

Kenya

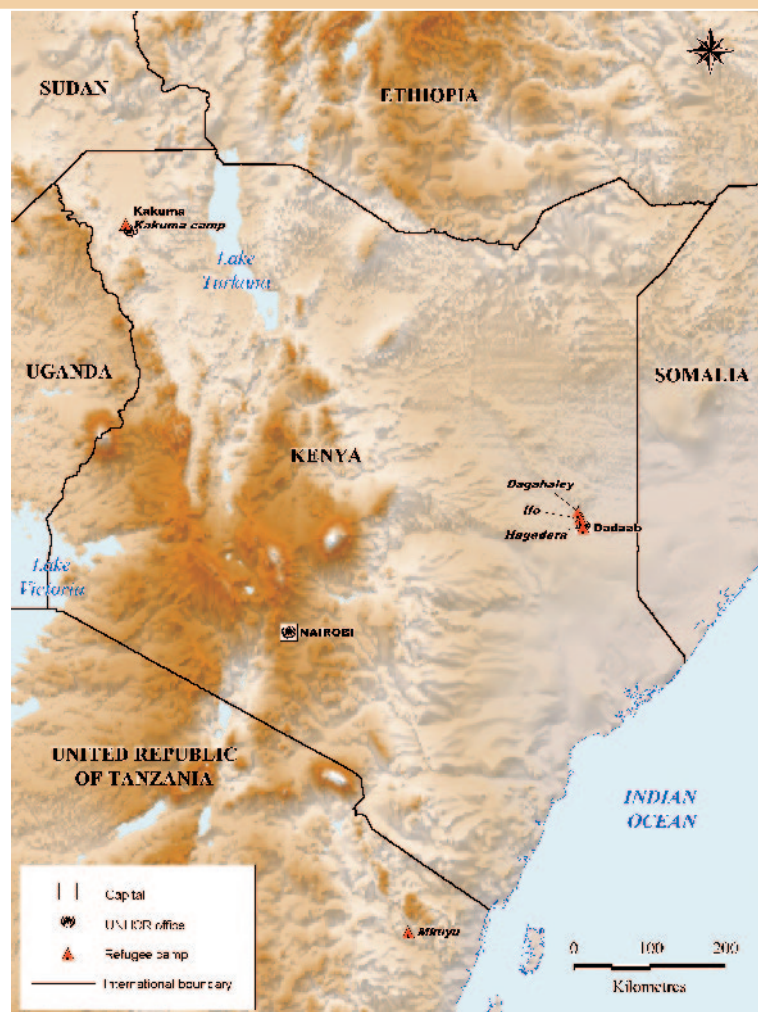
Main Objectives

- Ensure safe and dignified asylum for all asylum-seekers and refugees.
- Facilitate and promote repatriation when conditions are favourable.
- Preserve minimum living standards and ensure that refugees have access to essential services.

Working Environment

Recent Developments

In 2002, refugees continued to arrive mainly from Somalia and Sudan, plus a relatively small number from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania. Currently more than 216,000 refugees in Kenya receive assistance from UNHCR. They reside primarily in two camps: Dadaab in the northeast (Garissa district) and Kakuma in the northwest (Turkana district). The Dadaab camp hosts Somali refugees (134,500) from Southern Somalia (Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Gedo regions). Kakuma hosts mostly Sudanese refugees (more than 54,000) from the regions of Bahr el Ghazal, Central Equatoria, Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and the Upper Nile. In addition, an estimated 50,000 refugees currently reside in Nairobi, 15,000 of whom receive humanitarian assistance from UNHCR.



Somali Refugees: As a result of inter-factional fighting in Bulla Hawa in April 2002, more than 10,000 Somali refugees sought asylum in Mandera (northeast Kenya). On the request of the Government, over 3,500 of these refugees were relocated to Dadaab camp. By the end of July, more than 6,000 had returned from Mandera to Bulla Hawa.

Planning Figures

Population	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003
Ethiopian Refugees	7,810	10,010
Great Lakes Refugees	1,851	1,851
Somali Refugees	142,108	136,608
Sudanese Refugees	75,877	77,829
Other Refugees	303	303
Total	227,949	226,601

Total Requirements: USD 26,274,554

In February, some 220 Somali refugees (from an earlier influx into Kenya) voluntarily repatriated to northwest Somalia ("Somaliland"). Another 3,090 refugees have been registered for repatriation to northeast Somalia ("Puntland"). The return of the latter group depends on the political stability of the region and the availability of funds to

undertake the operation. An additional 11,856 Somali Bantus have been registered and verified for resettlement to the United States. The outcome of peace talks to be held in Eldoret (Kenya), in mid-October, will be a critical determinant of further possible repatriation of other Somali refugees.

Sudanese Refugees: Despite the Machakos Peace Agreement signed in the first half of 2002, a number of armed conflicts between the Sudanese Government forces and the Sudan People's Liberation Army have created insecurity in the country. As a result, refugees continue to arrive in the Kakuma refugee camp. In the first half of the year, 19 Sudanese refugees were assisted to repatriate, and in the same period 3,820 new arrivals were registered. Some 240 refugees were processed for resettlement in the United States. Another 700 refugees were submitted for resettlement elsewhere and some of the "Lost Boys and Girls" of Sudan benefited from a special resettlement process.

Other Nationalities – Burundians, Congolese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Rwandans, Tanzanians, and Ugandans: Although there have been signs of relative stability in the countries of origin, more than 8,000 new applications for refugee status were received during the first half of 2002 (including 5,815 from Ethiopians). Cessation clauses will take effect on 31 December 2002, for refugees from Eritrea and those who arrived in Kenya prior to May 1991 from Ethiopia (i.e. they will lose their refugee status).

Constraints

The refugee camps are located in semi-arid areas with a hot, dry climate and no surface water. The limited natural resources are barely sufficient to sustain the local nomadic population. The confinement of refugees to these camps seriously constrains any attempts to achieve coping mechanisms.

Despite efforts to improve security, the situation in and around the camps remains precarious. Hostility between refugees and the host communities can easily flare up into violence, putting at risk the lives of the refugees, as well as NGO and UNHCR staff working in the camps.

Durable solutions remain difficult to achieve, especially in Sudan and Somalia, from where most of the refugees originate. It may not be possible to repatriate Sudanese refugees after the signing of the Machakos Peace Agreement, as had been hoped, because fighting in the country is expected to persist. At the time of writing, only some of the factions in Somalia had agreed on the agenda of the October peace talks and a new outflow of refugees is predicted.

The continued funding shortage has not only impeded activities in important sectors, such as protection, education, vocational training, and income-generating activities, but has also affected the distribution of food, and the provision of shelter and healthcare for the refugees.

Strategy

Protection and Solutions

UNHCR co-operates with the Government of Kenya in guaranteeing legal protection, physical security, adequate assistance and actively seizes every opportunity to make durable solutions available to refugees.

The enactment of the National Refugee Legislation by Parliament has been delayed by the forthcoming Kenyan Presidential Elections. While UNHCR will remain actively involved in conducting RSD and issuing refugee identity cards, arrangements are



Somali Bantus in Dagaley camp queue for registration to determine eligibility for resettlement to the USA. UNHCR / B.Press

being made to facilitate the involvement of government officials in this process. The Office will continue to assist the authorities to enhance their understanding of UNHCR's mandate and international protection principles in order to improve the safety and security of the refugees. UNHCR will also support the Government's efforts to establish a national authority with a clear mandate to address and co-ordinate refugee matters.

The Office will work in close collaboration with the Government to improve the overall security conditions affecting refugees and staff in the field as security in the Dadaab and Kakuma camps is constantly threatened by armed banditry.

Assistance

Given the location of the camps, and the lack of possibilities for local integration, the refugees in Kenya rely on UNHCR for protection and material assistance. In 2003, the Office's humanitarian assistance will be based on:

- enhancing refugees' coping mechanisms, with the possible involvement of the local population; increased involvement of donors, NGOs and UN agencies will be encouraged;
- improving security and psychological well-being in the refugee camps, especially for vulnerable groups;
- increased environmental management and rehabilitation;
- defraying the travel expenses of refugees who opt to voluntarily repatriate to secure areas in their countries of origin.

The refugees will be encouraged to become more self-reliant through education, vocational training and income-generating activities. This will enable them to make their own contribution to food and material requirements, enhance their self-esteem and improve their chances of repatriation or resettlement.

Despite the limited scope for repatriation, UNHCR will assist refugees who voluntarily decide to return to their homes, and provide them with the necessary counselling. Efforts will be made to further scale down the provision of material assistance to urban refugees where it is proven that they have attained some level of self-sufficiency.

The improved physical and psychological well-being of refugees will be attained through continued attention to vulnerable groups, namely single women, refugee children, and disabled persons. Extensive efforts will be made to reduce the number of sexual and gender-based offences, ensure prosecution of perpetrators, and provide counselling to victims of abuse. Enhanced provision of protection and assistance to refugee women through the implementation of relevant guidelines will continue to be a major focus in the year 2003. The existing protection structures established in the camps will be strengthened, with the refugee community playing a role as key players.

Environmental concerns will remain integrated into all aspects of the programme to mitigate problems associated with the protracted presence of large numbers of refugees in host areas. UNHCR will continue providing environmental education and implementing programmes to maintain a sustainable environment, such as the creation of greenbelts and the controlled systematic collection of firewood. Environmentally friendly sources of household fuel will also be distributed.

Desired Impact

The success of voluntary repatriation of the majority of Sudanese and Somali refugees will largely depend on the peace talks, and adherence to any resulting peace agreements. Only sustainable peace and sufficient absorption capacity in the areas of return will make the repatriation of large groups of refugees possible. UNHCR will make efforts to resettle refugees who are not eligible for repatriation. Pending the identification of durable solutions, UNHCR will provide the necessary services to enable refugees to lead a dignified life in preparation for their repatriation or resettlement, as the prospects for local integration are minimal. Following the implementation of the cessation clause in December 2002, UNHCR expects a reduction in the number of Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees who arrived before May 1991.

UNHCR will pursue its efforts to preserve minimum living standards for refugees despite diminishing financial resources. All activities will take into account possible environmental repercussions and the effects on vulnerable groups.

Efforts will be made to ensure the adoption and implementation of the National Refugee Act after the new Government takes office. UNHCR will, where necessary, enhance the Government's understanding of the provisions of relevant human rights instruments.

Organisation and Implementation

Management Structure

In 2003, the programme will be supported by 30 international, 117 national staff and five JPOs.

Co-ordination

UNHCR will participate in regional policy and strategy setting meetings concerning Somali and Sudanese refugees, and liaise with other UNHCR offices in the region to maintain the integrity of the situational approach adopted in the region since 1999. Close contact with Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), the UN umbrella organisation assisting IDPs in southern Sudan, will be maintained to assess the potential for repatriation of refugees. The Office will work closely with WFP, UNICEF and UNESCO-PEER to assure the provision of food and water, and support the implementation of the environmental education programme in the refugee camps. UNHCR will be involved in the UNDAF process, to ensure that refugee matters are reflected in the various development agendas.

With the Government and NGOs, UNHCR will plan the refugee assistance programme for 2003 and seek donor support for its implementation. Partnerships with implementing partners will be strengthened and they will be encouraged to obtain additional funds and assume full responsibility for some components of the programme. The Office will co-ordinate and monitor implementation of the programme, assess the performance of implementing agencies, and train government and implementing agency staff.

Offices
Nairobi
Dadaab
Kakuma

Partners
Government Agency
National Refugee Secretariat
NGOs
African Refugee Training and Employment Services
African Rehabilitation and Educational Programme
CARE International (Kenya)
Handicap International
International Rescue Committee
Lutheran World Federation
<i>Médecins Sans Frontières</i> (Belgium)
National Council of Churches of Kenya
World Vision (Kenya)
Others
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
IOM
UNESCO
UNICEF
WFP

Budget (USD)	
Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	4,824,294
Community Services	743,381
Crop Production	26,800
Domestic Needs	2,706,221
Education	1,754,671
Food	148,360
Forestry	344,419
Health	2,069,444
Income Generation	218,654
Legal Assistance	1,667,822
Livestock	35,897
Operational Support (to Agencies)	3,474,839
Sanitation	171,182
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	1,048,070
Transport / Logistics	2,390,843
Water	1,000,197
Total Operations	22,625,094
Programme Support	3,649,460
Total	26,274,554