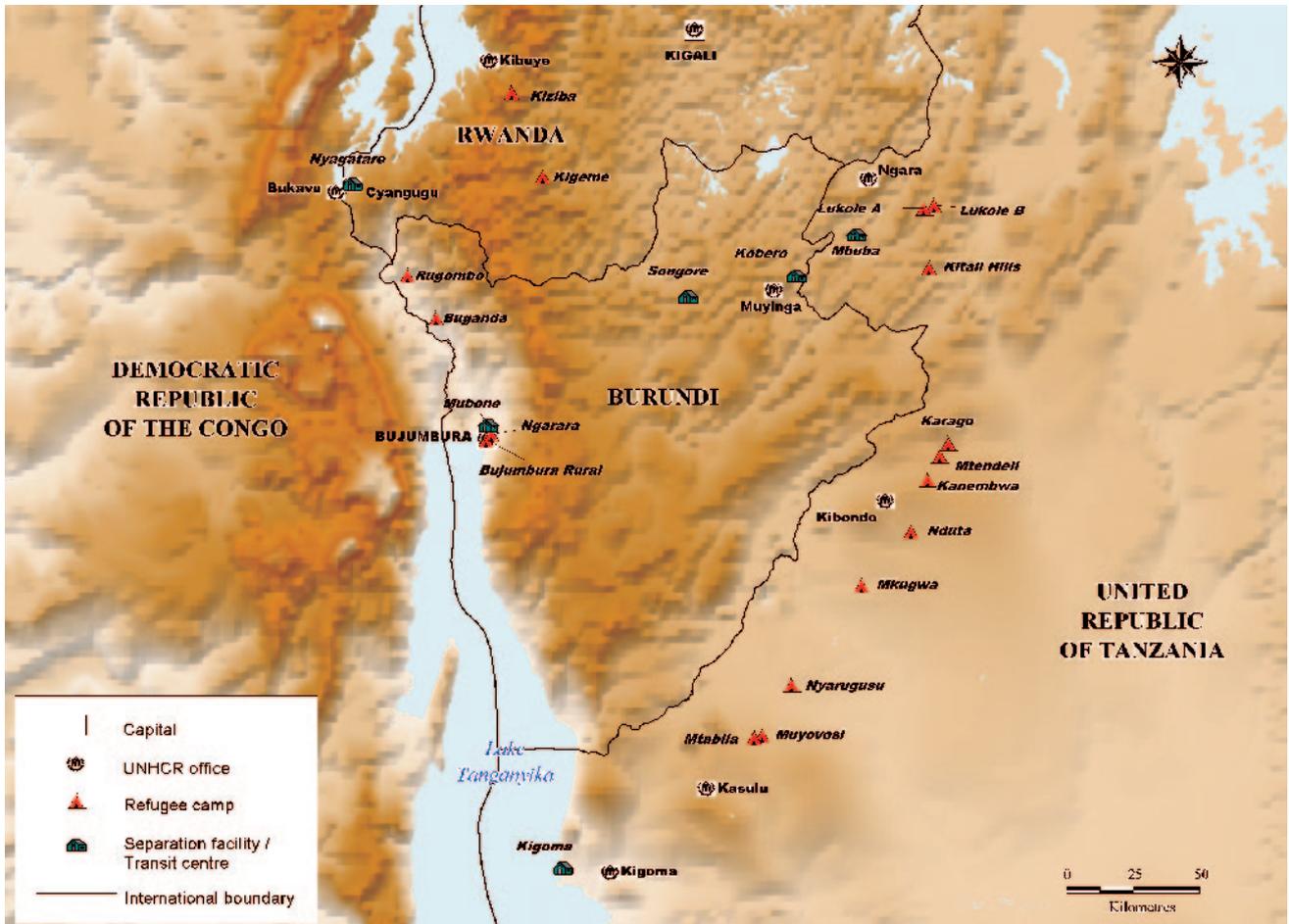


# Burundi



## Main Objectives

Assist the spontaneous return of Burundis from neighbouring countries; facilitate large-scale voluntary repatriation of Burundi returnees from neighbouring states, security conditions permitting, and provide initial assistance for their reintegration; provide protection and assistance to refugees from DRC and elsewhere in Burundi, identifying lasting solutions including voluntary repatriation and resettlement; provide assistance to Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and vulnerable groups in areas of return.

## Impact

- UNHCR, in cooperation with the Burundi Government was able to extend protection and humanitarian assistance to both camp-based and urban refugees, mainly Congolese.
- Ongoing negotiations with the Government of Burundi have so far resulted in a single refugee site for Congolese refugees being identified in Muyinga Province.
- 37 Rwanda refugees and 38 unaccompanied minors were assisted in returning voluntarily. seven families (23 persons) were reunited.
- 10, 200 spontaneous returnees obtained transportation to their homes in Burundi, initial reintegration assistance and identity documents issued with government cooperation.

- UNHCR supported a government land survey undertaken to facilitate reintegration of refugees not able to recover their properties after many years outside the country.
- A tri-partite agreement signed by Governments of Burundi, United Republic of Tanzania and UNHCR in May provided the legal framework for voluntary repatriations of Burundi refugees in Tanzania. UNHCR continued to prepare for a possible large-scale influx of Burundian returnees. Activities included rehabilitation/reconstruction of social infrastructure, reinforcement of the capacity of the local justice system, and income-generating activities aimed at national reconciliation. These activities also benefited the local population.

## Working Environment

### The Context

Despite the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement signed in August 2000, violence continued throughout 2001, forcing 41,000 Burundians to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. Two attempted *coups d'état* failed. Meanwhile, tension increased with reports of activities in the country by armed elements of the *Front pour la défense de la démocratie* (FDD) based in DRC. UNHCR's operations were consequently restricted to areas near Bujumbura or elsewhere, only if security permitted. Implementation of re-integration projects and

assistance programmes to refugees, returnees and IDPs was thereby severely curtailed.

Some advances were still made towards peace. These encouraged the international community to continue to support relief work in the country. Under the Arusha Agreement, a transitional government was installed on 1 November 2000. UNHCR and the new administration worked to resolve pending issues, including securing a new site for Congolese refugees who were being assisted by UNHCR.

Continuing fighting in the DRC prompted 4,000 Congolese nationals to seek asylum in Burundi. UNHCR provided them with protection and material assistance.

### Constraints

Prevailing tensions across the country restricted UNHCR's activities in all unstable areas in east and south Burundi and the outskirts of Bujumbura, all being prospective returnee areas. Meanwhile global restructuring under Action 2 reduced UNHCR's overall operational capacity through a 60 per cent reduction in staff and the closure of the Ruyigi field office.

### Funding

The UNHCR programme in Burundi was well funded. Burundi also benefited from financial support from major international institutions. At a donors' round table conference on Burundi, held in Geneva, donors pledged substantial funds for the country.

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin/ Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Returnees (from Tanzania)	27,600	10,200	50	-
DRC (Refugees)	26,800	6,600	56	62
Burundi (IDPs)	20,000	-	60	-
DRC (Asylum-seekers)	8,000	5,700	56	-
Rwanda (Refugees)	1,200	10	54	62

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget				
Revised Budget	Income from Contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other Funds Available <sup>2</sup>	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
7,652,999	7,175,773	225,733	7,401,506	7,401,506

<sup>1</sup> Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

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

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

## Achievements and Impact

### Protection and Solutions

In order to improve their services to refugees and returnees, UNHCR continued to reinforce the capacity of the Government through the *Ministère à la réinstallation et à la réintégration des déplacés et des rapatriés* (MRRDR), the *Police des frontières et des étrangers* (PAFE) and the *Bureau d'étude des projets et d'appui aux associations et ONG locales et internationales*. In view of the continuous movements of returnees, UNHCR decided, in December 2001, to make preparations for large-scale assisted repatriations from Tanzania to Burundi. UNHCR, the Ministry of Interior and the MRRDR jointly organised sensitisation campaigns for refugees inside and outside of the country. Simultaneously, the authorities visited refugee camps in Tanzania for the same purpose.

Eight persons were granted refugee status by the Government of Burundi, more than 500 asylum-seekers were provided with temporary residence permits, and hundreds of other permits were renewed. UNHCR resettled one Congolese national to Norway, and 23 persons including three Angolans, nine Burundians, three Rwandans and eight Congolese were reunited with their families in Canada, Denmark, and Belgium. 37 refugees and 38 unaccompanied minors received assistance on repatriation.

### Activities and Assistance

**Community Services:** 32 young refugee women from Rugombo were trained in dressmaking and received materials needed for their training; 28 young men were trained in carpentry and received the necessary materials. 72 persons attended a programme on adult literacy and 55 persons attended English courses.

**Crop production:** Crop production schemes were integrated with income-generation schemes as the combination of the two activities were believed to produce positive results.

**Domestic Needs/Household Support:** Some 1,634 children in Rugombo received clothes and firewood was distributed to 2,876 persons in the camp on a

monthly basis. 260 sacks of charcoal and 0.5 litres of petrol per month were also distributed to 130 families in Ngagara. 10,200 returnees received returnee packages. In the provinces of Ruyigi, Rutana, and Bururi, 5,875 IDPs were provided with non-food items (plastic bags, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans and soap) and 550 IDPs received 2,420 iron sheets.

**Education:** Preparations for repatriation included construction/rehabilitation of four primary schools in Ruyigi. In Rumonge, Kirundo, and Muyinga provinces, nine primary schools were also rehabilitated. Activities were aimed at reinforcing the existing absorption capacity of the educational infrastructure and included the construction of nine houses for teachers in Muyinga and Kirundo provinces. Another 16 classrooms and four sheds were constructed/rehabilitated for refugees in Rugombo. In addition, 11 teachers were paid by UNHCR.

**Food:** WFP food rations were distributed by UNHCR to 3,954 refugees in Rugombo and Ngagara on a monthly basis throughout the year. UNHCR occasionally bought food to respond to food shortages. In addition, flour and cassava were distributed to 173 refugees (who arrived in Burundi after WFP had completed distribution of food rations) and to 1,229 vulnerable urban refugees in the camps.

**Health/Nutrition:** Health centres were constructed in Rugombo and in six potential returnee areas in Ruyigi, Muyinga and Bururi provinces. A health care block was also constructed at Ngagara. 700 mosquito nets were distributed to refugees in Rugombo. Anti AIDS sensitisation campaigns were conducted amongst refugees whilst a joint working plan of UN agencies on AIDs eradication between 2002-2006 was submitted to donors in Geneva in December.

**Income Generation:** In Rugombo, 131 refugees benefited from supported agricultural and basket-making projects. 48 supported urban micro-projects benefited from UNHCR assistance resulting in 48 refugee families becoming self-reliant. 32 women's groups received aid through a micro-project called *Femmes pour la paix et le développement* (FEPADÉ). 480 women in Muyinga province engaged in animal

husbandry and agricultural schemes reinforcing their economic positions whilst micro-projects proved to be a useful tool in reducing ethnic tensions.

**Legal Assistance/Protection:** 13 magistrates and judges in Ngozi and Muyinga provinces attended training schemes aimed at preparing the judiciary to respond in the event of mass denunciations or imprisonment of persons of concern to the Office. 164 detainees also received legal aid whilst information on the rights of refugees was provided on their behalf. Meanwhile, officials involved in refugee issues attended seminars on international refugee law in preparation for the Global Consultations on International Protection.

**Livestock:** Livestock-rearing was one of many activities promoted through income generation schemes.

**Operational Support (to Agencies):** The Office covered the expenses of some implementing partners, including office rental, communication and office equipment, accounting services and bank charges.

**Sanitation:** At Ngagara, water lies only 1.20 metres from the surface. Latrines were constructed to enable septic tanks to be emptied every three months and every two months during the rainy seasons. Disinfectants were also sprayed in the camps every three months to eradicate mosquitoes.

**Shelter/Other Infrastructure:** In Rugombo, reconstruction or rehabilitation of 80 accommodation units to shelter 2,876 refugees were completed. Construction of its nutrition/distribution centre and six cooking halls with improved stoves was completed. Rehabilitation of 50 accommodation units and 18 kitchens at Ngagara was also completed. Two registration centres were rehabilitated at Kobero and Gisuru while two transit centres were refurbished at

Mugano and Songore. In addition, a new transit centre was constructed at Nyabitare and Ruyigi. 408 roofing kits were distributed to former IDPs who returned to their communities of origin.

**Transport/Logistics:** Trucking fleets and warehouses were well maintained in 2001. 31 trucks owned by UNHCR remained on stand-by in order to be used for repatriation operations.

**Water:** As Ngagara did not have running water, tank wagons supplied water daily to the site. At Rugombo, refugees fetched water at the communes and UNHCR supported expenses related to refugee water consumption.

## Organisation and Implementation

### Management Structure

The field office in Ruyigi was closed during restructuring, the latter also led to a reduction of staff. In 2001, there were five international staff, 30 locals and two UNVs.



In an effort to preserve the environment, refugees are provided with fuel-efficient stoves. Here Rwandan refugees are cooking in Ngozi province. *UNHCR / A. Hollmann*

## Working with Others

UNHCR set up two committees for overall management and execution of Burundi voluntary repatriation programmes to Burundi: an oversight committee and a technical committee. The oversight committee included several government ministers, the EU Chargé d'Affaires, and representatives from the Belgian and French embassies. Between January and November 2001, UNHCR co-operated with WFP in providing food to assisted returnees as well as support to a limited number of vulnerable urban refugees. UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with an NGO which provided food items to returnees for three months.

During 2001, regular meetings were organised with UNICEF to discuss the co-ordination of activities for unaccompanied minors and water/sanitation. It is expected that this will result in the execution of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations in 2002. All humanitarian activities were also co-ordinated by the UN Resident Co-ordinator who acts as a co-ordinator of UN humanitarian programmes. He is assisted by OCHA who arranges weekly meetings for all humanitarian agencies called "Groupe de contact". The key objective of the contact group is to exchange information on the humanitarian situation throughout the country.

## Overall Assessment

The Ngagara camp location in the capital has remained a problem because of the political activities of some refugees. The Government of Burundi has now allocated a site for the accommodation of all refugees at a single location. Some issues regarding urban refugees remain unresolved because of the lack of official recognition of the status of the refugees. However, the Government has now agreed to establish a national eligibility committee to screen asylum-seekers with a view to making determinations as to their true status.

In early 2001, the regional and national political environment was not conducive to large-scale repatriation of Burundian refugees. After the new Government was installed, the number of returnees registered at Burundi's borders increased and the

phenomenon of "successive departures and returns" ended. By the end of the year, movements of returnees to Burundi had slowed down owing to attacks by armed groups and harassment. Out of 60,000 persons expected, only 27,866 returned. Restructuring within UNHCR during the year and the persisting insecurity also led UNHCR to close its Field Office at Ruyigi and prevented the opening of other offices. Furthermore, these events restricted the development of various programmes for refugees, displaced persons and other vulnerable groups though it was still possible for punctual distribution of food to proceed alongside some social projects and income-generating activities.

### Offices

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Bujumbura  
Muyinga

### Partners

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#### Government Agencies

*Bureau des projets de l'éducation/Ministère de l'éducation nationale*

*Femmes pour la paix et le développement/Ministère de l'action sociale et de la promotion de la femme*

*Ministère à la réinsertion et à la réinstallation des déplacés et des rapatriés*

#### NGOs

Agency for Co-operation and Research in Development

*Association des volontaires du progrès*

*Association pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement*

Austrian Relief Programme

*Direction provinciale de l'agriculture et de l'élevage Ruyigi*

International Rescue Committee

INTERSOS

Libejeun

*Réseau des citoyens*

#### Others

*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Annual Programme Budget		Annual Programme Budget	
	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,556,073		14,359	
Community Services	206,344		31,347	
Crop Production	58,952		679,981	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	41,499		6,683	
Education	469,250		208,086	
Food	3,329		0	
Health / Nutrition	286,298		37,720	
Income Generation	32,667		352	
Legal Assistance	264,061		1,845	
Livestock	2,548		0	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	306,959		269,847	
Sanitation	3,012		0	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	575,343		85,984	
Transport / Logistics	752,425		763,550	
Water	4,798		28,796	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	905,546		(1,935,356)	
<b>Sub-total Operational</b>	<b>5,469,104</b>		<b>193,194</b>	
Programme Support	1,203,328		20,704	
<b>Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries</b>	<b>6,672,432</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>213,898</b>	<b>(5)</b>
Unliquidated Obligations	729,074	<b>(3)</b>	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,401,506</b>	<b>(1) (3)</b>	<b>213,898</b>	

#### Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	2,964,464		10,051,608	
Reporting Received	2,058,918		11,986,963	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>905,546</b>		<b>(1,935,355)</b>	
Outstanding 1st January	0		2,157,390	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		25,901	
Currency Adjustment	0		10,982	
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>	<b>905,546</b>		<b>207,116</b>	

#### Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1st January	0		333,095	(5)
New Obligations	7,401,506	(1)	0	
Disbursements	6,672,432	(3)	213,898	(5)
Cancellations	0		119,197	(5)
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>	<b>729,074</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>0</b>	

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

- (1) Annex to Statement 1
- (3) Schedule 3
- (5) Schedule 5