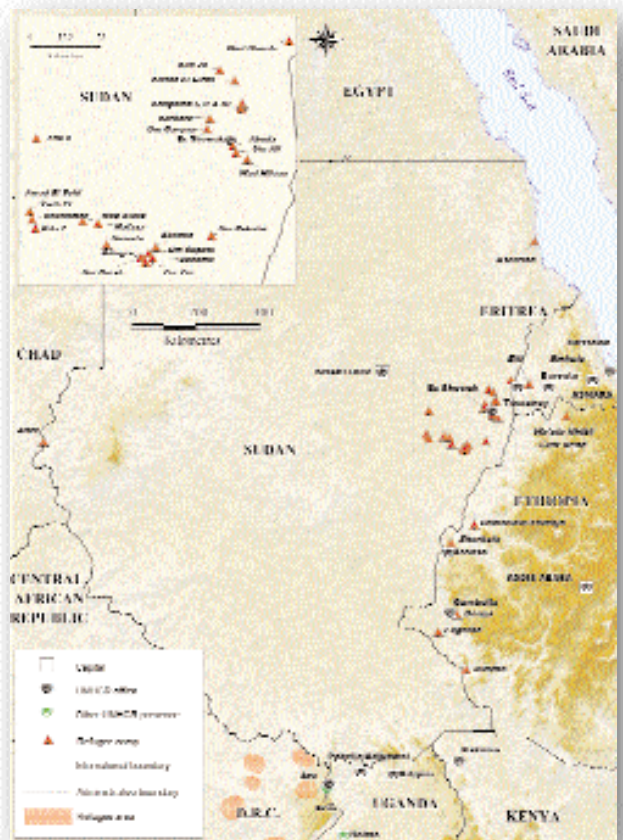


Sudan

Main Objectives

- Call for and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of some 90,000 Eritrean refugees; protect and assist returning refugees as well as those who remain in Sudan pending the identification of durable solutions for them.
- Protect and assist smaller groups of refugees and asylum-seekers of mainly Chadian, Congolese (DRC), Ugandan, Ethiopian and Somali origin, many of whom live in urban areas.
- Pursue resettlement opportunities for refugees who meet the relevant criteria.
- Promote gender equality concepts and refugee education in the camps.
- Integrate sound environmental policies and concerns into the management of all refugee-related activities, including with host communities.
- Gradually scale down the refugee programme as the refugee populations in Sudan decrease.



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

The majority of refugees in Sudan are Eritreans, many of whom fled during their country's long war of independence and have been in exile for some three decades. They were joined by another estimated 95,000 Eritrean refugees during a flare-up of hostilities between Eritrea and Ethiopia in May/June 2000. Since then, UNHCR has worked closely with the Governments of Eritrea and Sudan to organise the return of some 46,000 Eritreans (including recent and long-staying refugees). In addition, 5,000 refugees returned spontaneously in 2000. UNHCR expects to meet its target of repatriating a total of 62,000 Eritreans by the end of 2001.

In recent months, there have been a number of encouraging political developments, including the restoration of diplomatic relations between the Governments of Eritrea and Sudan, culminating in the re-opening of their common border and the resumption of customary trade links. The Eritrean

PLANNING FIGURES		
Population	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002
Eritrean Refugees ¹	164,400	74,400
Other Refugees ²	218,800	218,800
Total	383,200	293,200

¹ The figure does not include spontaneous returns.

² Only a limited number of refugees with specific needs will receive UNHCR's assistance.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 11,707,887

Government has reiterated its desire for UNHCR to expedite the voluntary repatriation of all its nationals currently in refugee camps in Sudan. The series of high-level consultations, which started in late 1999 and led to the signing in 2000 of two tripartite agreements regulating the voluntary repatriation

and reintegration of Eritrean refugees, continued with a fourth tripartite meeting between UNHCR and the Governments of Sudan and Eritrea held in Khartoum in March 2001. This latest meeting hammered out the specifics for repatriation in 2002.

In addition to the Eritrean refugees, Sudan is hosting a number of refugees of other nationalities, including Chadians, Congolese (DRC), Ethiopians, Somalis and Ugandans.

Constraints

Despite the fact that many refugees have been in Sudan for several decades, the Government does not favour the local integration of refugees as a durable solution. This continues to affect the prospects of those refugees for whom voluntary repatriation is not an option, and necessitates the continued provision of care and maintenance assistance.

With the repatriation of Eritrean refugees underway, and with the organised return of pre-1991 Ethiopians already completed, the number of persons enjoying prima facie refugee status in Sudan is falling. The protection of individual asylum-seekers

will thus be based increasingly on a system of individual status determination. At present, UNHCR plays no role in the Government's refugee status determination process, which functions independently. The Office is working towards the establishment of a refugee status determination body to serve as a solid protection framework.

With regard to the achievement of gender equality, there are still cultural barriers to the participation of women in community activities. In most refugee camps, women do not yet actively participate in camp management structures (for example, elders' committees). UNHCR will thus step up its efforts to raise awareness among refugee communities of the importance of the role of women in community development.

STRATEGY

Eritrean Refugees

UNHCR plans to promote and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of some 90,000 Eritreans during the course of the year. As in previous years, an information campaign will be

Eritrean refugees. UNHCR/ P. Stromberg.



conducted to ensure that refugees are fully informed about: the repatriation process, the reintegration assistance, and the conditions in their prospective areas of return. UNHCR will set up transit centres and run a fleet of vehicles to ensure the safe and orderly movement of people. Particular care will be taken to transport vulnerable individuals safely. Refugees who do not wish to repatriate will be screened, and their status will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Those found to have compelling reasons to stay in Sudan will receive continued protection and assistance.

Pending the attainment of durable solutions for all Eritrean refugees, the remaining camp inhabitants will receive ongoing protection and material assistance. Close protection monitoring, together with the training of community leaders and teachers in international and national refugee law instruments, will help ensure the civilian character of the camps. At the same time, refugees will benefit from care and maintenance assistance, including the distribution of food, the maintenance of water supply systems as well as health and sanitary services. In most sectors, refugee communities will be encouraged to participate in the provision of services.

In pursuit of its aim to strengthen the role of women in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes, and to empower them in all economic and social spheres, UNHCR will encourage women to participate in a variety of income-generating activities such as soap-making, sewing, embroidery and basket-making. Women's groups and committees will furthermore be involved in the management of community/household tree nurseries, the planting out of trees, the use of vegetable patches, and the construction of improved stoves. Ongoing repatriation has thrown into sharp relief how imperative it is for women to acquire skills of use on their return to Eritrea. These activities will therefore continue up to the last moment before repatriation. Furthermore, training sessions will be held for camp-based women refugees, to address their protection needs. Protection monitoring will concentrate on women-at-risk, in order to ensure that their needs are taken into account before, during, and after repatriation.

Primary education is guaranteed for all refugee children residing in camps in Sudan. Activities in this sector will,

however, be scaled down as the number of students decreases due to large-scale repatriation. At the same time, UNHCR aims to step up protection of and care for children and adolescents, in line with the objectives of the Action for Rights of Children (ARC) and the Convention of the Rights of the Child. This will include an active campaign to increase school attendance (boys and girls alike) the provision of counselling services as well as a range of awareness-raising activities to discourage harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, forced early marriage and early pregnancy. As opportunities for secondary education are very limited, UNHCR will engage in a range of vocational training activities, to equip unemployed young people with useful skills. Various courses will thus be organised (tailoring, carpentry and metal work). Literacy classes will be organised in some of the camps (three-quarters of refugees are estimated to be illiterate). In addition, community-run libraries, which already operate in eight of the 20 refugee camps, will be replicated in other camps to allow young people and school dropouts to maintain their reading ability.

While repatriation is in progress, within the confines of its mandate and means, UNHCR will address the most critical problems of environmental degradation and take measures to rehabilitate areas affected by the presence of large numbers of refugees. Activities will include the repair of damaged infrastructure, the construction of fire breaks, the maintenance of tree nurseries and the provision of tree-planting tools to the communities, as well as the distribution and promotion of the use of energy-saving stoves. Awareness-raising measures will aim to change the way refugees and local communities think about their environment and thus how they behave.

Urban refugees, the overwhelming majority of whom are Eritreans, will be assisted on a case-by-case basis according to their needs. Support will be tailored to the needs of individuals and will include counselling services for traumatised and vulnerable women and children, as well as training courses and income-generating activities designed to benefit needy individuals. Limited financial and material assistance will be made available as needed. Some 14,800 refugee children, representing 75 per cent of school-aged children in the camps, will have access to primary education, while all camp-based refugees and some needy urban refugees will have access to primary health care.

Other Refugees

For the more than 4,000 Chadian refugees remaining in western Sudan, UNHCR will continue to pursue durable solutions, taking into account security conditions in the area. Although the majority of these refugees live among national communities and can be considered self-sufficient, their long-term local integration is not welcomed by the Government of Sudan. Hence, the Office will promote and facilitate the



voluntary repatriation of this group while continuing to discuss with the Government the option of local integration of refugees in general.

The implementation of the Cessation Clause for pre-1991 **Ethiopian** refugees resulted in the repatriation of most members of this group. Subsequently, only 282 families were found to be of continued concern to UNHCR in Sudan. Until a durable solution is found for these refugees, they will receive protection and assistance (alongside Ethiopian refugees who fled after 1991). Most remaining Ethiopian refugees and asylum-seekers are located in the urban areas of Khartoum, Port Sudan and Gedaref.

There are over 8,600 **Ugandan** refugees in Sudan. UNHCR will continue to assess the refugee status of Ugandan asylum-seekers in Sudan. The aim is to ensure a clear distinction between genuine refugees and active members of military factions who should be excluded from international protection. Many Ugandan refugees are residing in relatively insecure areas in southern Sudan, where UNHCR's presence is limited and only periodic monitoring visits are possible. By contrast, the Office is better able to protect the remaining Ugandan refugees in the Khartoum area, regularly monitoring their situation and assessing prospects for repatriation. Refugees wishing to repatriate will be assisted to do so on an individual basis.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

UNHCR operations will be managed by the office in Khartoum, with support from one field office in Es Showak, following the closure of offices in Kassala and Port Sudan in September 2001. In addition to the 19 international and 59 national staff members in Sudan, UNHCR has recruited 25 staff locally, to assist with the ongoing repatriation on a temporary basis.

Co-ordination

The Sudanese Government's Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) is its policy-making body for refugee matters. It is also UNHCR's main implementing partner in almost all aspects of camp management and the delivery of assistance. In 2002, various junior ministries will also play a key role, especially in rehabilitation activities. In addition, four national and nine international NGOs will be involved in primary health care, supplementary feeding, education, water and small-scale community development activities. Close co-operation with UN sister agencies, most notably WFP, UNDP and UNESCO-PEER, will be further enhanced in 2002.

OFFICES

Khartoum

Es Showak

PARTNERS

Government Agencies

Commissioner for Refugees (COR)

National Forestry Corporation (NFC)

NGOs

Ockenden International

Sudan Open Learning Organisation

Human Appeal International

Benevolence International Foundation

Global Health Foundation

Islamic African Relief Association

Sudanese Red Crescent Society

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,773,322
Community Services	18,261
Domestic Needs	340,150
Education	624,614
Food	500,321
Forestry	302,326
Health	1,585,962
Income Generation	17,431
Legal Assistance	532,100
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,304,909
Sanitation	180,829
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	598,676
Transport/Logistics	2,178,031
Water	300,890
Total Operations	10,257,822
Programme Support	1,450,065
Total	11,707,887