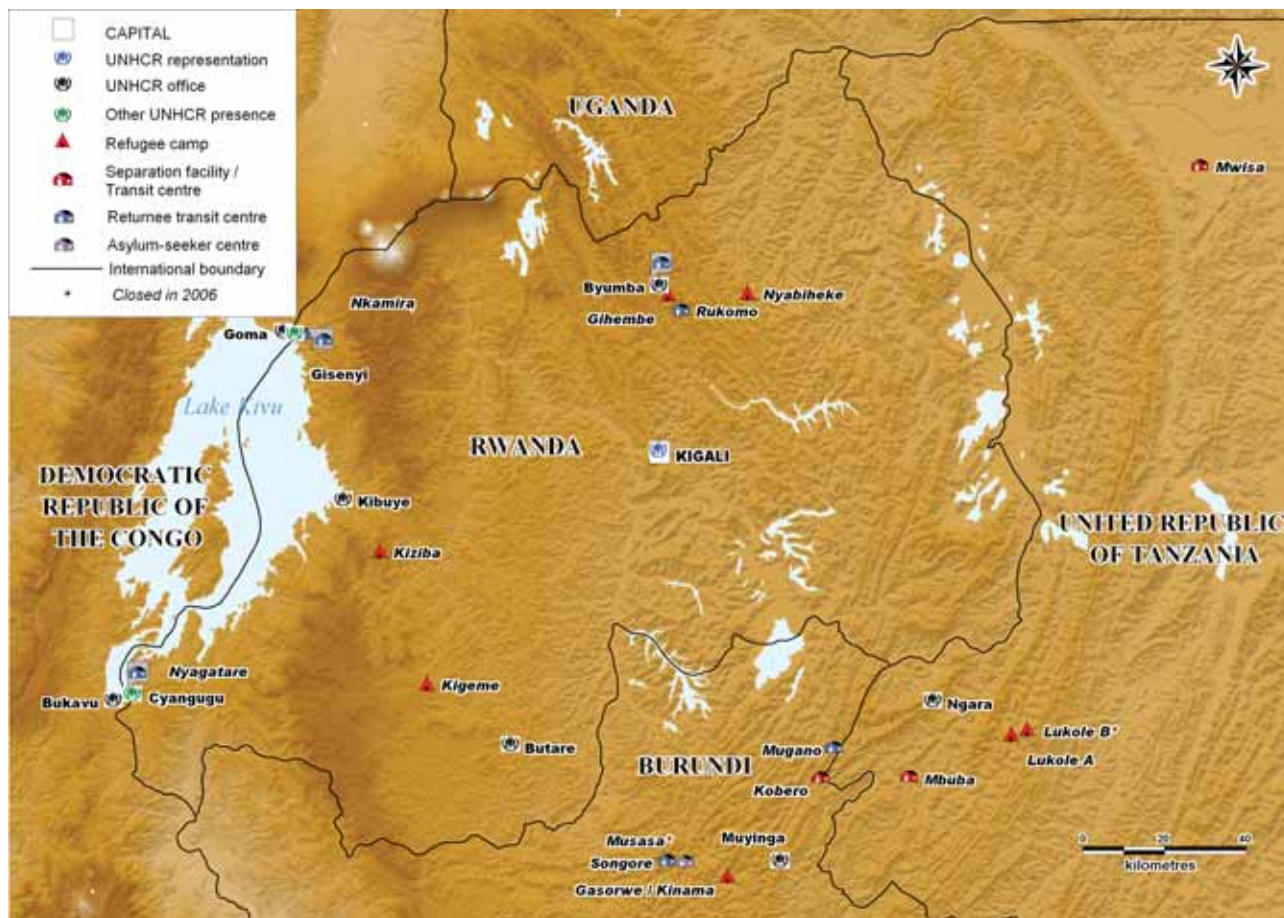


# Rwanda



## Operational highlights

- UNHCR protected and assisted some 49,200 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi, as well as some 4,000 asylum-seekers.
- In December, the Office provided shelter and assistance to 2,600 new arrivals from the DRC at the Nyagatare and Nkamira transit centres.
- Nyamure camp was closed and the remaining 1,900 Burundian refugees were transferred to Kigeme camp.
- In April, the Office registered more than 2,100 urban refugees.
- UNHCR helped 600 Burundian refugees return home in safety and dignity and organized the resettlement of 112 refugees, mainly from the DRC and Burundi.
- Some 6,000 Rwandan refugees, mainly from the DRC, were helped to return to their communities of origin.

## Working environment

The political situation in Rwanda remained calm throughout the year. The trial phase of the *Gacaca* process, whereby communities judge perpetrators of crimes committed during the 1994 genocide, resumed in July and deliberations are scheduled to end in 2007. Furthermore, it is hoped the Government's decision to abolish the death penalty will encourage most of the 50,000 Rwandan refugees still in exile to return.

Fear of the *Gacaca* process caused some 21,000 Rwandans from Butare and Gikongoro to flee to Burundi, but the majority returned home, except for about 200 who were granted refugee status in Burundi.

In March 2006, the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) decided to expel all irregular Rwandan migrants, and more than 15,000 of the 60,000 Rwandans in the country were forcibly returned to Rwanda. The Government launched an appeal for funds to assist its nationals reintegrate back home, but donors were slow in responding.

## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives

UNHCR's main goals in Rwanda were to protect and assist all camp-based refugees; promote and support the repatriation of the 50,000 Rwandan refugees still in various countries of asylum; and continue the voluntary repatriation of the remaining Burundian refugees. Equally important objectives were to prepare for the voluntary repatriation of DRC refugees and to ensure that refugee status determination (RSD) is undertaken in line with national refugee law.

### Protection and solutions

UNHCR conducted participatory assessments in the context of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming process to track the needs of persons of concern and registered the information using *proGres* software. In April, a registration exercise for urban refugees was organized in Kigali and the updated information helped UNHCR improve its protection and community services for them.

UNHCR trained more than 500 staff from the National Council for Refugees (CNR) and the immigration and police services, as well as other local authorities, on protection issues.

The repatriation of some 600 Burundian refugees enabled UNHCR to close Nyamure camp, while the remaining refugees were transferred to Kigeme camp. Due to insecurity in North and South Kivu in the DRC, UNHCR did not facilitate returns to that country from Rwanda. Some 2,600 DRC refugees arrived in Rwanda in December 2006 and were given shelter and assistance by UNHCR.

### Asylum-seekers

About 700 asylum-seekers were still waiting for the CNR to make a decision concerning their status. They were living in the camps but did not receive any assistance from UNHCR. UNHCR will continue to try and persuade the Ministry of Local Government to resolve their situation.

### Returnees

In spite of UNHCR's efforts to promote returns, the number of returnees was the lowest since 2002, with some 6,000 Rwandan refugees returning home, mainly from the DRC. UNHCR closely monitored their reintegration, and found that many returnees still struggled with poverty and lack of land, were worried about the *Gacaca* process and felt frustrated by slow progress towards national unity and reconciliation.

### Activities and assistance

#### Refugees

**Community services:** UNHCR supported refugee committees, half of whose members were women. About 80 per cent of both camp-based and urban refugees participated in programmes to prevent sexual and gender-based violence, raise awareness of HIV and AIDS and peace education. Thanks to a private donation, children at Nkamira transit centre received sports equipment. All camp-based refugee women and girls received sanitary materials.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Essential non-food items and firewood were distributed in all refugee camps and transit centres. UNHCR held meetings with local authorities to improve the delivery and distribution of firewood.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	46,300	46,300	55	63
	Burundi	2,900	2,900	50	56
Asylum-seekers	DRC	3,400	3,400	-	-
	Burundi	600	600	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	From DRC	5,800	5,800	61	51
<b>Total</b>		<b>59,000</b>	<b>59,000</b>		



UNHCR/B. Gonzalez

This Rwandan coffee cooperative has raised living standards and shown that reconciliation after the genocide is possible.

**Education:** More than 5,000 refugee children in the camps were enrolled in primary school, but only 18 per cent of them were girls. UNHCR and UNICEF jointly financed the construction and rehabilitation of classrooms in the Mugera and Nyabiheke primary schools, which are attended by refugee children from Nyabiheke camp. In Kigali, more than 700 urban refugee children attended primary school. More than 200 refugee children in secondary school received financial assistance and school kits.

**Food:** UNHCR distributed food rations from WFP to all camp-based refugees on a monthly basis.

**Forestry:** Some 750,000 seedling were planted inside and around the refugee camps. The former refugee camp of Nyamure was partially rehabilitated. About 20 environmentally friendly prototype houses were constructed in Kiziba, Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps. More than 3,400 refugee women participated in workshops on the use and production of fuel-efficient stoves and produced 7,500 stoves.

**Health and nutrition:** Basic health services were provided for camp-based refugees and urban refugees in Kigali. Over 2,300 refugees benefited from voluntary

counselling and testing services for HIV established inside the camps or in local counselling and testing centres. Some 250 cases of sexual and gender-based violence were reported, and all the victims received support and assistance.

**Legal assistance:** A registration exercise was conducted for urban refugees, while registration and status verification were continuously undertaken for camp-based refugees.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR provided technical and financial support to its five implementing and operational partners and the Ministry of Local Government to help them assist all refugees in the country.

**Sanitation:** Sanitation services in the camps were within standards, and daily cleaning and maintenance were organized.

**Transport and logistics:** There was no disruption in the delivery of supplies to the camps and transit centres. However, most trucks used in Rwanda are very old and required a lot of maintenance and repairs.

**Water:** UNHCR met the standards for the provision of water in Kiziba and Kigeme camps and Nkamira transit centre. However, ongoing supply cuts by the state water utility reduced the quantity provided to refugees in Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps.

## Returnees

**Community services:** UNHCR helped reunite returnees, and especially separated and unaccompanied children, with their families.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Some 6,000 returnees received a return package of essential domestic items. About 12,000 galvanized metal sheets were distributed to the returnees to roof their homes.

**Shelter and infrastructure:** Twenty new communal houses were constructed to accommodate returnees.

**Food:** UNHCR distributed three-month food rations from WFP to the returnees at the transit centres.

**Health and nutrition:** The returnees were medically screened upon their arrival at the transit centres. They received basic health assistance and those with serious medical problems were referred to hospitals.

**Legal assistance and protection:** UNHCR organized a tripartite meeting with the Governments of Rwanda and Kenya, “go-and-see” visits and cross-border meetings with Burundi to promote returns. A quarterly newsletter was distributed in countries of asylum to help Rwandan refugees make informed decisions about repatriation. Monitoring of returnees was improved through the deployment of consultants who coordinated the work of five national monitoring officers deployed across the country.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR transported some 17,500 Rwandans asylum-seekers repatriating from Burundi and 5,800 Rwandan refugees returning from the DRC. The trucks were also used to transport the returnee assistance packages.

**Water:** Water was regularly provided to returnees. Standards were met in Nkamira and Nyagatare transit centres, but the new influx of refugees from the DRC who passed through these centres put a strain on the water supply.

## Constraints

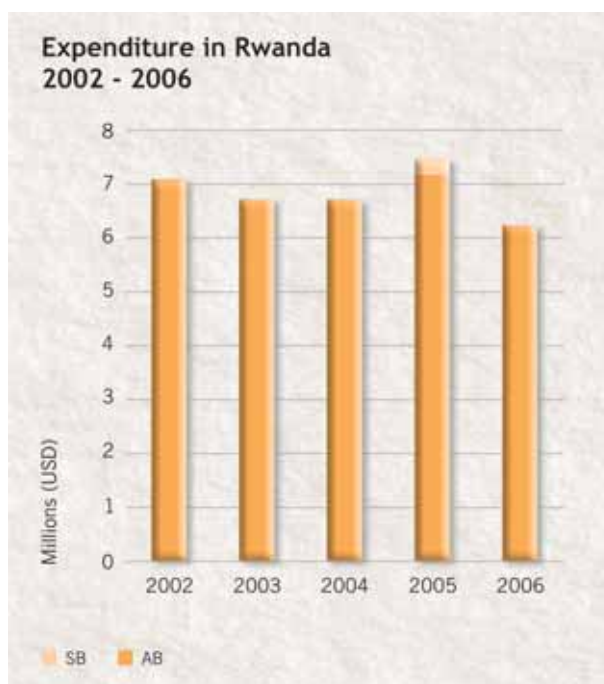
Given the continued insecurity in return areas in the DRC, as well as drought, food insecurity and political uncertainty in Burundi, few Congolese and Burundian

refugees opted for repatriation. In fact, there was a new influx of Congolese into Rwanda in December. As land is scarce in Rwanda, local integration and self-reliance were not viable options for refugees in the country. At the same time, fear of the *Gacaca* process and concerns about reintegration possibilities kept many Rwandan refugees from returning home.

## Financial information

The Rwanda operation used to be well funded during the reintegration phase from 1994 to 1999, but more recently funding shortfalls have made it difficult to fulfil assistance requirements in the camps. These requirements are all the more serious given the limited opportunities for local integration and self-reliance for refugees in the country. However, UNHCR managed to provide basic assistance by transferring funds between country programmes, and by developing partnerships with other UN agencies and NGOs. For instance, UNICEF constructed and equipped 26 classrooms that enabled some 2,000 refugee children to attend school in the Nyabiheke camp.

UNHCR’s expenditures under its annual programme have been decreasing since 2002. In 2004, the Office had an emergency programme to assist a new influx of Burundian refugees into Rwanda. In 2005, expenditures under UNHCR’s annual programme increased due to the facilitation of returns to Burundi. In the same year, UNHCR had some limited expenditure under the supplementary programme for the return and reintegration of refugees from the DRC, which continued, although on a reduced scale, into 2006.



## Management

UNHCR had a main office in Kigali, three field offices (in Byumba, Kibuye and Butare) and two field units (in Cyangugu and Gisenyi). The Office employed seven international and 40 national staff, 12 United Nations Volunteers (eight international and four national), and three SURGE consultants.

## Working with others

UNHCR cooperated closely with the national authorities and five international NGO partners, as well as other UN agencies. Together with the Prime Minister's Office, UNHCR co-chaired a disaster management task force dealing, among other issues, with the Rwandans who were expelled from Tanzania.

## Overall assessment

The levels of repatriation to the DRC and Burundi, as well as returns to Rwanda, remained below expectations due to factors beyond UNHCR's control. In spite of a difficult budget situation and new population influxes

into Rwanda, UNHCR managed to provide basic assistance to camp-based and vulnerable urban refugees and contributed to strengthening the protection environment. In 2007, UNHCR will continue to work with other agencies and partners to protect and assist persons of concern in Rwanda.

Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<b>Government agencies:</b> Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs, National Council for Refugees (CNR).	
<b>NGOs:</b> African Humanitarian Action, American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Relief Services, Save the Children (UK).	
<b>Others:</b> <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, UNDP (for UNVs).</i>	
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<b>Government agencies:</b> Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs, National Council for Refugees (CNR).	
<b>NGOs:</b> American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Relief Services, Save the Children (UK).	
<b>Others:</b> <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, UNICEF, WFP.</i>	

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)					
	Final budget	Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other funds available <sup>2</sup>	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	7,856,873	1,468,214	4,892,702	6,360,916	6,211,750
SB <sup>3</sup>	1,009,229	0	13,151	13,151	13,151
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,866,102</b>	<b>1,468,214</b>	<b>4,905,853</b>	<b>6,374,067</b>	<b>6,224,901</b>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> The SB figures apply to the Repatriation and Reintegration of Congolese Refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The 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			Previous years' projects
	AB	SB	Total	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,303,141	0	1,303,141	0
Community services	40,331	0	40,331	13,212
Domestic needs and household support	230,071	0	230,071	71,769
Education	346,243	0	346,243	66,931
Food	4,096	0	4,096	0
Forestry	49,165	0	49,165	21,417
Health and nutrition	696,329	0	696,329	245,394
Legal assistance	100,992	0	100,992	16,209
Operational support (to agencies)	430,073	0	430,073	108,982
Sanitation	145,713	0	145,713	3,449
Shelter and infrastructure	285,811	0	285,811	43,027
Transport and logistics	823,085	0	823,085	223,181
Water	117,475	0	117,475	12,178
Instalments with implementing partners	804,571	0	804,571	(825,748)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>5,377,097</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,377,097</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	834,653	13,151	847,804	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>6,211,750</b>	<b>13,151</b>	<b>6,224,901</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>				<b>(7,761)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Payments made	3,127,598	0	3,127,598	
Reporting received	(2,323,026)	0	(2,323,026)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>804,571</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>804,571</b>	
<b>Previous years' report</b>				
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>				
Outstanding 1st January				910,461
Reporting received				(825,748)
Refunded to UNHCR				(1,779)
Adjustments				1
<b>Balance</b>				<b>82,935</b>