



so-called “parallel” repatriations that allegedly forced thousands of Rwandan asylum seekers to repatriate involuntarily. The Rwandan military’s actions also pushed Rwandan asylum seekers, including unaccompanied minors, deeper into isolated locations in Congo-Kinshasa.

“The non-accessibility of the refugees makes it difficult for the office to discharge its international protection responsibility,” UNHCR stated in September.

Côte d’Ivoire

An estimated half-million or more Ivorians were newly uprooted at the end of 2002, including at least 500,000 internally displaced persons and about 25,000 refugees and asylum seekers. Some 20,000 Ivorian refugees lived in Liberia, at least 2,000 were in Guinea, 1,000 were in Mali, and nearly 2,000 Ivorians were asylum seekers in industrialized countries.

An estimated 80,000 immigrants who lived in Côte d’Ivoire also fled the country during the year.

About 50,000 refugees from other countries remained in Côte d’Ivoire at year’s end, the vast majority from Liberia. Some 20,000 new Liberian refugees arrived in Côte d’Ivoire during 2002, while 20,000 Liberian refugees repatriated because of violence in Côte d’Ivoire.

Civil War in Côte d’Ivoire Political, religious, and ethnic tensions in Côte d’Ivoire erupted into civil war during 2002, catching most Ivorians and international diplomats by surprise.

Low-level political and communal violence repeatedly shook Côte d’Ivoire during 1999–2001. Localized violence particularly targeted immigrants and migrant workers from other West African countries who have lived in Côte d’Ivoire for many years—sometimes for generations—and constitute up to 25 percent of the country’s 16 million population.

Many Ivorians blamed foreign residents for Côte d’Ivoire’s economic problems and viewed them as competitors for jobs, land, and political power. Tens of thousands of immigrants and migrant workers fled Côte d’Ivoire during 1999–2001 and returned to their countries of origin.

Côte d’Ivoire’s growing instability exploded into civil war in September 2002. A rebel group known as the Patriotic Movement of Côte d’Ivoire (MPCI) materialized virtually overnight and immediately seized key cities in the northern half of the country.

Rebels charged that the Ivorian government engaged in political and religious discrimination against the large Muslim population in the north, denying them a fair share of political power and economic benefits. MPCI leaders demanded the resignation of President Laurent Gbagbo, new elections, and changes to the constitution. Government officials accused neighboring Burkina Faso of supporting the rebels.

Two additional rebel groups formed in western Côte d’Ivoire in November and quickly captured several towns. International diplomats as well as local residents charged that the western rebel groups, known as the Movement for Justice and Peace and the Ivorian Popular Movement of the Greater West, contained combatants from Liberia who were particularly prone to looting and human rights violations.

Pro-government militias erected roadblocks along major roads and reportedly harassed foreign residents. Villagers in the west uncovered a mass grave containing the bodies of 120 civilians allegedly massacred by government forces. “Flagrant violations of international human rights and humanitarian law have occurred,” UN relief officials stated in December.

The UN Security Council condemned the fighting and expressed “grave concern” about the war’s impact on civilians. France deployed more than 1,000 soldiers to Côte d’Ivoire to “preserve stability.” Rebels in the west attacked the French troops in December.

“The security situation in the western region...remains highly volatile despite the presence of French and loyalist troops,” the World Food Program (WFP) reported at year’s end. “At present, the movement of people is very limited, and there is no electricity, water, or telephone connection, and hospitals, banks, and schools are closed.”

Uprooted Ivorians The outbreak of warfare and human rights violations forced 500,000 to 700,000 people to flee their homes in the final four months of 2002. Some estimates of the uprooted population ranged as high as 1 million. Nearly 25,000 Ivorians became refugee and asylum seekers, primarily in Liberia.

“The current instability in Côte d’Ivoire threatens to trigger massive population upheaval if fighting between rebels and government forces continues to spread,” an analysis by the U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) stated in the first weeks of hostilities. USCR warned that many Ivorian residents would have few good options for safe flight because of insecurity in neighboring Liberia and overcrowded refugee camps across the western border in Guinea.

The single largest displacement reportedly occurred in the northern town of Bouake, the country’s second-largest city, where 200,000 residents fled after the town fell to rebel forces. Hundreds of thousands also fled from western villages when rebels and government troops clashed there in late November and December.

Tens of thousands of uprooted northern residents passed through Yamoussoukro, the capital city in central Côte d’Ivoire, on their way to Abidjan and other southern locations where they found shelter with family or friends. Many displaced persons in the west fled toward the key western town of Man. Displaced populations unable to reach the homes of friends or relatives moved into church compounds, UN office compounds, government social centers, and partially constructed buildings.

Rebels in some areas attempted to block populations from fleeing, according to local reports. Some families fled through forests to avoid highway checkpoints patrolled by combatants and undisciplined civilian militias. Some Ivorians traveled on foot for a week to reach Guinea, only to find that Guinean officials had closed the border. Some people managed to cross the border surreptitiously, while others reportedly hid on the Ivorian side of the border until Guinean authorities reopened their border weeks later.

The massive population upheaval occurred beyond the reach of most humanitarian agencies and journalists who were largely confined in Abidjan, the country's largest city, for security reasons, making accurate assessments of numbers and conditions difficult. No estimates of the nationwide death toll existed at year's end, and the war's impact on the population remained poorly documented.

The International Committee of the Red Cross obtained partial access to rebel areas and unofficially became the lead international agency providing limited assistance. WFP managed to establish a base for food deliveries in the northern city of Korhogo, about 390 miles (630 km) north of Abidjan. A handful of other agencies also operated aid programs where security permitted, including *Médecins Sans Frontières*, Action Against Hunger, Care, the local Red Cross, UNICEF, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"Access to western zones of the country remains unpredictable and nearly impossible due to rebel presence and sporadic fighting. Access to northern rebel-held areas remains unpredictable," the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported in December. "This reality is creating daunting technical obstacles for the delivery of relief to affected populations and the relocation of trapped refugees and internally displaced persons."

As the year ended, relief organizations appealed to international donors for \$16 million to support humanitarian programs in Côte d'Ivoire.

Uprooted Immigrants in Côte d'Ivoire The outbreak of war intensified popular sentiments against the estimated 4 million African immigrants and migrant workers residing in Côte d'Ivoire, particularly the estimated 2 million people from Burkina Faso. Ivorian government officials charged that Burkina Faso supported rebel forces, provoking widespread suspicions among Ivorians against virtually all foreigners.

USCR called on the Ivorian government in October "to halt its campaign of violence and intimidation against Côte d'Ivoire's foreign residents." USCR said that "by issuing blanket statements...that provoke suspicion of all non-Ivorians, the Ivorian government creates tremendous dangers...for the many innocent foreign residents who contribute to Côte d'Ivoire's economic growth and prosperity."

In Abidjan, some 12,000 or more residents—primarily immigrants—fled their homes when antiforeigner mobs attacked their neighborhoods and government offi-

cial destroyed entire shantytowns in searches for rebel sympathizers. Large numbers of foreign nationals congregated at their respective national embassies in Abidjan seeking safety. Elsewhere in the country, frightened immigrants boarded buses for transportation out of Côte d'Ivoire.

Approximately 80,000 immigrants fled Côte d'Ivoire during 2002, including some 30,000 to Guinea, 30,000 to Burkina Faso, 10,000 to Mali, 2,000 to Ghana, and nearly 10,000 to various other West African countries, according to compilations by UN officials. Several thousand immigrants fled westward into Liberia, where they became refugees while awaiting transit to their home countries. It is possible that tens of thousands of other immigrants evacuated from Côte d'Ivoire without being counted.

Refugees from Liberia Côte d'Ivoire's civil war quickly overran sites housing Liberian refugees on the western edge of the country during 2002, placing tens of thousands of Liberian refugees at risk.

At the beginning of 2002, most of the Liberian refugee population lived peacefully along a 300-mile (500 km) corridor near the Côte d'Ivoire-Liberia border. The majority of refugees had fled Liberia's civil war during the 1990s and lived a somewhat integrated lifestyle in small Ivorian villages, towns, and rural sites where they supported themselves, but remained vulnerable to local discrimination. About 15,000 occupied the sole official refugee camp, Nicla, where several thousand of the newest and neediest refugees received food assistance.

Continued warfare and government repression in Liberia pushed some 20,000 new refugees into Côte d'Ivoire in early 2002. A USCR site visit to the refugee zone in July found inadequate food and medical care for new arrivals. A USCR report in July also warned that some long-term refugees received no food aid even though they were not yet able to support themselves.

"Long-term Liberian refugees as well as new arrivals are paying the price for a 70 percent reduction in funding to UNHCR/Côte d'Ivoire during the past five years. [UNHCR's] two field offices are currently understaffed, their resources insufficient," the USCR report stated.

In the months prior to the outbreak of war, UNHCR was engaged in negotiations with Ivorian government officials to establish up to eight new settlements to house Liberian refugees and enhance their ability to support themselves. Aid workers were also constructing 90 new classrooms for use by Liberian and Ivorian students to facilitate local integration.

As the war spread closer to refugee sites, USCR warned in October that "tens of thousands of Liberian refugees living in the western border zone could be forced to flee for their lives." The prediction proved correct in late November when western rebels attacked Danane, a border town containing thousands of refugees as well as Ivorian residents.



The presence of Liberian combatants in the Côte d'Ivoire conflict intensified many Ivorians' suspicions toward Liberian refugees. In Abidjan, UNHCR arranged emergency shelter for 2,000 refugees after government officials evicted them from their homes there. Assailants beat and harassed occupants of some refugee communities.

In western Côte d'Ivoire, the refugee population fled in all directions and was largely inaccessible to UNHCR and other aid workers. Several thousand refugees evacuated Nicla camp, while thousands of others fled to Nicla in hopes of safety. Some refugees returned to Liberia despite lingering dangers there. About 1,000 fled to Guinea. Thousands of refugees found themselves stranded after rebel forces in the southwest corner of Côte d'Ivoire, near Tabou, deliberately damaged a river ferry used by refugees to cross back to Liberia.

UNHCR attempted to evacuate refugees from Nicla camp and transfer them to a safer location in Côte d'Ivoire or in a nearby country. Foreign governments and local Ivorian officials refused to accept the refugees, however. About 8,000 Liberians remained trapped at Nicla camp at year's end, and about 50,000 others remained on their own without assistance.

"UNHCR is concerned that refugees... will become targets for armed attacks and forced military recruitment," UNHCR stated in the final weeks of 2002.

Djibouti

Nearly 23,000 refugees lived in Djibouti at year's end, including some 21,000 from Somalia and nearly 2,000 from Ethiopia. Thousands of undocumented and uncounted asylum seekers from various African countries resided in urban areas.

Refugees from Somalia Most Somali refugees in Djibouti arrived during 1988–90 as a result of civil war in Somalia.

The majority of refugees who remained in Djibouti at the end of 2002 originated from northern Somalia, the self-declared independent territory of "Somaliland." Most resided in two remote camps near Djibouti's borders with Somalia and Ethiopia. More than 11,000 lived in Ali Adde camp and nearly 10,000 in Holl Holl camp.

During 2002, authorities of Djibouti, Somaliland, and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) broke a three-year impasse and negotiated terms for the repatriation of Somali refugees from Djibouti. "This is another milestone in enabling refugees, who have spent years in exile, to take part in reconstruction and peace-building at home," a UNHCR representative noted.

By mid-year, some 15,000 Somali refugees registered with UNHCR to repatriate to Somaliland. Fewer than 3,000 refugees returned to Somaliland by year's end, however. UNHCR suspended the repatriation operation in October because of harsh weather conditions and funding con-

straints. UNHCR provided returnee families with water containers, basic kitchen essentials, blankets, and plastic sheeting. Returnees also received a nine-month food supply from the World Food Program (WFP).

Increased violence and a reduction in refugees' food rations exacerbated already difficult living conditions in the Ali Adde and Holl Holl camps. Funding constraints forced WFP to cut overall food rations by 50 percent much of the year, negatively affecting the nutritional status of refugees. A special funding appeal enabled WFP to restore full rations by year's end.

Refugees from Ethiopia Nearly 2,000 Ethiopian refugees lived in Djibouti at year's end. They lived under the care of UNHCR in Ali Adde camp and were the only refugees remaining of nearly 40,000 Ethiopians who had fled to Djibouti more than a decade earlier to escape civil war; most repatriated during 1994–96 after Ethiopia's war ended.

Approximately 50 Ethiopian university students who fled violent clashes with Ethiopian security forces during 2001 in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, also resided in Ali Adde during 2002. For the second consecutive year, the Djibouti government's Organization of National Affairs for Refugees denied the students refugee status.

Egypt

Egypt hosted approximately 80,000 refugees and asylum seekers at the end of 2002, including some 50,000 Palestinians, about 20,000 Sudanese, nearly 7,000 Somalis, and more than 1,000 refugees from various other countries.

More than 2,000 Egyptians were seeking asylum in Western countries.

Palestinians Most Palestinian refugees in Egypt were displaced from the West Bank and Gaza by the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The Palestinian refugee population was believed to number 50,000 or more persons at the end of 2002, with some estimates placing the number as high as 70,000.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees on a case-by-case basis.

Refugee Status Determination Egypt is not a party to the UN Refugee Convention and has no domestic asylum laws. As in previous years, the Egyptian government allowed UNHCR to determine the refugee status of individual asylum seekers in 2002.

More than 1,000 persons seeking asylum in Egypt contacted UNHCR each month. The agency granted approximately 5,000 persons new refugee status during the year. Approximately 19,000 status determination cases were pending at year's end.

UNHCR interviewed nearly 15,000 Sudanese asy-

lum applicants during the year and granted refugee status to about 4,000. Some 12,000 Sudanese awaited asylum interviews at year's end.

Nearly 2,000 recognized Somali refugees lived in Egypt, including more than 500 Somalis granted refugee status during 2002. Approximately 5,000 Somalis awaited screening interviews.

UNHCR employed more than 20 additional staff during 2002 to accelerate refugee screening, substantially reducing the accumulated backlog of asylum applications.

Refugee Living Conditions Three million or more Sudanese lived in Egypt during 2002. It was unclear how many feared persecution in Sudan, and how many resided in Egypt for economic and other reasons.

Until the late 1980s, Egyptian law made migration from Sudan to Egypt extraordinarily easy, and automatically granted permanent resident status to Sudanese migrants. Egyptian officials even offered citizenship to many Sudanese residents. Egyptian authorities later tightened legal restrictions to curb the influx of largely economic Sudanese migrants, however.

Most restrictions remained in place during 2002. The majority of refugees resided in destitute refugee and immigrant communities in the Egyptian capital, Cairo, and the port city of Alexandria. For the second consecutive year, Egyptian authorities allowed recognized refugees and asylum seekers awaiting status determination decisions to seek work. Egyptian laws, however, still barred refugees from government-subsidized health care and forced them to pay higher housing costs than Egyptian citizens.

Most of the estimated 10,000 recognized non-Palestinian refugees in Egypt received limited aid from UNHCR. The agency assisted only impoverished refugees identified by a strict Needs Assessment Committee managed jointly by the Egyptian government and UNHCR.

Refugees characterized by UNHCR as "the most needy" received a monthly subsistence allowance, partial education grants (for families with school-aged children), medical care, and vocational training. The agency cut already inadequate subsistence allowances for the poorest refugees to about \$15 per refugee per month during 2002, a reduction of more than 70 percent compared to four years earlier.

Financial constraints further curtailed UNHCR's assistance programs during 2002. During the past four years, UNHCR's budget has decreased by more than 40 percent, while the number of refugees has increased by more than 40 percent and the number of asylum seekers has grown by more than 500 percent.

"The declining budget is creating a precarious situation for the rising number of refugees coming under the agency's care," UNHCR stated.

Refugee Resettlement Nearly 2,000 refugees in Egypt permanently resettled in the United States, Canada, Australia,

and Europe during 2002 as part of a formal resettlement process administered by UNHCR, other agencies, and foreign governments. More than 1,500 Sudanese and approximately 100 Somalis resettled abroad.

More stringent resettlement security clearance procedures, particularly for refugees scheduled for resettlement in the United States, delayed the departure of several hundred refugees. As a result, significantly more refugees required UNHCR assistance during the year.

Eritrea

Nearly 290,000 Eritreans were refugees at the end of 2002, including some 280,000 in Sudan, nearly 5,000 in Ethiopia, fewer than 1,000 in Yemen, and more than 3,000 Eritrean asylum seekers in various Western countries.

Approximately 75,000 Eritreans were internally displaced at year's end. Nearly 20,000 Eritrean refugees repatriated during the year, primarily from Sudan.

Eritrea hosted some 3,000 refugees, including more than 2,000 from Somalia and fewer than 1,000 from Sudan.

Pre-2002 Events Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after three decades of deadly conflict. While Eritrea immediately received international recognition as a sovereign nation, the demarcation of its border with Ethiopia remained a matter of disagreement.

Between 1998 and 2000, war raged between Eritrea and Ethiopia over the 620-mile (1,000 km) frontier between the two countries, displacing hundreds of thousands of citizens from both nations.

After Ethiopia launched a military offensive into Eritrea and achieved a clear military advantage, the governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a cease-fire agreement in June 2000. The two countries signed a formal peace accord in December 2000, officially ending the two-year war that killed more than 100,000 Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers and an untold number of civilians, while leaving more than 1 million persons uprooted on both sides of the border.

In late 2000, the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea deployed peacekeeping troops and military observers to Eritrea to monitor the establishment of a Temporary Security Zone extending 15 miles (25 km) into Eritrea along the two countries' shared border. Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, however, still occupied large areas of Eritrea within the buffer zone, impeding the return of uprooted Eritreans.

The peace agreement remained in effect during 2001, creating conditions that enabled more than 30,000 Eritrean refugees to repatriate from Sudan, and approximately 200,000 internally displaced Eritreans to return home. The refugee returnee population consisted equally of long-term refugees who had fled Eritrea during its 30-year war for independence, and short-term refugees uprooted



during the 1998–2000 border war with Ethiopia. Nearly all returnees resettled in southwest Eritrea's Gash Barka Zone.

Eritrean Repatriation Approximately 305,000 Eritreans who fled violent conflict in their country during the past three decades remained refugees at the beginning of 2002.

In May, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) declared that “the root causes of the Eritrean refugee problem no longer exist” and stated that most Eritrean refugees no longer had a “valid fear of persecution.” The UNHCR declaration, which became official on December 31, 2002, effectively withdrew automatic refugee status for Eritrean refugees. Eritreans who claimed to have “compelling reasons” for not wanting to return to Eritrea were required to submit to individual screening interviews in asylum countries to determine their legal status.

Between January and July 2002, nearly 20,000 Eritrean refugees repatriated from Sudan to their places of origin on UNHCR-chartered buses and trucks. Most returnees resettled in the war-destroyed border zones of Dehub and Gash Barka.

The World Food Program (WFP) provided returnees with a two-month food supply. UNHCR provided blankets, water containers, agricultural tools, materials to construct traditional homes, and mosquito nets to each returnee family. UNHCR also issued cash grants to help returnees start agricultural activities and small businesses. Returnees received medical assistance and information about the dangers of HIV/AIDS and landmines before reaching their final destinations.

Returnees also benefited from UNHCR-implemented community-based reintegration programs that included education, health, and water projects. The government's Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission allocated five-acre (2 hectares) plots of land, enabling returnee families to construct their homes and cultivate new crops. Many returnees expressed concern that the government-issued land was not favorable for cultivation, and that development projects in returnee areas were virtually nonexistent.

“Without substantial development in returnee areas, large populations could soon be at risk,” UNHCR stressed in May.

Heavy seasonal rains suspended the repatriation exercise in July. Sudan indefinitely closed its border with Eritrea in October after accusing Eritrean authorities of supporting rebel incursions into eastern Sudan. The border closure forced UNHCR to suspend refugee repatriation for the remainder of the year.

UNHCR estimated that more than 35,000 Eritreans willing to repatriate during 2002 had to remain in refugee camps in Sudan as a result of the border closure.

Internally Displaced Eritreans Approximately 75,000 war-uprooted Eritreans remained displaced throughout the country at year's end.

The prevalence of landmines, poor security, and the widespread destruction of businesses, homes, and water and transportation systems within the Temporary Security Zone prevented the return of tens of thousands of internally displaced Eritreans. The absence of basic health care and education services in war-destroyed villages also impeded large-scale return.

Nearly 50,000 internally displaced persons continued to live in some 20 camps in western Eritrea's Gash Barka and Dehub Zones. An additional 10,000 resided in makeshift camps and host communities. Eritrea's displaced population also included some 15,000 people of Eritrean descent who were deported from Ethiopia during the war.

Severe drought, food shortages, and Eritrea's depressed economy compounded the already difficult lives of the country's displaced population. Most lacked alternative sources of income and relied exclusively on relief organizations for their daily needs, including WFP food rations.

The two-thirds of internally displaced Eritreans who resided in camps were in urgent need of adequate shelter, according to UN relief agencies. Displaced families living outside of camps struggled to survive on only 60 percent of the minimum daily food requirement, according to health workers. Insufficient rain caused near total crop failure for displaced persons who had access to farmland.

The continued presence of UN peacekeepers along the border enabled more than 15,000 displaced Eritreans to return to their villages of origin during 2002.

Reintegration Conditions During 2002, Eritrea made little progress toward recovery from the destruction left behind by two years of warfare.

Eritrean authorities struggled to restore basic government services in the border region, and basic social services remained in a state of disrepair. UNHCR rehabilitated water systems and constructed schools and health care facilities in some returnee areas.

Jailing of government opponents and new Eritrean government decrees that restricted press and religious freedoms strained the government's relations with international donors and international aid agencies. Government restrictions on international humanitarian agencies hampered development and reintegration programs. As in previous years, aid workers complained that Eritrean authorities imposed tight management and administration controls over their programs, slowing humanitarian efforts.

In mid-2002, Eritrean authorities restructured the country's demining operations and requested that international mine removal organizations terminate their work. The government's actions effectively stopped the removal of tens of thousands of landmines from Eritrea's prime agricultural areas and adversely affected the return of thousands of refugees and internally displaced Eritreans. Recovery efforts were further stalled by Eritrea's limited skilled labor pool in

returnee areas and the presence of relatively few local and international development agencies.

The main returnee areas of Debub and Gash Barka Zones had traditionally generated more than 70 percent of Eritrea's annual food production, but the aftermath of war, fear of landmines, and water shortages severely curtailed crop yields during the year. Agricultural output during 2002 sank to its lowest level in a decade. Poor crop yields forced nearly half of the population to rely on humanitarian agencies for food. Approximately 60 percent of Eritreans were chronically malnourished, according to WFP. Nearly 100,000 livestock animals died during the last six months of the year because of drought, according to the government.

"The country faces a humanitarian crisis of serious proportions in terms of food supply and essential inputs for recovery for food protection," the UN reported in November.

UN relief agencies appealed to international donors for \$92 million to assist Eritreans during 2002, but received less than half that amount by year's end.

Ethiopia

Ethiopia hosted nearly 115,000 refugees at the end of 2002, including more than 90,000 from Sudan, about 20,000 from Somalia, and nearly 5,000 from Eritrea.

More than 20,000 Ethiopians were refugees or asylum seekers at the end of 2002, including more than 10,000 in Kenya, some 2,000 in Sudan, nearly 2,000 in Djibouti, more than 1,000 in Yemen, and an estimated 6,000 Ethiopian asylum applicants in Europe and the United States. Approximately 10,000 Ethiopians lived in refugee-like circumstances in Sudan.

An estimated 90,000 Ethiopians were internally displaced at year's end.

Uprooted Ethiopians Ethnic violence drove an estimated 15,000 Ethiopians from their homes during 2002. Nearly all newly uprooted populations remained in the country, and most returned home by the end the year. Approximately 90,000 Ethiopians remained internally displaced at year's end, including about 75,000 still uprooted as a result of Ethiopia's 1998–2000 border war with Eritrea.

Increased tensions over lack of food and disputes over scarce water resources erupted into violent clashes between rival ethnic groups that left dozens of people dead in Afar and Oromiya States during the year.

In July, Ethiopian authorities provided financial compensation to approximately 18,000 internally displaced persons to vacate some 10 camps near Addis Ababa, the capital, many of which authorities later leveled. Most of the displaced families quickly spent the compensation money provided by authorities and had no alternative but to return to the camps that remained or resettle in new locations.

Demonstrations over the results of local elections

spiraled into bloodshed between Ethiopian security forces and ethnic Sheko and ethnic Mezeheger populations in the southwestern Ethiopian town of Tepi during March–April. The violence killed more than 150 civilians, uprooted nearly 5,000 others, and destroyed some 1,000 homes.

An additional 10,000 persons fled their homes in Gambella State, in western Ethiopia, during clashes between rival ethnic Nuer and Agnuak populations that left more than 60 people dead in July.

About 75,000 of the approximately 300,000 persons who had been uprooted during the border war with Eritrea remained internally displaced in northern Ethiopia's Tigray and Afar regions at the end of 2002. Although security in Tigray and Afar improved considerably during the year, most displaced people could not return home because pervasive landmines severely limited access to farm and pasture land. Damaged health clinics and water systems also presented risks to many war-displaced Ethiopians wanting to return home, particularly children.

The war-displaced population, including demobilized soldiers and Ethiopian nationals deported from Eritrea, received limited water, shelter, and health and education services from international humanitarian agencies. They struggled to survive on monthly food rations provided by the World Food Program (WFP).

"The war displaced are already at great risk as one of the most vulnerable groups in Ethiopia, and are in need of longer-term initiatives to improve their situation," a UN report concluded in October.

Repatriation of Ethiopian Refugees Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians fled their country during the 1974–91 reign of military dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam. In 1991, a rebel group deposed Mengistu, triggering massive repatriation of Ethiopian refugees. An estimated 800,000 or more Ethiopian refugees have voluntarily repatriated from Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and other countries during the past decade.

In September 1999, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) declared that a "fundamental and durable change" had taken place in Ethiopia with the end of the Mengistu regime, and that most Ethiopian refugees who fled their country prior to 1991 no longer had a "valid fear of persecution." The UNHCR declaration, which became official in March 2000, effectively withdrew automatic refugee status for Ethiopians who had fled the country before 1991. Refugees who claimed to have "compelling reasons" for not wanting to return to Ethiopia were required to submit to individual screening interviews in asylum countries to determine their legal status.

During 2001, more than 10,000 pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees voluntarily repatriated from Sudan to northwestern Ethiopia. Fewer than 200 pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees repatriated with UNHCR assistance during 2002. It is unlikely that significant numbers of pre-1991 Ethiopian refu-



gees will repatriate in the future, according to UNHCR.

Several hundred persons of Ethiopian descent who had lived and worked in Eritrea for many years voluntarily returned to Ethiopia during 2002. Several hundred Ethiopian prisoners of war and civilian detainees, released by Eritrean authorities during the year, also returned home. Nearly all returnees received transportation and border-crossing assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Refugees from Sudan Civil war in Sudan has pushed waves of refugees into Ethiopia since the 1980s. The Sudanese refugee population in Ethiopia peaked at more than 300,000 in 1991. Although the population subsequently declined, new refugee influxes have continued.

About 7,000 new refugees fled from Sudan to western Ethiopia during 2002, bringing the number of Sudanese in Ethiopia at year's end to more than 90,000.

The refugees lived in four long-established camps and a newly created camp, Yarenja, in western Ethiopia. The largest site, Fugnido, housed nearly 32,000 people, primarily ethnic Nuer. More than 17,000 additional ethnic Nuer refugees lived in Dimma camp.

Some 17,000 ethnic Uduk refugees lived in Bonga camp, while about 16,000 ethnically mixed refugees resided at Sherkole camp. Of the more than 12,000 Sudanese refugees who fled the Blue Nile and Upper Nile regions of southern Sudan during 2001, UNHCR relocated about 4,000 to Yarenja camp during 2002, while more than 8,000 remained in a nearby settlement on the outskirts of the town of Bamboudi, in western Ethiopia's Benishangul-Gumuz State.

A wave of ethnic clashes in two Sudanese refugee camps left more than 100 refugees dead, several dozen injured, and temporarily displaced several hundred refugees during 2002. Abductions of refugees and asylum seekers by unknown assailants also occurred during the year.

In the worst of the violence, clashes between Anuak and Dinka refugees armed with grenades, handguns, and spears in Fugnido camp killed 40 refugees, left several others injured, and orphaned more than 45 children. A dispute over control of the camp's minority refugee committee fueled the violence and forced several hundred refugees to flee to surrounding villages. Poor security prohibited UNHCR and governmental authorities from visiting Fugnido for several weeks.

In July, a female Nuer refugee was murdered in Bonga camp. Some 30 Sudanese refugees were allegedly abducted while traveling by bus to Fugnido camp in late July and remained missing at year's end. Six refugees were killed and several others wounded during clashes between ethnic Anuak and Nuer refugees in Fugnido camp in August.

During late August 2002, some 10,000 Sudanese walked out of Sherkole camp in protest of a planned visit by a high-level Sudanese government delegation to "inspect the process for repatriation." Ethiopian authorities approved

the visit despite UNHCR's opposition. The incident inflamed existing tensions between northern and southern Sudanese refugees residing in Sherkole. Although most refugees eventually returned to Sherkole, nearly 200 remained camped around UNHCR's Sherkole office at year's end, insisting their lives were in danger.

In several camps, Sudanese refugee women—the majority of camp residents—were responsible for 90 percent of the food distribution, crowd control, and guard services. Refugee women also benefited from UNHCR-administered skills training and income-generation programs, including tailoring and bee-keeping.

Many refugee women and men participated in environmental programs, including activities to address environmental degradation in and around the camps. Sudanese refugees raised and transplanted some 1.8 million tree seedlings during the year.

Although many refugees had supported themselves as farmers in Sudan, Ethiopian authorities refused to make more agricultural land available to the refugee population, limiting their opportunities to become self-sufficient. UNHCR and the Ethiopian government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs, however, did provide seeds and farming tools to selected Sudanese families.

In Bonga camp, some Uduk refugees moved beyond camp boundaries and cultivated with the local population. In Fugnido camp, drought adversely affected refugees' crop yields. Selected Sudanese families received chickens and cattle for income-generation purposes, but earned negligible profits during the year, according to UNHCR.

Refugees from Somalia Somali refugees fled to Ethiopia during the early- and mid-1990s to escape civil war. Nearly 90 percent of all Somali refugees living in Ethiopia originated from northwest Somalia, known as "Somaliland."

An estimated 20,000 or fewer refugees remained in three long-established camps in eastern Ethiopia at the end of 2002. UNHCR provided nutrition, health, and education services to camp residents and distributed more than 2,000 fuel-efficient stoves. Aid workers distributed sanitary supplies to refugee women and girls. WFP provided monthly food rations.

An estimated 10,000 Somalis repatriated from Ethiopia during 2002, primarily to Somaliland. UNHCR officially reported that nearly 30,000 Somalis repatriated, but that number was greatly inflated as a result of massive fraud in eastern Ethiopia's refugee program.

In January, UNHCR closed Daror camp, the southernmost Somali refugee camp in Ethiopia's Ogaden Desert, after transferring several hundred remaining refugees to nearby Rabasso camp. In August, UNHCR closed Rabasso camp after helping nearly 4,000 Somalis repatriate. In November, UNHCR closed Camaboker camp after the final 1,000 Somali refugees returned home from that site.

Refugees preparing to return home received plastic

sheeting, blankets, water containers, kitchen utensils, and used clothing before their departure. They also received a reintegration grant equivalent to \$40 from UNHCR and a nine-month food supply from WFP.

Unknown thousands of additional Somali refugees continued to live outside established camps in urban and rural areas of Ethiopia.

Refugees from Eritrea More than 5,000 Eritrean refugees remained in Ethiopia at year's end. Most were ethnic Kunama who fled to Ethiopia in May 2000 because of warfare and discrimination in Eritrea. An additional 1,000 Eritrean refugees—mainly non-Kunama—arrived in Ethiopia during 2002.

Nearly all Eritrean refugees resided in Wa'ala Nhibi, a remote temporary site near the town of Shiraro, in northern Tigray Region. UNHCR maintained limited water, sanitation, and health care facilities there. As in previous years, UNHCR and donor nations frequently voiced concern over the site's proximity to Ethiopia's border with Eritrea and the prevalence of landmines. For a second consecutive year, however, Ethiopian authorities rejected UNHCR's plans to establish a new, safer camp to accommodate the Eritrean population.

Gabon

Gabon hosted nearly 20,000 refugees and asylum seekers at the end of 2002, including some 15,000 from Congo-Brazzaville, 2,000 from Chad, and 3,000 from various other countries.

Refugees from Congo-Brazzaville Refugees fled to Gabon in 1999 to escape civil war in Congo-Brazzaville.

Most refugees remained cautious about returning home to Congo-Brazzaville because of simmering tensions and occasional violence. Only a few hundred refugees voluntarily repatriated from Gabon during the year—far short of the 6,000 repatriations expected by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

About 90 percent of the Congolese refugee population lived in three southern provinces along Gabon's border with Congo-Brazzaville, primarily in urban areas. Two-fifths of the refugees were younger than age 18, according to UNHCR statistics.

A majority of refugees received partial assistance, including food, special rations for malnourished children, tools and seeds for farming, and education benefits. Funding constraints and logistical problems prevented the World Food Program from distributing food to refugees during the first half of the year.

About 1,600 refugee children attended government schools with stipends from UNHCR to help pay for fees, books, and uniforms. UNHCR provided funding to construct a dozen new classrooms at schools with large refugee enrollments.

UNHCR also offered financial assistance to refugees requiring health care, and conducted an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign that distributed free condoms to the refugee population.

Gabon is a party to the UN Refugee Convention. A government process to review asylum claims began to take shape in 2001 and slowly progressed during 2002. The government's newly formed National Commission for Refugees adjudicated about 250 asylum claims during 2002 and approved about 10 percent of them.

The government's slow procedure for issuing identity papers and travel documents hampered some urban refugees' freedom of movement and ability to find employment.

Gambia

Gambia hosted about 10,000 refugees at the end of 2002, including some 5,000 from Senegal and 5,000 from Sierra Leone. At least 5,000 new Senegalese refugees fled to Gambia during the year, but many of them repatriated a few weeks or months later.

Refugees from Senegal Waves of refugees have fled from Senegal to Gambia during the past decade to escape violence linked to an armed insurgency in southern Senegal. Most Senegalese refugees usually have returned home rapidly when violence subsides, but several thousand have remained in Gambia on a regular basis.

Some 1,000 to 2,000 new refugees fled to the Gambian capital, Banjul, when violence flared in southern Senegal in May 2002. A second influx occurred in June, when 2,000 or more Senegalese fled to central Gambia. It is possible that several thousand additional new Senegalese refugees fled temporarily to Gambia but remained uncounted after moving into the homes of friends and relatives along the border.

New refugees near Banjul found shelter at a school and immigration center, while new arrivals in central Gambia settled into two dozen villages. "This new major refugee influx constitutes yet another burden on the resources of the impoverished Gambian population along the border, as most of the refugees came without food or other resources," reported two relief organizations on the scene, Concern Universal and the Gambian Red Cross.

The Gambian government provided limited amounts of rice, onions, oil, and sugar to feed the new refugee population. Relief workers called for donations of food, blankets, and mosquito nets as well. About 90 percent of the new arrivals were women and children, according to the World Food Program.

Although most communities displayed generosity toward the refugee population, Gambian officials worried that Senegal's violence might spill into Gambia. A Senegalese government plane inadvertently bombed a Gambian bor-



der village in May. "The presence of the...refugees poses security problems for all villages along the border," a Gambian government official stated.

As in previous years, many refugees quickly returned home when security improved in Senegal.

Refugees from Sierra Leone Civil war in Sierra Leone pushed about 10,000 refugees into Gambia during the 1990s. Some refugees repatriated during 2001–2002 as peace returned to Sierra Leone.

The vast majority of Sierra Leonean refugees remaining in Gambia lived in villages and in Banjul, where they generally supported themselves without humanitarian assistance. Up to 1,000 refugees lived in two small camps, where the UN High Commissioner for Refugees provided food, water, health care, educational assistance, agricultural help, and training in income-generating projects.

Ghana

Ghana hosted more than 40,000 refugees at the end of 2002, including some 35,000 from Liberia, about 5,000 from Sierra Leone, and nearly 1,000 from Togo. About 3,000 new asylum seekers entered the country during the year.

Some 10,000 Ghanaian refugees remained in Togo at year's end. Nearly 2,000 Ghanaians were asylum seekers in Western countries.

Refugees from Liberia Thousands of Liberian refugees and asylum seekers fled to Ghana in 1990–91 to escape Liberia's civil war. Smaller numbers arrived in subsequent years. Approximately 3,000 new Liberian asylum seekers fled to Ghana during 2002.

Most Liberian refugees and asylum seekers lived in Buduburam camp, 25 miles (40 km) west of Accra, the capital. Although an estimated 27,000 individuals, including some Ghanaian citizens, lived in Buduburam camp during 2002, the Ghanaian government claimed that fewer than 5,000 were Liberians who merited official refugee status.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) ended assistance to most refugees in Buduburam in 2000 because it judged most camp occupants to be economically self-sufficient. The agency, however, continued to provide limited targeted assistance to a small number of refugees deemed needy.

During early 2002, funding constraints forced UNHCR to curb already reduced income-generation programs that targeted vulnerable refugee women and cut distributions of food and nonfood items. UNHCR re-established a small amount of general aid to the camp's occupants in July 2002, primarily in response to an influx of refugees from Liberia.

Buduburam's already deteriorating infrastructure fell into a state of disrepair during UNHCR's absence. The

camp's water and sanitation systems barely functioned and uncollected garbage presented health hazards. UNHCR provided limited medicine and equipment to Buduburam's health clinic. Crime in the camp declined in 2002 after UNHCR hired two additional police officers and refugee community groups became more diligent, according to UNHCR.

A census conducted by the Ghanaian government estimated that approximately 8,000 Liberian refugees and asylum seekers lived outside of refugee camps during 2002. Most Liberians living outside of camps resided in Accra, where they struggled to earn income and fully support themselves in Ghana's depressed employment market.

Refugees from Sierra Leone About 5,000 refugees who fled civil war in Sierra Leone during the past decade continued to live in Ghana.

More than 1,000 Sierra Leonean refugees resided at Krisan camp, 185 miles (300 km) west of Accra, at year's end. UNHCR provided refugees in Krisan with food, shelter, water, health care, and primary education. Refugees also received health and HIV/AIDS education training. Several hundred refugees in Krisan benefited from income-generation projects that encouraged self-sufficiency, including agriculture activities and cash grants from UNHCR to start small businesses.

The Ghanaian government estimated that approximately 4,000 Sierra Leonean refugees lived outside of Krisan camp, primarily in Accra.

Impact of Côte d'Ivoire Crisis The eruption of civil war in neighboring Côte d'Ivoire in September forced several hundred Liberian and Sierra Leonean refugees living in Côte d'Ivoire to seek safety in Ghana during 2002.

Uprooted Ghanaians Ethnic conflict linked to land disputes uprooted about 100,000 people in northern Ghana during 1994–95, including at least 10,000 Ghanaians who fled to neighboring Togo.

Although most uprooted families returned to their homes after the violence subsided, some 10,000 Ghanaian refugees remained in Togo during 2002. Ghanaian officials and UNHCR met jointly with the refugees during the year and encouraged them to repatriate. Fewer than 1,000 registered to return home.

Three days of clashes between rival clans over an annual fire festival in northeast Ghana killed more than 40 people, including a local traditional ruler, and temporarily displaced more than 1,000 persons in March. Tensions and mistrust between the clans resulted in the Ghanaian government imposing a state of emergency and a media blackout in the northeast that remained in effect until late 2002.

UNHCR in Ghana Ghana is a party to the UN Refugee Convention. With guidance from UNHCR, the Ghanaian



Liberian refugee children cut cassava in western Ghana's Krisan refugee camp.
Photo: USCR/J. Frushone

government reconstituted the Ghana Refugee Board in November. UNHCR/Geneva finalized plans at the end of 2002 to designate UNHCR/Ghana as a Regional Resettlement Hub for purposes of resettling abroad selected refugees who have no hope of repatriation or local integration. A serious corruption scandal within UNHCR/Ghana during 2002 resulted in UNHCR staff changes.

Guinea

Guinea hosted more than 180,000 refugees at the end of 2002, including an estimated 110,000 from Liberia, about 70,000 from Sierra Leone, and 2,000 from Côte d'Ivoire. About 50,000 refugees repatriated from Guinea to Sierra Leone during the year, while more than 30,000 new refugees arrived in Guinea from neighboring countries.

An estimated 20,000 Guineans remained internally displaced at year's end, although some estimates ranged much higher. About 5,000 Guineans were asylum seekers in industrialized countries. Some 30,000 Guinean citizens who had immigrated to Côte d'Ivoire in

previous years returned to Guinea during 2002 because of violence in Côte d'Ivoire.

Sexual Exploitation of Refugees Sexual exploitation suffered by refugees in Guinea and other West African countries exploded into international headlines in early 2002.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Save the Children Federation/United Kingdom issued a report in February charging that some aid workers, security personnel, and refugee leaders routinely forced vulnerable female refugees, including young girls, to provide sexual favors in return for assistance. A follow-up UN investigation subsequently backed away from some specific charges, but generally concurred that sexual exploitation existed.

The U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) issued a written analysis in February charging that the sexual exploitation allegations were "shocking but, in many respects, not surprising" because "the conditions that helped create such problems have been festering for more than a decade" in Guinea.

USCR cited "blame all around" for the scandal, in-



cluding “poor management by UNHCR, insufficient UNHCR protection staff, artificially low budget requests by UNHCR, poor refugee funding by international donor nations, exploitation of refugees by refugee leaders, and social deterioration caused by 12 years of war” in West Africa.

International aid agencies issued a code of conduct for all relief workers in response to the scandal, conducted staff workshops, and fired individual employees in some cases. UNHCR strengthened police patrols at refugee camps, closed brothels, and worked with other agencies to improve medical and psychological care for victims of sexual and gender-related abuse.

The International Rescue Committee placed hundreds of female teaching assistants in refugee schools, in part to monitor the conduct of male teachers toward female students. UNHCR provided legal support to victims who filed formal charges against perpetrators, and a Guinean government court conducted expedited hearings in the refugee zone.

A USCR site visit to Guinea in June found that the problem of exploitation persisted. A USCR report in July noted that “the most important single factor is the continuing inadequacy of basic assistance,” which left many refugee women and girls desperate and vulnerable. USCR called for better targeting of aid to female refugees “to ensure that [they] are no longer deprived of basic needs in the camp, thus making them less compelled to engage in exploitative relationships to fulfill those material needs.”

Refugees from Liberia Hundreds of thousands of Liberians fled to Guinea during the 1990s to escape civil war in Liberia. An end to the war in 1996 enabled most refugees to repatriate, but 80,000 to 90,000 remained in Guinea because an armed insurgency continued in parts of Liberia.

At least 30,000 new refugees fled to Guinea during 2002 as Liberia’s new war widened and intensified. Many new arrivals reached Guinea with virtually no possessions after paying bribes to Liberian combatants to reach the border. Some children arrived malnourished after fleeing through the forest for weeks with their parents.

Guinean soldiers at some crossing points blocked boys and young men from entering Guinea and pushed them back into Liberia to serve as porters for Liberian rebels. Soldiers also placed some refugees in detention for days before allowing them to proceed into Guinea. UNHCR protested the forced repatriations (*refoulement*), and eventually persuaded the Guinean government to drop its restrictions on UNHCR’s access to key border sites. Guinea is a party to the UN Refugee Convention.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) sharply criticized UNHCR for its absence from border entry points where refugees were encountering serious protection problems, and charged that UNHCR reacted passively to government restrictions. MSF expressed concern that some border transit camps offered only “minimal” shelter, food, water, and latrines to new arrivals.

UNHCR agreed that the “situation along the border areas...was precarious.” The agency stated that “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.”

USCR conducted a site visit to Guinea in June to examine the Liberian refugee influx. A mid-year USCR report, citing the history of attacks against refugees in Guinea’s border areas and the urgent need to establish permanent shelters for new refugees, urged UNHCR to “move more rapidly to construct additional refugee camps and transit facilities,” but to “resist all pressures to construct new refugee camps in border areas” where danger predominated.

Aid workers eventually transferred more than 15,000 Liberian refugees from border sites to existing camps in Guinea farther from the border. Even in established camps, however, many new refugees were forced to live in large dormitory tents without privacy because shelter construction could not keep pace with the influx.

In addition to new arrivals directly from Liberia, at least 1,000 Liberian refugees entered Guinea from refugee sites in Côte d’Ivoire that had become unsafe because of civil war in that country.

By year’s end, an estimated 110,000 Liberian refugees lived in Guinea, including about 50,000 in camps and up to 60,000 who lived on their own, integrated among local residents in small villages and towns. About 1,000 lived in Conakry, the capital.

The largest camp, Kouankan, housed about 30,000 refugees in the Nzerekore area of southern Guinea’s remote Forest Region. Kola camp, located about 50 miles (80 km) from the Guinea-Liberia border, sheltered about 6,000 refugees. Laine camp, built in 2002, sheltered about 7,000 Liberians. Several camps in the Kissidougou area of Guinea held about 8,000 Liberian refugees.

Food deliveries reached all camps without serious interruption during the year, and several thousand refugees worked with local residents on agricultural projects. Nearly 22,000 Liberian refugee students attended schools.

As in previous years, poor cooperation between Liberian refugee leaders and aid workers hindered assistance and protection efforts, particularly in Kouankan camp. Armed Liberian rebels known as Liberians United for Reconstruction and Development, based in Guinea, routinely entered Kouankan camp, confiscated relief items, and reportedly engaged in forced conscriptions. Refugee leaders associated with the rebels blocked humanitarian agencies from conducting a camp census in August, reportedly to sustain inflated population estimates and discourage cutbacks in food aid.

UNHCR urged Guinean officials to remove rebels from the camp and threatened to withdraw from Kouankan entirely, unless the situation improved. As the year ended,

government authorities and UNHCR were considering closing Kouankan and moving occupants to a new location.

A USCR report in July recommended distribution of identity cards to the Liberian refugee population—a step that Guinean officials have blocked for several years because of a dispute with UNHCR over a printing contract for identity documents. “The Guinean government should facilitate rather than obstruct the printing and distribution of refugee identity cards,” USCR stated. “It is mutually beneficial to the security of refugees, local residents, and government personnel for refugees to carry documentation that clearly identifies them as genuine refugees under the care and protection of UNHCR.”

Refugees from Sierra Leone Approximately 70,000 Sierra Leonean refugees lived in Guinea at the end of 2002. They fled to Guinea during the 1990s because of civil war and human rights violations in Sierra Leone.

An estimated 120,000 Sierra Leonean refugees have departed Guinea to return home to Sierra Leone during the past two years, including some 50,000 returnees during 2002. About 20,000 repatriated with UNHCR assistance during the year, while 30,000 or more traveled home on their own.

Most repatriations occurred during the first half of the year, as refugees rushed home to participate in Sierra Leone’s presidential election in May and plant crops at the start of the rainy season. UNHCR conducted an information campaign using radio broadcasts, videos, and group presentations to inform refugees of conditions in Sierra Leone so that families could make educated decisions about the timing of their repatriation.

The organized repatriation operation encountered problems moving refugees home throughout the year. Busloads of returning refugees traveled for two days from refugee camps to reach the only border crossing point opened by Guinean authorities for repatriation activities. As border security conditions improved in the second half of the year, government officials finally considered opening additional border crossing points that were more convenient to Guinea’s refugee camps.

UNHCR suspended repatriation convoys for six weeks in July and August because of vehicle shortages in Sierra Leone. Lack of money and concerns about humanitarian conditions in Sierra Leone prompted UNHCR to cancel organized repatriation movements from Guinea in the final months of the year.

The 70,000 Sierra Leonean refugees remaining at the end of 2002 included about 40,000 in four camps, and an estimated 30,000 who lived on their own, primarily in isolated border areas. About 3,000 resided in Conakry.

Aid workers provided food, health care, sanitation facilities, and other services to the camps. About 13,000 refugee children attended schools. Some 7,000 refugees received seeds and tools for farming. Aid workers repaired

about 30 miles (50 km) of roads linking three refugee camps to each other and to the nearest large town, Kissidougou.

After years of delay, government officials began to distribute identity cards to Sierra Leonean refugees in late 2002, a step intended to protect the refugee population from arbitrary arrests and harassment by local security personnel. UNHCR reportedly took steps to improve security patrols at refugee sites.

Refugees from Côte d’Ivoire An eruption of civil war in Côte d’Ivoire in late 2002 pushed at least 2,000 Ivorian refugees into Guinea.

Guinean officials initially closed their border with Côte d’Ivoire and reportedly stopped many refugees from entering before reopening the border for humanitarian reasons weeks later. Some refugees temporarily hid in the countryside on either side of the border to avoid detection. Some uprooted Ivoirians reportedly posed as citizens of other West African countries to gain entry into Guinea.

As a result, in addition to 2,000 new refugees who registered with authorities, it is possible that several thousand more Ivorian asylum seekers entered Guinea and chose to remain unregistered and uncounted in border communities.

“Despite a *de jure* closing of the border...due to security concerns, the Guinean government has allowed those in distress to seek refuge in Guinea,” the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported at year’s end.

The 2,000 registered refugees from Côte d’Ivoire moved into a transit camp near the Guinea-Liberia border while awaiting repatriation or transfer to a more permanent camp in Guinea.

Uprooted Guineans Tens of thousands of Guineans became internally displaced in 2000–2001 when Sierra Leone’s civil war spilled into Guinea’s border areas. The violence left several border villages heavily damaged.

The overwhelming majority of uprooted Guineans fled to the homes of friends and relatives in nearby towns or in other regions of the country, where many of them have settled permanently. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reported that it provided reintegration assistance to 40,000 Guineans who returned to their homes in relatively quiet border areas during 2001–2002. ICRC distributed blankets, soap, seeds, and tools to some 12,000 persons who remained displaced during 2002.

“The lack of agreed figures on the number of internally displaced persons, combined with the lack of precise information on [their] needs...in host communities and in the areas of origin, have constrained donor community support,” a UN report concluded in May.

About 30,000 Guinean citizens who had immigrated to Côte d’Ivoire returned to Guinea late in the year when civil war broke out in Côte d’Ivoire, endangering foreigners. Most arrived in Guinea’s remote Forest Region, while several hundred arrived by plane in Conakry. Local Red Cross



workers provided food, water, and other short-term assistance as the returnees traveled to home villages throughout Guinea.

Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau hosted about 7,000 refugees at the end of 2002, including some 6,000 from Senegal, and up to 1,000 from other countries, primarily from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Refugees from Senegal A 20-year insurgency in Senegal has periodically pushed refugees into Guinea-Bissau. Some 6,000 Senegalese refugees lived in Guinea-Bissau at the start of 2002, and approximately the same number remained there at year's end.

Most refugees resided amid local villages along the country's 200-mile (320 km) border with Senegal. Several hundred lived in Jolmete camp, about 25 miles (40 km) from the border. Occupants of Jolmete camp received health services, water, and access to schools. Funding constraints forced aid workers to curtail some assistance programs.

A report by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan in June noted that Guinea-Bissau's border area with Senegal remained "stable," but expressed concern that Senegal's violence could spill across the border into refugee areas. Authorities in Guinea-Bissau and Senegal have long charged that some refugees and asylum seekers in the border area were Senegalese rebels.

Despite the presence of refugees in Guinea-Bissau and lingering concerns about their safety, budget constraints prompted the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to close its office in Guinea-Bissau at the end of 2001. UNHCR staff in neighboring Senegal monitored refugees' needs in Guinea-Bissau during 2002.

Kenya

Kenya hosted approximately 220,000 refugees and asylum seekers at the end of 2002, including more than 140,000 from Somalia, nearly 70,000 from Sudan, some 10,000 from Ethiopia, and more than 1,000 from other countries.

Approximately 20,000 new refugees and asylum seekers fled to Kenya during 2002, primarily from Sudan, Somalia, and Ethiopia.

Some 15,000 Kenyans were newly uprooted during 2002. An estimated 230,000 Kenyans were internally displaced at year's end.

More than 2,000 Kenyans were seeking asylum in various Western countries.

Refugee Protection Kenya is a party to the UN Refugee Convention, but has no refugee law; consequently, the hundreds of thousands of refugees living in Kenya have no legal

status. The Kenyan government's Refugee Eligibility Commission remained dormant during 2002. Absent a functioning governmental refugee office, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) managed refugee status determination procedures and refugee assistance and protection matters.

Kenyan authorities required most refugees to live in three designated camps near the village of Dadaab in the country's remote east, and in three camps known as Kakuma in northwest Kenya. At the end of 2002, more than 140,000 refugees lived in the Dadaab camps, and nearly 70,000 resided in the Kakuma camps.

Tens of thousands of additional refugees continued to live without humanitarian assistance in urban areas, particularly in the capital, Nairobi. Government authorities asserted that more than 100,000 "illegal immigrants" lived in Kenya's main cities and towns. UNHCR provided limited humanitarian assistance to some 15,000 refugees who resided in Nairobi.

Kenyan police arrested nearly 1,000 persons that they characterized as "illegal immigrants" during the year, including several hundred refugees and asylum seekers officially registered with UNHCR. Unknown assailants murdered two Rwandan refugee children and injured their mother in a nighttime attack at a UNHCR-administered refugee center in Nairobi in April. The refugee mother reportedly was a relative of a former Rwandan government official, but the motive for the attack remained unknown.

"Urban refugees have no option but to sleep on the streets or in unsafe shelters, leaving them vulnerable to violence and illness," Human Rights Watch reported in November.

Poor security conditions in and around the Dadaab and Kakuma camps deteriorated during 2002. Increased tensions among refugees, and hostile interaction between refugees and the local population, endangered the lives of refugees and aid workers. Kenyan authorities deployed 200 police officers to help reduce security threats and other incidents at Dadaab and Kakuma. Accidents rendered nearly half of the UNHCR-donated police vehicles inoperable. Separate acts of violence killed some 30 camp-based refugees during the year.

Domestic and sexual violence against females remained a chronic problem in and around the Dadaab and Kakuma camps. Numerous programs to address sexual violence helped reduce rape incidents during the year, according to UN aid agencies. More than 80 percent of all rapes occurred while females collected firewood and building material outside the camps.

A UNHCR program to supply firewood to refugee families—to help protect women and girls from dangerous forays into isolated areas—suffered serious setbacks during the year. An alleged pricing disagreement between UNHCR and local firewood suppliers spiraled into clashes between suppliers and police near Kakuma and left several Kenyans

dead in July. Firewood shortages and funding constraints forced UNHCR to reduce its distributions for the remainder of the year. UNHCR's firewood-distribution program supplied less than one-third of families' household fuel needs.

Hundreds of Kenyans claiming that aid organizations hired refugees over local citizens stormed the Dadaab camps in June, damaging several vehicles. Police dispersed the protestors.

Refugees from Somalia Most Somali refugees fled from southern and central Somalia to Kenya during the early 1990s to escape civil war and famine. More than 140,000 refugees, prevented from returning home by Somalia's continued violence and political instability, remained in Kenya at year's end.

During 2002, inter-clan violence in southwestern Somalia pushed some 10,000 new refugees into northeastern Kenya. Despite requests from UNHCR and international humanitarian agencies, Kenyan authorities initially required the refugees to remain in an unsafe location less than a half-mile (1 km) from the Somalia border. Stray bullets from renewed fighting near the encampment killed four refugees and wounded several others in May. Nearly 20 refugees—primarily children—residing near the border died from diseases and malnutrition. Under pressure from Somali clan elders and Kenyan authorities, more than half of the population returned home in late May without UNHCR assistance. Of those who remained, UNHCR transferred more than 3,000 to the Dadaab camps.

The majority of Somali refugees lived in the three Dadaab camps in North Eastern Province near the Kenya-Somalia border. Confined to the isolated camps—situated in a harsh, desert-savannah region lacking natural resources—most refugees had virtually no opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency and were entirely dependent on humanitarian aid.

Poor donor funding forced the World Food Program (WFP) to reduce refugees' normal daily food rations by approximately 25 percent during most of 2002. More than 8,000 refugee children and hundreds of pregnant refugees suffered from malnutrition, a UN survey revealed.

UNHCR budget constraints continued to compromise refugee-assistance programs. Funding shortages forced UNHCR to limit its distribution of nonfood items to fewer than 2,000 refugees in Dadaab. More than 110 students typically crowded into a single classroom.

Heavy rains in May destroyed more than 1,000 shelters, temporarily displaced some 400 refugees, and ruined the main road used to deliver humanitarian supplies to Dadaab. UNHCR budget shortfalls delayed repairs to the road.

Nearly 4,000 Somali refugees registered with UNHCR for assistance to repatriate voluntarily to relatively peaceful northern Somalia. Fewer than 300 Somalis actually repatriated, however. Budget constraints forced UNHCR to postpone additional repatriations.

UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration relocated some 12,000 ethnic Somali Bantu refugees from the Dadaab camps to Kakuma in preparation for eventual permanent resettlement abroad as part of an international resettlement program.

Refugees from Sudan Civil war in Sudan pushed nearly 14,000 new Sudanese refugees into Kenya during 2002. Some 70,000 Sudanese refugees were in Kenya at year's end, the overwhelming majority in the three Kakuma camps in northwest Kenya, about 75 miles (125 km) from the Sudan border.

Most Sudanese refugees have lived in the remote Kakuma camps for more than a decade. Despite progress toward peace in Sudan during 2002, persistent violence diminished renewed prospects for large-scale repatriation.

Kenyan authorities confined Sudanese refugees to the Kakuma camps. Restrictions on refugees' movements and lack of land for agriculture severely limited refugees' ability to earn income or reach a level of self-sufficiency, rendering them solely dependant on humanitarian aid for survival. Less than 7 percent of the Sudanese refugee population engaged in economic activities during the year. Working refugees earned the equivalent of less than \$1 per day.

Lack of donor funding forced WFP to reduce refugees' normal daily food ration by approximately 25 percent during most of 2002. Some families failed to receive proper rations because of registration problems and Kakuma's poorly managed and maintained food distribution centers. Fewer than 40 percent of Sudanese families ate more than two meals per day, according to aid workers.

During 2002, humanitarian assistance workers and refugees rehabilitated more than 1,000 homes damaged by heavy rains during 2001 and constructed some 1,000 new homes. Most of the shelters remained roofless because of UNHCR funding constraints, however.

The continual influx of Sudanese refugees during 2002 added to overcrowding in classrooms at the Kakuma camps, where more than 23,000 students attended 21 primary schools. Some 3,000 refugees attended secondary and vocational training schools. UNHCR repaired 50 classrooms to accommodate the camp's growing school-aged population.

Successive years of severe drought and a poor water distribution network continued to cause water shortages throughout the Kakuma camps. Refugees received approximately three gallons (10 liters) of water for their daily needs, including bathing, cooking, drinking, and clothes washing—or about half the daily recommended amount, according to humanitarian agencies.

“Unfortunately, refugee assistance operations in Kakuma are facing dwindling international support because of factors such as occurrence of new emergencies and donor fatigue triggered by the protracted nature of the problem,” Action By Churches Together, an international relief agency, reported in December.



Some 700 Sudanese refugees departed Kenya and resettled in the United States during 2002 as part of a formal international resettlement program. Approximately 50 were Sudanese boys and young men known as the “lost boys” of Sudan because many of them had been separated from their families for nearly a decade. More than 3,000 Sudanese have resettled in the United States during the past three years as part of the program.

Refugees from Ethiopia Some 10,000 Ethiopian refugees and asylum seekers lived in Kenya at the end of 2002, including about 2,000 in the Dadaab camps and about 2,000 in the Kakuma camps.

More than 5,000 Ethiopians applied for refugee status with UNHCR during 2002.

Internally Displaced Kenyans Violence has displaced up to 400,000 people in eastern, western, and northern Kenya during the past decade. In most cases, political discontent, simmering land disputes, and ethnic tensions were at the root of Kenya’s domestic conflicts.

The Kenyan government’s Presidential Commission on the Ethnic Clashes concluded nearly a year of hearings into the country’s violent population displacement in 1999 and submitted a report to then President Daniel arap Moi. After years of delay, the Kenyan government finally released the report publicly in October 2002. The report confirmed that “prominent ruling party politicians have fueled multiple incidents of so-called ethnic clashes in Kenya since 1991” by inciting mobs to seize land from perceived political opponents. The government failed to announce any formal action on the report’s findings.

Many internally displaced families surrendered their land titles under duress during the 1990s, and sought shelter in towns and cities. The government then seized and nationalized their land. Most displaced Kenyans were rural farmers and herders ill-equipped to provide for their families in urban areas.

Pockets of violence and actions by the Kenyan government caused an estimated 15,000 additional Kenyans to flee their homes during 2002. In March, local authorities demolished more than 1,000 makeshift shelters in and around the coastal town of Mombasa, displacing an estimated 7,000 people. Most displaced families sought temporary shelter in churches and mosques and survived with minimal humanitarian assistance. Many remained homeless at year’s end.

Raids by cattle-rustlers in Kenya’s Central Province killed 15 people and displaced more than 3,000 others in September. Most of the newly uprooted people feared further violence and refused pleas from authorities to return home. A local church provided some 200 families with temporary shelter and food. Most others camped near government buildings and received limited humanitarian assistance.

Unknown assailants razed several houses and crops near the village of Migori in southwest Kenya’s Nyanza Province in December, displacing nearly 3,000 people. Many of the displaced continued to reside in temporary camps and with relatives at the end of 2002.

Relatively peaceful nationwide elections produced a new Kenyan president in 2002. In December, voters elected Mwai Kibaki, an opposition party candidate who replaced the president of 24 years, Daniel arap Moi. The elections proceeded without any of the large-scale violence that marred presidential elections in 1992 and 1997.

Liberia

Approximately 380,000 or more Liberians were uprooted at the end of 2002, including an estimated 280,000 refugees and asylum seekers, and 100,000 to 150,000 internally displaced persons. At least 200,000 Liberians fled their homes during the year, although some returned home before year’s end.

The nearly 280,000 Liberian refugees and asylum seekers included some 110,000 in Guinea, about 60,000 in Sierra Leone, some 50,000 in Côte d’Ivoire, up to 35,000 in Ghana, about 2,000 in various other West African countries, and some 20,000 in the United States and other industrialized countries.

Approximately 65,000 refugees lived in Liberia at the end of 2002, including an estimated 40,000 from Sierra Leone, nearly 20,000 from Côte d’Ivoire, and some 5,000 from various other West African countries.

Pre-2002 Events A seven-year civil war ended in 1996 after killing an estimated 150,000 people and uprooting more than 1.5 million. Peaceful elections in 1997 gave the presidency to former rebel leader Charles Taylor. Most Liberian refugees and displaced persons returned home, although about 130,000 remained uprooted.

Armed insurgents—known as Liberians United for Reconstruction and Development (LURD)—launched isolated attacks during 1998–99 in the country’s remote Lofa County, near Liberia’s border with Guinea. Intensified attacks during 2000–2001 pushed more than 100,000 people from their homes and triggered increasingly harsh human rights violations by government forces.

The UN Security Council imposed economic sanctions and an arms embargo on Liberia in an effort to moderate President Taylor’s policies. The Liberian government easily procured new weapons despite the embargo, and accused Guinea of supporting insurgent attacks.

At the end of 2002, at least 250,000 Liberians remained uprooted.

2002 Politics and Violence Attacks by LURD rebels widened during 2002 and struck within 50 miles (80 km) of