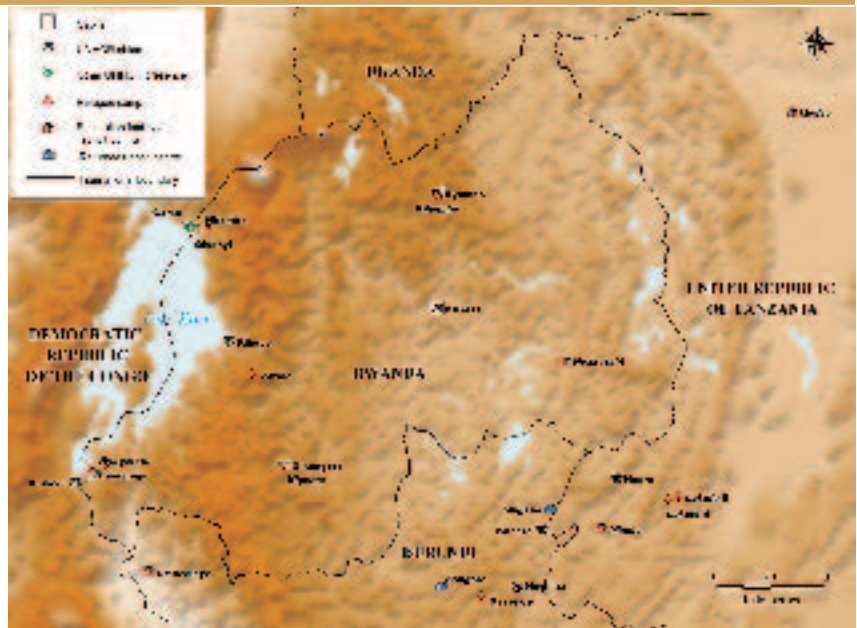


Rwanda

Main objectives

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of some 80,000 Rwandan refugees by setting up appropriate legal frameworks, e.g. Tripartite Agreements.
- Provide training and financial support to the newly-constituted Rwandan National Council for Refugees (NCR), which is due to take over refugee status determination (RSD) from UNHCR in the first quarter of 2004.
- Assist the Government with the provision of protection and material assistance to the refugee groups hosted by Rwanda and continue to look for durable solutions for their problems.
- Help to prevent environmental degradation in refugee camps.
- Provide adequate shelter for returnees.
- Raise awareness of gender-based violence and sexual exploitation.
- Conduct nationwide re-registration of all refugees in Rwanda.
- Prepare for the return of Congolese refugees to their country and facilitate the repatriation of Rwandan refugees to areas deemed to be safe.
- Continue to promote and organise resettlement as a durable solution for Burundian, and urban refugees.



its first post-1994 presidential elections in August. The Government in power won 95 per cent of the votes cast. Rwandans cast their votes again in late September 2003 in legislative elections. These events serve to mark the end of a nine-year transition period in Rwandan politics. In addition, national reconciliation efforts continued with the issue of a presidential decree providing for the release of up to 25,000 prisoners.

In 2003, the new NCR drew up its work plan in close consultation with UNHCR. This facilitated the transfer of a number of individual refugee files to the NCR, which will become operational in early 2004. At that time, it will also assume responsibility for RSD procedures.

In 2003, UNHCR facilitated the signing of Tripartite Agreements for the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees between the Governments of Rwanda and Uganda (which hosts some 25,000 Rwandan refugees); Zambia (5,000); and the Republic of the Congo (5,000). These agreements set up the necessary legal basis for promotional campaigns and repatriation convoys to be organised. Moreover, UNHCR held preliminary negotiations to set up Tripartite Agreements with Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zimbabwe and Botswana.

Given the recent progress in the peace process in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and

Working environment

Recent developments

The year 2003 saw several political milestones in Rwanda. The country adopted a new constitution in May and held

Planning figures

Population*	Jan. 2004	Dec. 2004
DRC (refugees)	30,000	27,400
Burundi (refugees)	1,200	1,000
Asylum-seekers	10	10
Total	31,210	28,410

* These are mainly camp-based refugees and asylum-seekers

Total requirements: USD 6,639,929

the July 2003 inauguration of a Transitional Government there, UNHCR may be in a position to begin facilitating the return of the 32,000 Congolese refugees from Rwanda in 2004.

In September 2003, the United Nations Security Council appointed Hassan Bubacar Jallow, former President of The Gambia, as the prosecutor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR). It is hoped that his appointment will improve the ICTR's relations with the Government and with the two main genocide survivors' umbrella groups, *Do Not Forget* (IBUKA), the umbrella organisation of the survivors of the 1994 genocide, and *Association des Veuves du Genocide Agahozo* (AVEGA), the genocide widows association, both of which suspended co-operation with the ICTR in 2002.

Constraints

For Rwandan returnees, it is of crucial importance that reintegration assistance continues. Most of them face a situation of near destitution upon return, and several factors exacerbate this predicament. These include the lack of a coherent strategy to deal with the sequestration and fragmentation of land (a land law is still in draft form) amid the continued return of various groups competing for limited land space. These groups include some 80,000 Rwandan refugees from neighbouring countries, ex-combatants from the DRC, demobilised soldiers from the Rwandan army, and prisoners released by the *gacaca* traditional courts. Many returnees find that the personal and institutional support networks they had prior to the 1994 genocide, now no longer exist.

Bilateral relations with the Government of Uganda continue to fluctuate. Early in 2003, tensions rose when two senior Rwandan political figures fled to Kampala, after a parliamentary commission's report accused them of inciting ethnic strife. In this, and similar cases, UNHCR was asked to help expedite resettlement for them to third countries. This is a common occurrence for both Ugandans and Rwandans who fall foul of their respective governments and then seek asylum in the other country. By June 2003, bilateral relations between the two countries had improved significantly.

By contrast, the Government of Tanzania recently threatened to expel up to 200,000 long-term residents of the country who are of Rwandan origin. UNHCR is closely monitoring the situation.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

UNHCR will focus on building the capacity of the NCR and its secretariat by providing technical and financial support during 2004. In addition, UNHCR will strive to facilitate the repatriation of some 32,000 Congolese refugees from Rwanda. There is cause for optimism given the recent positive political developments in the DRC and the likelihood of a relatively secure environment in the Kivu provinces (the bulk of the Congolese refugees hosted by Rwanda originate from the Kivus). In view of the limited opportunities for local integration and the protracted nature of the conflict in Burundi, UNHCR will redouble its efforts to resettle some 600 Burundian refugees who have been in Rwanda since the 1970s.

Assistance

Basic humanitarian assistance for Burundian and Congolese refugees, as well as limited assistance for vulnerable urban refugees, will remain at the core of UNHCR's work in Rwanda. UNHCR will provide transportation for returnees to their communes of origin and will give out a repatriation package comprised of a three-month food ration and non-food items such as blankets and jerry cans.

UNHCR is also collaborating with the UN Mission to the DRC (MONUC) to assist the civilian dependants of Rwandan ex-combatants who are returning from eastern DRC under the Disarmament, Demobilisation, Repatriation, Resettlement, Reintegration (DDRRR) programme. Close working ties will be maintained with the ICRC in facilitating family reunification.

UNHCR will continue to prevent or mitigate environmental degradation in the areas hosting refugees by implementing reforestation programmes, providing refugees with environmentally-friendly stoves, sensitising them to basic concepts of environmental sustainability and training local authorities to combat deforestation and soil erosion.

Desired impact

All refugees hosted by Rwanda enjoy the full protection of the Government of Rwanda and there is public awareness of refugees' rights and duties. All Rwandan refugees who express the wish to repatriate to their home country will be assisted to do so by UNHCR by the end of 2004. Congolese refugees who wish to return to the DRC will be assisted to do so as soon as conditions in the areas of origin are sufficiently safe. The handing over



Ensuring that refugees and returnees have clean drinking water is a crucial part of UNHCR's protection mandate. A returnee child in the Cyangugu area is happy to have access to clean water. UNHCR / S. Martone

of the RSD procedures to the NCR by the first quarter of 2004 will eventually lead to the scaling down and phasing out of UNHCR's presence in Rwanda. UNHCR will strengthen the links between relief and development under the UNDAF framework by focusing on the provision of adequate shelter for returnees, thereby mitigating additional strain on Rwanda's already scarce resources. In order to counter gender-based violence and sexual exploitation of refugees, UNHCR will maintain close working relations with the local authorities and encourage them to prosecute offenders.

Organisation and implementation

Management structure

In 2004, UNHCR will retain 34 staff members in Rwanda (five international, 28 national and one JPO). The branch office in Kigali will be responsible for the refugee and returnee programmes.



Co-ordination

UNHCR will continue to liaise with various international and governmental bodies in order to facilitate adequate inter-agency co-operation in areas of mutual concern. UNHCR will work mainly with two government institutions, five NGO partners and other UN agencies, especially WFP and MONUC, on matters of food delivery and meeting the humanitarian needs of the families of ex-combatants. The Ministry of Local Administration and Social Affairs will remain responsible for overall camp management.

Offices

Kigali

Byumba
Cyangugu
Kibuye

Partners

Government agencies

Joint Commission for Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Rwandan Refugees
Ministry of Local Administration and Social Affairs
Rwandan National Council for Refugees

NGOs

African Humanitarian Action
American Refugee Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Norwegian People's Aid

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
MONUC
WFP

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and co-ordination	793,779
Community services	173,370
Crop production	325,795
Domestic needs	474,882
Education	277,093
Food	47,151
Forestry	92,018
Health	687,178
Legal assistance	211,360
Operational support (to agencies)	729,270
Sanitation	218,619
Shelter / other infrastructure	284,060
Transport / logistics	1,260,802
Water	126,902
Total Operations	5,702,279
Programme support	937,650
Total	6,639,929