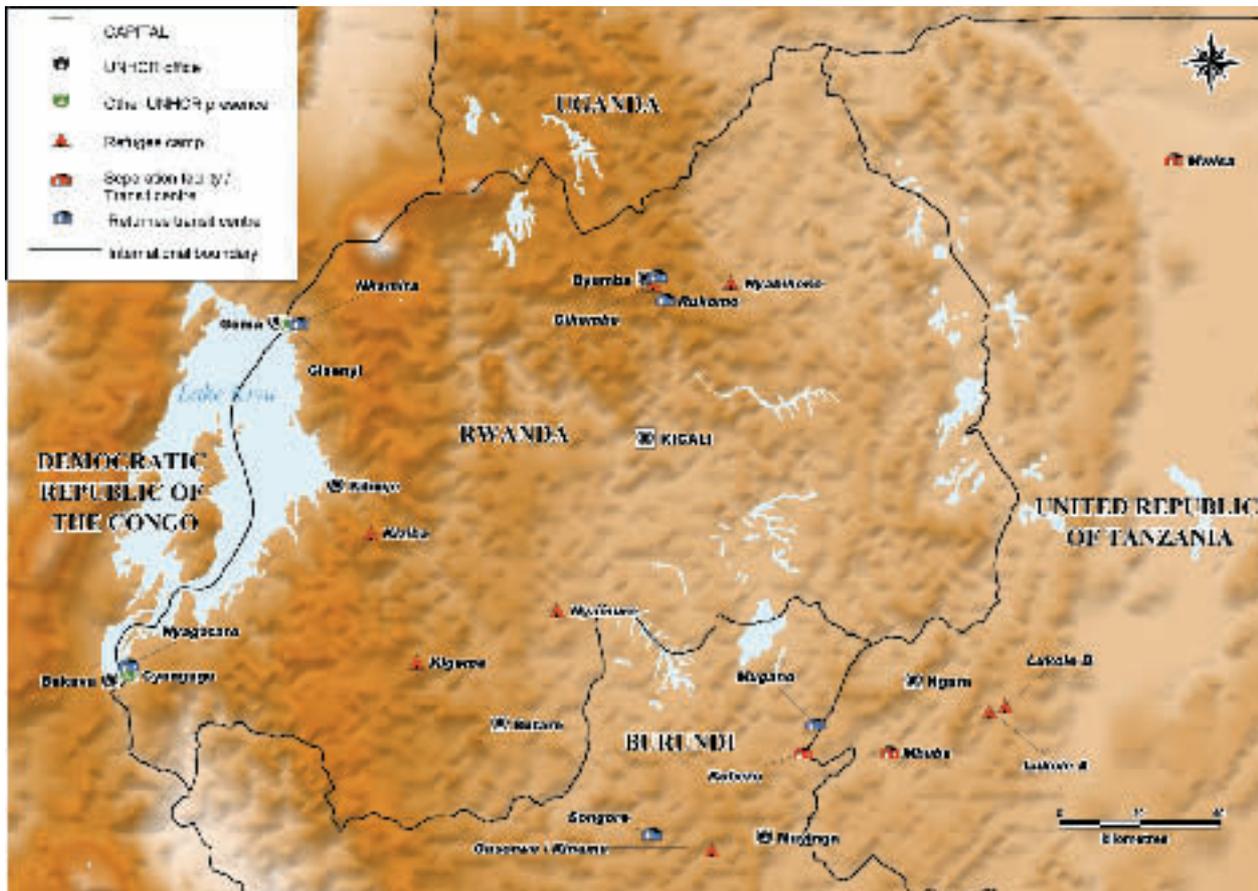


Rwanda



Main objectives

In 2005, UNHCR aimed to promote the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees within an appropriate legal framework; continue to provide material assistance to returnees and monitor their reintegration; continue the search for durable solutions for refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi; support the Government's efforts to conduct registration and refugee status determination through the National Refugee Council (NRC) and to develop a national asylum system; raise awareness among the refugee community on sexual and gender-based violence; and provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care for affected refugees.

Impact

- UNHCR assisted 45,900 refugees and asylum-seekers in five camps and three transit centres. Congolese asylum-seekers were received at Nyagatare and Nkamira and Burundians at Gikonko transit centre.
- UNHCR established a new camp at Nyabiheke for some 6,200 Congolese refugees.

- A verification exercise was concluded in Kiziba and Gihembe for all camp-based refugees.
- UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of some 4,600 Burundian refugees between June and December 2005.
- Over 120, mainly Burundian, refugees were resettled in third countries.
- UNHCR's efforts to promote repatriation resulted in the return of 9,700 Rwandans in 2005, mostly from DRC and Uganda. Since 2002, about 70,800 Rwandans have voluntarily returned.
- UNHCR provided assistance to over 590 dependants of ex-combatants, while the ex-combatants received assistance from the National Demobilization Commission.

Working environment

The context

The introduction of the *Gacaca* justice system, involving traditional courts used by the Government to deal with the backlog of cases related to the 1994 genocide, triggered an outflow of about 10,000 Rwandans to Burundi

and Uganda in March and April 2005. In June 2005 the Government of Burundi, in agreement with the Government of Rwanda, decided to expel some 5,000 Rwandans from Burundi. Shortly after this incident, Rwandans started to re-enter Burundi, and at the end of 2005, the number of Rwandan asylum-seekers living in Burundi was estimated at 8,700.

In addition, food insecurity caused by drought drove yet more Rwandans to cross into in Burundi (which was itself affected by the drought). Some 200,000 households in Rwanda (approximately one million people) suffered from a lack of food and were in need of assistance.

Constraints

In 2005, the main constraint on UNHCR's operations in Rwanda was a sudden influx of about 3,700 Burundians and 6,200 Congolese for whom assistance mechanisms in refugee camps had to be reinforced with the establishment of a new site in Nyabiheke.

Other major constraints included the reluctance of Rwandan refugees to return for a variety of reasons, including the *Gacaca* process and the lack of reintegration facilities or access to land.

The situation in DRC – especially in North Kivu Province, from which the majority of the Congolese refugees in Rwanda originate, and some parts of South Kivu – was not deemed conducive to promoting return. On the contrary, the insecurity generated an increased influx of DRC Congolese refugees from these areas into Rwanda.

Funding

In Rwanda, UNHCR had to deal with a significantly higher number of refugees in 2005 than planned. This put an additional strain on the provision of assistance. While additional funds were received for the construction of a camp for the new Congolese refugees, all activities related to the new Burundian refugees were covered under the regular assistance programme budget. Austerity measures were taken. These included cutting some supplies (wood, fuel, soap and sanitary materials), limiting operations, and cutting support to implementing

partners, including salaries for national staff. Some 1,100 refugees hosted in the Nkamira transit centre could not be transferred to Nyabiheke camp as funding to expand it was not available. Nevertheless, a special budget of USD 250,000 was obtained for the repatriation of some 4,600 Burundians from June 2005 onwards.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

Refugees

A verification exercise of all camp-based refugees in Kiziba and Gihembe was concluded in September 2005; the resulting database included biometric data and information on areas of origin. A significant reduction in the number of refugees was ascertained (from 51,000 to 46,000) and some cases of fraud were reported.

In the newly-established camp, formal education was not yet available at the end of 2005. Discussions with partners and the Rwandan Ministry of Education will continue in 2006.

The continued recruitment of children by armed groups remained a great challenge for UNHCR, with 150 children disappearing in 2005 from Byumba and Kiziba camps. It is estimated that there are still 2,000 Rwandan child soldiers in DRC. UNHCR, together with its partner organizations, continued its efforts to ensure the civilian character of the camps.

Asylum-seekers

In order to help the National Council for Refugees (CNR) fulfil its mandate regarding urban refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR shared information on more than 3,000 registered urban asylum-seekers and refugees at the end of 2005. However, due to staffing and budget constraints, the CNR was not always able to meet its deadlines and objectives. UNHCR and the CNR facilitated the transfer of all those who were not registered as

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	41,400	41,400	55	61
	Burundi	3,700	3,700	50	50
Returnees	From DRC	8,100	8,100	-	-
	From Uganda	1,600	1,400	-	-
Asylum-seekers	DRC	3,600	300	52	59
	Burundi	600	100	41	52



A Rwandan refugee (right) bids farewell to her mother as she heads back to Malawi at the end of a "go-and-see" visit, organized by UNHCR to her old home in southern Rwanda. *UNHCR / B. Gonzalez*

asylum-seekers to the transit centre of Nkamira in order to regularize their applications for asylum and to ensure their protection.

Returnees

UNHCR started to promote the repatriation of Rwandan refugees in 2002. In order to ensure that repatriation is based on an informed decision, UNHCR ran several information campaigns in cooperation with the Ministry of Local Government, Community Development and Social Affairs (MINALOC). This resulted in the return of 9,700 Rwandans, mainly from DRC and Uganda.

Monitoring activities in 2005 revealed that returnees' most common complaints concerned poor socio-economic conditions and a lack of basic reintegration assistance. The main challenge was access to land and property.

Activities and assistance

Refugees

UNHCR provided assistance to some 41,400 DRC Congolese refugees living in camps. In addition, some 3,700 camp-based Burundian refugees received assistance. The new arrivals from DRC and Burundi were assisted in transit centres and transferred to Nyabiheke and Kigeme camps. Some 6,000 urban refugees and

asylum-seekers in Kigali were provided with health services and education, and a limited number of people with special needs received food assistance.

Community services: Vocational skills training benefited 352 Congolese, over 80 per cent of them women. The literacy courses organized within the camps were attended by 411 refugees, including 337 women. Training and awareness-raising campaigns were run on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and sexual and gender-based violence. About 100 victims received counselling and support. The Office started developing standard operation procedures for the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence. An international sports federation donated volleyball equipment and provided financial assistance for sport activities in the camps.

Domestic needs and household support: UNHCR purchased and distributed clothes for refugee children in transit centres, and sanitary materials were distributed to women and girls, who could not, however, be provided with additional soap. A subsistence allowance was provided to some 100 refugees, in addition to exceptional assistance for 86 pregnant women. The distribution of smaller quantities of firewood caused several protection problems. When looking for firewood outside the camps, refugee boys were imprisoned for trespassing on private land and refugee girls were harassed by

landowners. In order to reduce the consumption of firewood, refugees in Gihembe camp were trained in the construction of fuel-efficient mud stoves and fuel-saving practices.

Education: UNHCR assisted over 8,500 refugee children with primary education. Secondary education assistance was provided to 184 urban refugee children and over 1,700 children in the camps; 16 students participated in the DAFI scholarship programme.

Food: Food was provided monthly to all refugees by WFP. Refugee women were encouraged to participate and to take a lead in the distribution of food and non-food items.

Forestry: UNHCR and its partners continued reforestation activities, with training of local authorities in tree nursery management and reforestation, and the introduction of peat-burning stoves in camps. In 2005, some 396,000 plants were propagated. UNHCR and the Kigali Institute of Science and Technology entered into a partnership for the construction of a biogas pilot project for Kibuye hospital. Despite the financial constraints, some sensitization and reforestation activities were carried out in Gihembe and Kiziba camps thanks to close collaboration with international and national partners. Progress was also made on the adoption of improved cooking stoves in order to reduce the consumption of firewood in the camps.

Health and nutrition: In 2005, over 85,000 medical consultations were held in camps and in Kigali. Some 3,600 people were treated in hospitals. Supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes were provided to almost 5,600 refugees with special needs. Over 3,200 refugees in camps and urban areas benefited from the voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services established inside the camps or in local VCT centres nearby; 42 refugees received antiretroviral treatment. Some 63 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported and all the victims received the necessary support and assistance.

Legal assistance: Material, technical and logistical support was provided to CNR for the registration of refugees in camps within the framework of Project Profile. Protection training seminars were organized for local authorities, immigration officers and CNR staff. Six implementing partners were provided with technical guidance, as well as financial, logistical and material support to run operations. Their work was closely monitored, and their operational capacity was expanded through staff training. Legal assistance was provided to victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the camps.

Operational support (to other agencies): UNHCR provided technical and financial support to its partners to deliver assistance to refugees in camps, transit centres and in Kigali. CNR members were trained in refugee status determination. UNHCR also provided training on issues related to refugee law, as well as the particularities of the Rwandan national asylum system, to members of the CNR, immigration officials, customs officers and the national police.

Sanitation: In the refugee camps, standards of hygiene were maintained through the construction and rehabilitation of latrines, showers and rubbish disposal pits, and the management, cleaning and maintenance of public areas.

Shelter and infrastructure: A new camp was established in March 2005 in Byumba Province to accommodate 6,000 new Congolese refugees from Nkamira and Nyagatare transit centres. Some 1,200 shelters, 100 kitchens, a road and an access bridge were built.

Transport and logistics: The warehousing services, the maintenance of trucks and light vehicles and fuel management served to ensure the transport of refugees and returnees in safety and dignity as well as the delivery of relief items, including wood and non-food items. All new arrivals and urban refugees in need were helped to transport their belongings during relocation to camps.

Water: The water supply was maintained and water quality regularly tested in the five camps. In Kiziba camp, refugees received an average of 18 litres per person per day, in Gihembe 16, and in Nyabiheke 15, while in Nyamure refugees received only eight to ten litres in the absence of a water supply system. Kigeme camp was connected to the *ElectroGaz* water system and refugees received an adequate supply (20 litres per person per day).

Returnees

In 2005, some 9,700 returnees and 590 dependants of ex-combatant returnees were provided with comprehensive assistance.

Community services: Support was provided to an orphanage to assist unaccompanied minors. No return activities such as education or construction could be financed in 2005.

Domestic needs and household support: Cooking facilities and firewood were available in all transit centres. Returnees were provided with the necessary non-food items as part of their reintegration package. Repatriation grants (USD 100 per adult and USD 50 per child) were provided to urban returnees from non-neighbouring countries upon arrival.

Food: Starting in October 2005, WFP provided a three-month food ration as part of the returnee package distributed upon arrival. Previously, only a one-month food ration and 0.5 kilogrammes of high-energy biscuits could be provided to each returnee.

Health and nutrition: All Rwandan returnees received medical screening upon arrival at the reception centre. General health services were provided to any returnees in need during their accommodation in transit centres. When necessary, cases were referred to local district hospitals at UNHCR's expense.

Legal assistance: The Government received the required financial, logistical and personnel support to run the repatriation operation in Kigali and in field offices. UNHCR facilitated the participation of Government officials at the annual session of the Executive Committee, as well as cross-border visits organized as a means of promoting the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees. Furthermore, UNHCR facilitated the organization of tripartite meetings on refugee repatriation between Rwanda and its neighbouring countries.

Sanitation: Three transit centres were rehabilitated and regularly maintained to accommodate returnees.

Transport and logistics: All returnees were assisted with transport from the border to the transit centre and also to their district of origin. At three transit centres, the costs of warehouse maintenance and distribution services were covered.

Water: Sufficient water of constant quality was available to returnees in all transit centres.

Organization and implementation

Management

In 2005, UNHCR maintained its main office in Kigali, with field offices in Byumba and Kibuye, as well as antenna offices in Butare, Cyangugu and Gisenyi. The Office employed six international professional staff, 45 national staff, 14 UNVs (ten international and four national), five local consultants, one international consultant and two SURGE officers.

Working with others

UNHCR worked with five international NGOs and one government agency. Among the UN agencies, the Office cooperated closely with WFP on the provision of food

rations for camp-based refugees and returnees; with the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) on repatriation from DRC; and with UNICEF on issues of education, health and nutrition, water, sanitation and child protection in transit centres. UNHCR also participated in thematic workgroups and task forces and chaired the Disaster Management Task Force.

Overall assessment

Despite funding problems, UNHCR managed to meet the basic needs of persons of concern, and standards were maintained in Gihembe and Kiziba camps. Moreover, the registration of camp-based refugees was conducted successfully within the framework of Project Profile, which has given UNHCR access to more reliable data. The same exercise will be held in 2006 for urban refugees and will continue to be used in the camps.

Over 120 refugees (mainly Burundian) for whom UNHCR considered this was the best possible solution, were resettled in 2005. Some 9,700 Rwandan refugees were repatriated in 2005, mainly from DRC and Uganda. Monitoring activities were reinforced, providing a better overview and assessment of the circumstances of returnees in Rwanda. With additional funds, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 4,600 Burundian refugees in safety and dignity.

Offices

Kigali
Butare
Byumba
Cyangugu
Gisenyi
Kibuye

Partners

Government agencies

Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance,
Community Development and Social Affairs
National Council for Refugees

NGOs

African Humanitarian Action
American Refugee Committee
Jesuit Rescue Service
Norwegian Peoples' Aid

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Budget, income and expenditure (USD) Annual and supplementary programme budgets

	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual programme	7,257,383	3,190,496	3,962,210	7,152,706	7,152,706
Supplementary programme ³	310,100	0	296,687	296,687	296,687
Total	7,567,483	3,190,496	4,258,897	7,449,393	7,449,393

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

³ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for Repatriation and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,144,137	58,179	1,202,316	0
Community services	65,012	4,709	69,721	17,449
Domestic and household support	257,740	0	257,740	35,777
Education	292,485	0	292,485	73,121
Food	32,618	5,538	38,156	6,486
Forestry	4,774	0	4,774	0
Health and nutrition	664,104	26,519	690,623	186,123
Legal assistance	191,740	2,973	194,713	5,194
Operational support (to agencies)	428,747	20,797	449,544	205,646
Sanitation	214,582	6,219	220,801	97,318
Shelter and infrastructure	536,304	0	536,304	203,795
Transport and logistics	905,975	171,753	1,077,728	389,031
Water	280,215	0	280,215	36,567
Instalments with implementing partners	910,461	0	910,461	(1,256,507)
Sub-total operational activities	5,928,894	296,687	6,225,581	0
Programme support	1,223,812	0	1,223,812	0
Total expenditure	7,152,706	296,687	7,449,393	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(58,946)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	4,026,632	0	4,026,632	
Reporting received	(3,116,171)	0	(3,116,171)	
Balance	910,461	0	910,461	
Prior years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1 January				1,273,852
Reporting received				(1,256,507)
Refunded to UNHCR				(33,257.00)
Adjustments				15,912
Balance				0