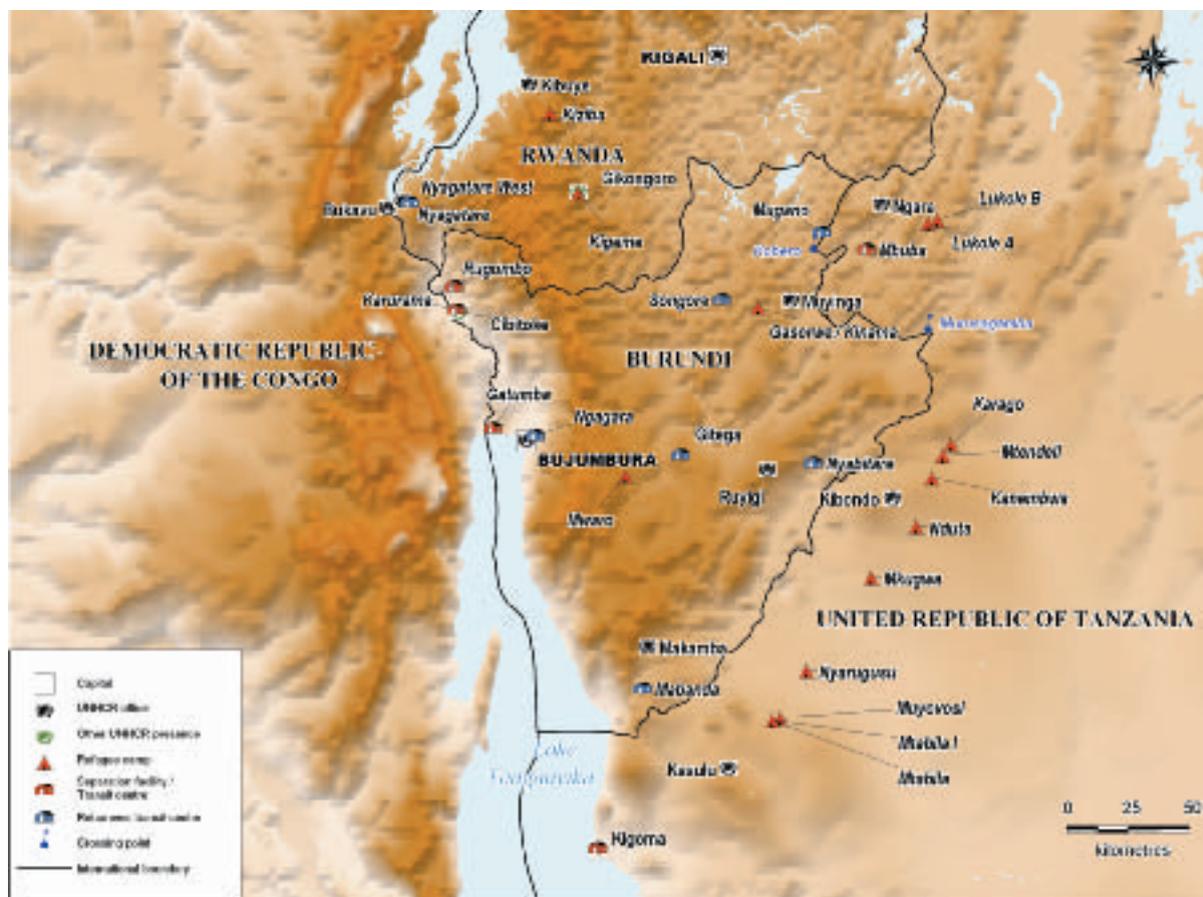


Burundi



Main objectives

- Ensure that the repatriation of 150,000 Burundian refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and elsewhere is voluntary and under conditions of safety and dignity.
- Facilitate the reintegration of Burundian returnees into their communities of origin by providing economic, social and psychological support and by promoting self-reliance projects.
- Continue to provide protection and basic assistance to Congolese refugees until conditions are ripe for return to their homes.
- Assist the few remaining Rwandan refugees who wish to be repatriated.
- Support the Government in the elaboration and adoption of a refugee law and in the strengthening of national structures responsible for refugees and returnees.

Planning figures

Population	Jan 2005	Dec 2005
Returnees	150,000	150,000
DRC (refugees)	38,000	33,000
IDP returnees	25,000	25,000
Other refugees	246	18
Total	213,246	208,018

Total requirements: USD 50,016,168

Working environment

Recent developments

The peace process, as described in the 2000 Arusha Accords, includes a transitional period – ending on 30 October 2004 – leading up to

democratic elections and the formation of a Government of national unity. Unfortunately, the transitional period may overrun, as there is still disagreement between the signatories over power-sharing and the timing of elections. Although still fragile, security in most parts of the country has improved considerably since the peace agreement in November 2003 between the Government of Burundi and the main rebel movement, *Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie/Front pour la défense de la démocratie* (CNDD/FDD). Bujumbura Rurale is the only province with serious security concerns, due to regular attacks by the *Front national de libération* (FNL), the rebel movement which remains outside the peace process.

This fragility was made brutally evident following the arrival of a wave of some 20,000 new refugees from DRC in early June. The refugees were accommodated at new transit sites in Cibitoke and Bujumbura Rurale, pending the allocation of a site at a safe distance from the border. In August 2004, the FNL and (as yet unidentified) other groups launched a serious armed attack against Banyamulenge refugees at Gatumba, killing 152 people and seriously injuring more than 100 others. At the time of writing, UNHCR is in the process of transferring the refugees from the border areas to sites allocated by the Government of Burundi in the interior of the country. In a parallel development, a large number of Congolese refugees started to leave the sites in early September 2004. The majority spontaneously returned to DRC, others dispersed into neighbouring communities or to Bujumbura, and a few went to Rwanda.

The UN Office in Burundi (UNOB) is increasing its presence in the country (having absorbed the African Mission in Burundi peacekeeping force following a Security Council Resolution of May 2004). Some 5,650 peacekeeping soldiers are progressively being deployed in the areas of return. This deployment and UNOB's humanitarian mandate should further improve security and humanitarian conditions.

In 2004 the United Nations lowered the security phase in some provinces of return, facilitating access to these areas for UN staff and allowing for the establishment of a more comprehensive

reintegration programme for most returnees in Burundi. Cross-border points in Ruyigi and Makamba were opened in January and June 2004 respectively. From 1 January to 14 September 2004, UNHCR facilitated the repatriation of some 80,400 Burundian refugees from Tanzania, bringing to 216,000 the total number of returnees since the beginning of the operation in 2002.

Constraints

The main constraints remain the fragile security in some areas, uncertainty about the end of the transition process, and the date of elections. Security measures for the protection of UN staff in volatile areas in Burundi are unavoidable but nevertheless significantly impede the mobility of UNHCR staff and the capacity of the agency to facilitate voluntary repatriation.

The absence of a consistent policy for the return of IDPs leaves a significant gap in the provision of assistance to returnees and their communities. There is no agency with an appropriate mandate for this population. In the provinces of concern, only 10 to 15 per cent of IDPs who have returned benefit from UNHCR assistance. This often creates tension in return communities, which in turn undermines the return process. The uncertainty of available funds is also a major impediment to the successful reintegration of returnees in their areas of origin. The implementation of the shelter programme and of community stabilization projects, which aim at rehabilitating social infrastructure and developing income-generating activities, has been delayed and activities have had to be reduced drastically.

Strategy

Protection and durable solutions

In western Tanzania, as of end August, some 260,000 Burundian refugees are receiving assistance in camps, with another 470,000 living in settlements near the border without assistance. There are also more than 19,000 Burundian refugees in DRC and a further 1,300 in Rwanda, many of whom may opt to return in 2005. UNHCR will continue to provide

refugees with information on their communities of origin, to enable them to arrive at an informed decision on return, and will continue to facilitate voluntary repatriation under conditions of safety and dignity. At their final destination, locally formed *Comités d'accueil* will ensure that returnees are welcomed and receive guidance on the recovery of their property and reintegration into their communities. Particular attention will be paid to organizing reconciliation activities between different ethnic groups and supporters of different political parties to avoid disputes between returnees and others. UNHCR will also support traditional conflict resolution structures. Regular monitoring in areas of return will be undertaken to verify that returnees are living in safety and to facilitate their administrative and legal reintegration.

Following the relocation of vulnerable DRC refugees away from the border, the protection of such groups in camps will be intensified. Should conditions in DRC improve, UNHCR will review the option of facilitating the return of Congolese refugees.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to run reception facilities along the border with Tanzania to accommodate returnees arriving either in UNHCR-facilitated convoys or spontaneously. From there, the Office will provide onward transport to communes of origin. Returnees will receive a package of basic domestic items from UNHCR and a food ration from WFP, the most vulnerable will be included in the housing scheme, as most returnees' houses are damaged beyond repair. They will receive materials which cannot be easily made or found, such as corrugated iron sheets for roofing, nails and locally produced doors and windows. The returnees will provide the remaining materials and labour. UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to local communities so as to increase the absorption capacity of returnee areas and to promote dialogue between the returnees and the receiving population. As agreed with UNICEF and WHO, the Office will focus on primary rehabilitation and reconstruction of schools and health centres in areas of return. Meanwhile, UNICEF will ensure that the infrastructure is functional (i.e. by providing basic equipment and supporting human

resources). WHO will deploy staff to help coordinate health activities and provide health kits. Income-generating activities will be further developed in returnee areas in collaboration with relevant partners.

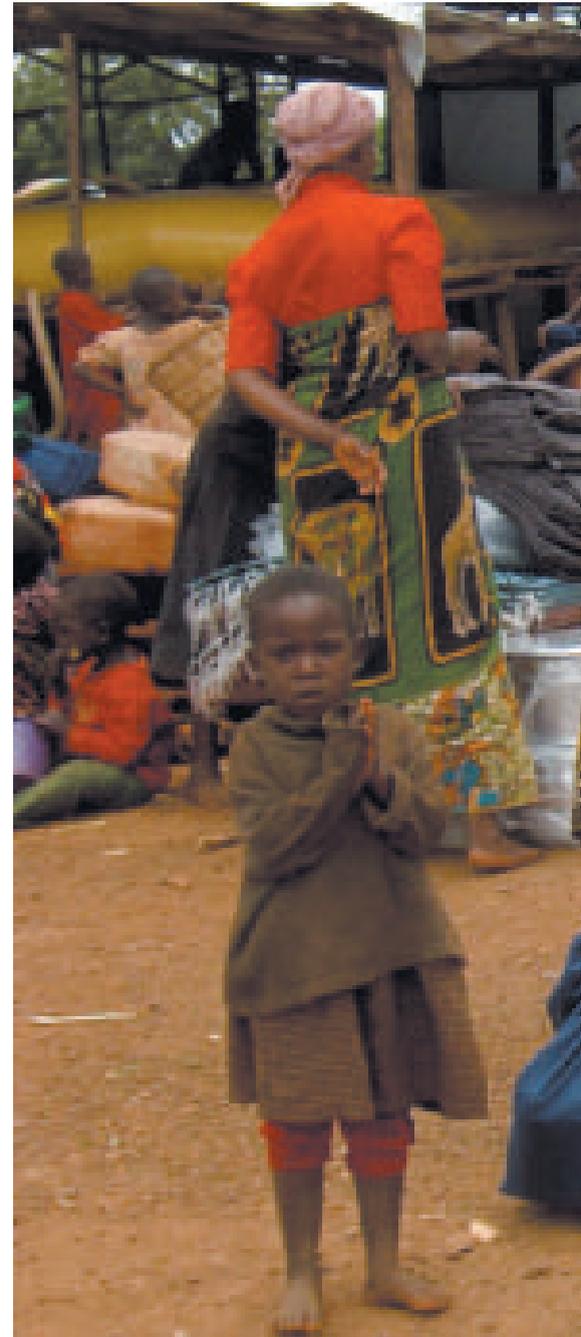
UNHCR will provide basic assistance to DRC refugees in established camps in the interior of the country and will support a health clinic and school facilities for refugees in Bujumbura town. Together with its partners, the Office is regularly updating contingency plans for a sudden arrival of refugees from DRC, and/or Burundian returnees from Tanzania.

It is anticipated that a refugee law will be adopted before the end of 2004. UNHCR will ensure that associated by-laws and administrative procedures are put in place. It will also support the Eligibility Committee and the Technical Group in charge of protection issues.

Desired impact

UNHCR's objective in Burundi is to facilitate the return of Burundian refugees, and to monitor and support their reintegration into their communities as stated in the Supplementary Appeal for the Return and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees. The aim is to achieve sustainable return, the peaceful coexistence of the different populations and lasting peace.

It is hoped that refugees from DRC as well as other refugees will be able to live in refugee camps in





Burundian returnees who just arrived from Tanzania at Gisuru reception centre - sorting their belongings as they prepare for a new life at home. *UNHCR / A. Montecalvo*

safety and dignity and be repatriated home if conditions allow. The adoption of asylum legislation should significantly speed up the process of recognizing refugees on Burundian soil and ensure their access to all basic services.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

Operations in Burundi will be managed through a branch office in Bujumbura, a sub-office in Ruyigi and two field offices in Muyinga and Makamba which will work closely with UNHCR offices in Tanzania. In

2005, there will be 47 international staff, 128 local staff and 10 UNVs.

Coordination

In addition to the active participation in various coordination forums and ongoing collaboration with relevant authorities of the Government of Burundi, UNHCR will strengthen its partnership with other agencies with a view to laying down agreed common objectives and strategies on thematic issues. By October 2004, UNHCR had concluded Memoranda of Understanding with WHO, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP and the World Bank, covering health, education and food supply as well as multisector activities designed to complement existing arrangements. The Office will participate in

activities facilitated by OCHA and in the Consolidated Appeals Process and the application of the IASC Needs Assessment Framework Matrix (NAMF). Consistency in policy development will be monitored through the Steering Group of the *Cellule inter-agence de réinsertion* (CIR), a UN body set up by UNHCR, UNDP and the World Bank to facilitate policy development and coordination in the context of the "4Rs" (Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation, and Reconstruction) initiative. UNHCR will provide the required information and feedback to the Good Humanitarian Donorship initiative that selected Burundi to pilot its implementation plan.

Offices

Bujumbura

Makamba
Muyinga
Ruyigi

Partners

Government agencies

Commission nationale pour la réinsertion des sinistrés
Ministère de l'action sociale et de la promotion de la femme
Police de l'air, des frontières et des étrangers

NGOs

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
African Community Resource Centre
African Humanitarian Action
Association des femmes juristes
Austrian Relief Programme
CARITAS
Centre pour l'autosuffisance et le développement intégré
Comunita Impegno Servizio Volontariato
Global Rights
International Rescue Committee
Ligue Iteka
World Outreach Initiatives

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme	Supplementary Programme	Total
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,551,092	9,124,481	10,675,573
Community services	39,529	900,000	939,529
Crop production	18,450	1,100,000	1,118,450
Domestic needs	58,432	3,100,000	3,158,432
Education	46,125	4,200,000	4,246,125
Food	4,151	810,000	814,151
Forestry	18,450	900,000	918,450
Health	92,251	1,800,000	1,892,251
Income generation	35,784	1,300,000	1,335,784
Legal assistance	46,125	1,100,000	1,146,125
Operational support (to agencies)	66,900	2,472,276	2,539,176
Sanitation	0	1,332,000	1,332,000
Shelter/other infrastructure	27,675	12,350,000	12,377,675
Transport/logistics	46,125	2,590,000	2,636,125
Water (non-agricultural)	0	1,200,000	1,200,000
Total operations	2,051,089	44,278,757	46,329,846
Programme support	618,896	3,067,426	3,686,322
Total	2,669,985	47,346,183	50,016,168

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent cost (USD 3,099,513) that is recovered from each contribution to meet indirect costs in UNHCR (field and headquarters).