the end of October 1994.

#### General Programmes

##### (a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

19. The total caseload of Liberian refugees receiving assistance in the reception area in 1993 increased by more than 80 to 85 per cent compared to the figure of 120,000 persons which served as a basis in April 1992 for the 1993 budget estimate following the long period of calm in the country of origin that raised hopes of the possibility of a large-scale repatriation. While there was a drop in the number of refugees as a result of spontaneous returns, a sudden influx of refugees took place from October 1992 to April 1993 because hostilities between the main rebel faction and its rival resumed in the country of origin.

20. Over 100,000 new refugees thus settled in the reception area during the above-mentioned period. The budget, which was originally designed for 120,000 persons, was revised and two sub-projects for water and sanitation and drainage were added. The allocations in several sectors were budgeted for

six months until the April 1993 revision, thus making it possible to adjust the budget to the needs of 220,000 beneficiaries. The UNHCR project then covered transport/logistics, domestic needs, water, sanitation, health, shelter and other infrastructure, education, agriculture, community services, income-generating activities, legal and protection assistance and administrative operational support.

21. At UNHCR's request, the Government agreed to include the secondary level in the education programme as from the 1993-1994 academic year. As a result of the budget changes made following the opening of secondary schools, the constraints connected with this new level could be dealt with by not purchasing certain items no longer regarded as being of priority importance at this stage in the implementation of the project.

22. All these activities were included in the 1994 programme, but sanitation was temporarily removed because of the sharp cut in the budget. The recent devaluation of the CFA franc and price increases made it necessary to revise the programme budget upwards in order to be able to provide appropriate assistance. The size of the 1995 programme will also depend on the results achieved in self-sufficiency activities and on the positive or negative results of repatriation.

23. In order to encourage agricultural output, WFP provided 20 t of fertilizer and 100 sewing machines for refugee women for income-generating activities and the promotion of community development, which is also being supported by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNHCR. This contribution by WFP was made possible by the sale in 1992 of a Belgian donation of wheat flour which was not consistent with the Liberian refugees' needs and eating habits.

(b) 1994 planned implementation

24. Assistance as delivered in 1993 will continue in all the above-mentioned sectors except that of sanitation, which was temporarily suspended owing to problems of implementation.

25. However, more emphasis will be placed on agriculture and micro-projects which generate income. In the implementation of these two sectors in 1994, priority will be given to active and increased participation by women through awareness campaigns designed to remove obstacles. This substantial involvement of women in all activities for the refugee community will continue to be followed closely and supported.

26. The initial 1994 budget did not contain any allocation for the vocational training of some 10,000 young refugees who are aged between 14 and 24 and have nothing to keep them busy in the reception area. However, a recent contribution by the German Ministry of Cooperation (BMZ) will make it possible to organize vocational training for 50 young Liberian refugees during the 1994-1995 academic year.

27. Particular emphasis will also be placed on the training of women heads of household and women benefiting from agricultural and micro-project activities in order to improve the ability of the former to take care of their families and of the latter to take part in the reconstruction of their country of origin.

28. WFP will meet all of the refugees' food needs until the end of 1994. It should nevertheless be noted that food assistance for 103,000 relatively self-sufficient refugees will be halted in November 1994.

29. A refugee household budget and consumption survey will be conducted in 1994. The results will be used to evaluate the living conditions of refugees. The survey will be supplemented by two nutritional surveys that are also planned for 1994.

30. In 1994, the UNHCR care and maintenance project will continue on behalf of urban refugees of various nationalities.

31. Until circumstances subsequently make it possible to organize a large-scale repatriation, a \$160,000 allocation has been made available in 1994 from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation for the implementation of a small repatriation project in individual cases.

32. The consideration of resettlement cases will continue throughout 1994.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

Care and maintenance

33. Assistance will continue to be granted to some 40 refugees living in urban areas to cover their local transport, domestic, health, shelter, nutrition and primary education needs. The beneficiaries are newly recognized refugees and some cases of single women heads of household. In 1995, such assistance will continue, with emphasis on social work and vocational training, which will enable both men and women to benefit from training and practical knowledge so that they may be integrated into the difficult economic life of the host country. In the light of past years' results and the current trend with regard to repatriation, the number of beneficiary refugees in urban areas might go down in 1995.

Local integration

34. It is estimated that, towards late 1995, 40 to 55 per cent of the refugees will have become partly self-sufficient and that they will manage most of the self-sufficiency sectors through cooperatives, some of which have already been set up in Guiglo.

35. In the other assistance sectors and in particularly that of health, the refugees who have become self-sufficient might be asked to help cover primary health costs.

36. The 1995 programme priority will be to speed up the integration of Liberian refugees in the reception area. To this end, a way will have to be found of ensuring the durable use of the land which the peasants are cultivating. Negotiations on this question will take some time before an agreement that is satisfactory to all can be reached.

37. The Ministry of the Interior has already informed the UNHCR Branch Office in Côte d'Ivoire that a decision will soon be taken in the light of the comments and suggestions by the last PTSS mission in December 1993.

38. Assistance for primary and secondary education in 1995 is proposed for some 45,000 to 50,000 beneficiaries. As the parents' income will be higher, they will probably be requested to pay for some of the costs of their children's education. The Liberian programme, together with French courses, will continue.

39. A medical evaluation will be carried out with the cooperation of the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO) and Caritas to ensure that the refugees' state of health is still comparable to that of the local population.

40. The breakdown by sector of activity for 1995 is given in the following table:

Sectors	Initial 1994	Revised 1994	Initial 1995
Transport	553 203	450 000	450 000
Domestic needs	219 091	200 000	63 710
Water	85 225	80 000	42 170
Sanitation	73 131	70 000	33 730
Health	523 394	523 400	321 280
Shelter	0	0	75 000
Community services	413 285	356 200	134 910
Education	1 500 000	1 500 000	1 300 000
Agriculture	1 091 770	900 000	800 000
Income generation	185 136	100 000	90 000
Legal assistance	281 886	120 000	64 090
Agency support	734 079	650 000	320 410
Project personnel	2 328 300	0	0
Programme delivery costs	0	1 973 700	1 689 500
Total	7 978 500	6 923 300	5 384 800

#### Voluntary repatriation

41. Depending on how the situation develops in Liberia, large-scale voluntary repatriation might take place in 1995. The relevant project submitted in September 1993 will be updated if necessary. It is intended for 100,000 refugees who are to be repatriated.

#### Resettlement

42. The main resettlement objective will be to ensure that, by the end of 1995, the caseload has been dealt with and the eligible Liberian refugees have been resettled. Priority will also be given to persons at risk, particularly single women at risk, whose cases will be brought to the attention of potential host countries.

43. Efforts will also continue to resettle as many urban refugees of various nationalities as possible. It is estimated that about 2,000 refugees, including 90 per cent Liberians and 10 per cent of various nationalities, will be resettled in 1994. In view of the importance of this programme, it would be desirable to set up a specific resettlement project.

#### Special programmes

##### (a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

#### Education Account

44. The amount of US\$ 3,268 was spent from the general project managed at Headquarters for the 1993-1994 year.

#### Trust Funds

##### For the 1992-1993 academic year

45. The German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) assisted 52 student refugees of various nationalities from developing countries. Two students have completed their studies and others have been accepted in view of the many applications made (over 300).

##### For the 1993-1994 academic year

46. An initial intake of 70 beneficiaries of the German Academic Refugee Initiative (DAFI) programme was proposed for the 1993-1994 academic year, but, for budget reasons, the number was reduced to 65 beneficiaries of various nationalities, with Liberians in the majority.

##### (b) 1994 planned implementation

47. In connection with the increase in crop production by refugees and action to prevent environmental degradation, a 1993 donation by the Japanese Government of \$250,000 was allocated for rice cultivation on reclaimed swampland. The purpose of the project is to reclaim 300 ha for 400 families of Liberian refugees and 200 Côte d'Ivoire families.



48. Two vehicles were purchased to meet the logistical requirements of this large operation. Implementation was originally planned for September 1993, but was delayed by the late delivery of agricultural inputs (seeds, tools) and imported vehicles. The reclamation work will begin only in June 1994.

49. Still in the agricultural sector, an allocation of \$242,424, including \$58,000 committed in 1994 and donated by German cooperation (GTZ), was approved for rice cultivation. The project covers four years (1994-1997) and involves reclaiming 174 ha of swampland, including 43 ha for 1994. About 180 refugee families will be able to benefit from this project.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

Education Account

50. If the prospects for the large-scale repatriation project take shape, the number of beneficiaries might be reduced. Emphasis should be placed on vocational training. All Liberians who have successfully completed secondary education should be encouraged to learn a trade at the National Higher Technical Education Institute (INSET). For the 1995-1996 academic year, \$46,900 are being proposed for educational assistance for 20 beneficiaries.

51. In 1995, personnel will be kept at its 1994 level if repatriation does not take place. The budget should nevertheless increase to take account of inflation and the renewal of some equipment, except in the case of large-scale repatriations.

Programme delivery and administrative support costs

(a) Variations in planned activities in 1993

52. As a result of the uninterrupted flow of refugees, the Branch Office's capacity for action was strengthened with the entry on duty of six international officials in Abidjan, Danane and Tabou.

(b) 1995 programme proposals

53. In 1994, with a view to smooth programme follow-up and supervision, the staff will be strengthened in Abidjan by the appointment of a deputy representative as a result of the reclassification of an existing post and the recruitment of an employee for radio, telephone and fax communications.

54. The administrative budget takes account of the personnel and equipment requirements of the Abidjan Branch Office. The purchase of two buses and the equipment requested in 1994 is included in the budget proposals. There has nevertheless been a slight reduction in the revised budget for 1994 for Côte d'Ivoire compared to the initial 1994 budget.

(c) 1995 programme proposals

55. The administrative budget has been reduced for 1995 in the hope that repatriation to Liberia will be possible.

## UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN COTE D'IVOIRE

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1993	1994		1995	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1993 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
<b>GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)</b>				
35.9	30.3	30.3	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	19.3
0.1 a/	—	160.0 c/	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	—
9,230.6 b/	7,978.5	4,949.6	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	3,695.3
4.3 a/	—	—	RESETTLEMENT	—
—	—	1,973.7	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Annexes I a and II a	1,689.5
<b>9,270.9</b>	<b>8,008.8</b>	<b>7,113.6</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS</b>	<b>5,404.1</b>
—	—	389.5	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Annexes I b and II b	130.5
<b>9,270.9</b>	<b>8,008.8</b>	<b>7,503.1</b>	<b>TOTAL (1)</b>	<b>5,534.6</b>
<b>SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)</b>				
3.3	—	—	EDUCATION ACCOUNT 20 university scholarships	46.9
548.4	—	58.0	OTHER TRUST FUNDS Various assistance	—
74.0	41.8	67.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer	67.0
<b>625.7</b>	<b>41.8</b>	<b>125.0</b>	<b>TOTAL (2)</b>	<b>113.9</b>
<b>9,896.6</b>	<b>8,050.6</b>	<b>7,628.1</b>	<b>GRAND TOTAL (1+2)</b>	<b>5,648.5</b>

a/ obligation incurred against overall allocation

b/ of which US\$ 14,678 incurred against Overall Allocation

c/ allocated from the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation

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