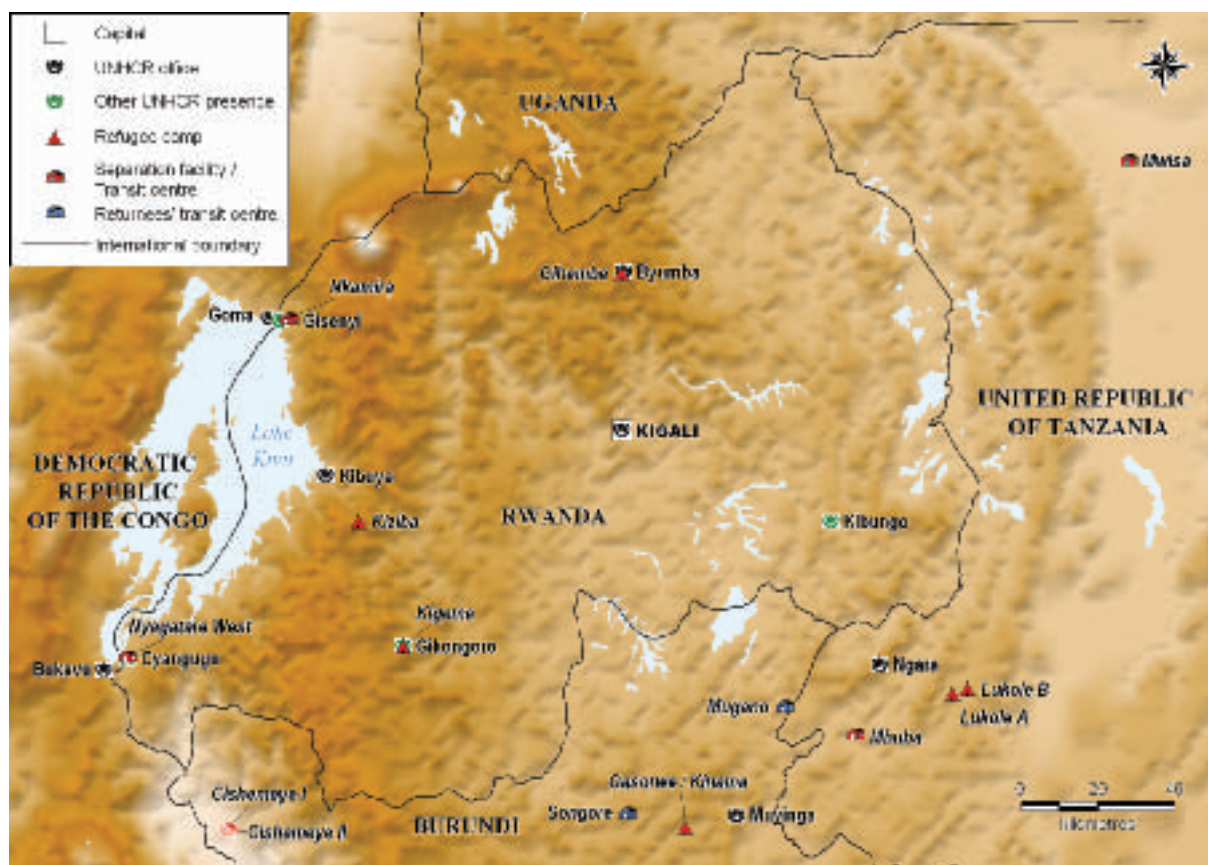


Rwanda



Main objectives

Provide protection and assistance for refugees and conduct refugee status determination (RSD) on behalf of the Government; support governmental and non-governmental actors in implementing refugee legislation; increase awareness of HIV/AIDS and sexual violence and exploitation among refugees; address environmental degradation in refugee-impacted areas; facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees; monitor progress of return and reintegration; trace relatives of unaccompanied minors willing to return; contribute to the disarmament, demobilization, repatriation and reintegration process by providing support for dependants of ex-combatants; prepare for the possible repatriation of Congolese refugees.

Impact

- The needs of refugees and asylum-seekers for protection and basic assistance were met.
- UNHCR supported the Government in setting up a council to take over RSD in 2004.
- Prevention and monitoring of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) were improved and information campaigns were intensified.
- More than five million trees were planted in refugee-impacted areas.
- UNHCR assisted 23,172 Rwandans to return in 2003.
- Consultants monitored repatriation and the process of reintegration of Rwandan returnees in three provinces.
- UNHCR successfully reunited 17 families in the context of resettlement and reunited 54 unaccompanied minors as well as 14 adults with their families.
- 1,150 dependants of ex-combatants received the standard repatriation package.

Working environment

The context

The 10-year period of transition in Rwanda came to an end with the passing of a new constitution, followed by presidential and parliamentary elections. The political and security situation remained stable, allowing the Office to continue with the promotion of voluntary repatriation for 23,172 Rwandan refugees. The majority of refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) returned, which allowed for the conclusion of the Tripartite Commission and the closure of the Kibungo office. A sizeable group also returned from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Brinkmanship with Uganda did not escalate into conflict and the Tripartite Commission contributed towards mending relations. Moreover, as neighbouring countries moved towards peace, a prominent Hutu military leader surrendered and returned from eastern Congo with some of his forces. This accelerated the repatriation of demobilized soldiers and their dependants.

Constraints

Monitoring the progress of the repatriation of Rwandan returnees remained a challenge for UNHCR. There was insufficient capacity or funds to monitor reintegration comprehensively. Concerns about the sustainability of continued refugee returns persisted, as Rwanda is a poor country with a very high population density and there is immense pressure on available land and housing.

Funding

Funding was sufficient to meet the basic needs of refugees. However, reintegration assistance for Rwandan returnees was limited to basic assistance packages while returnee monitoring could only be undertaken on a limited scale.

Persons of concern				
Main origin/Type of population	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
DRC (refugees)	34,700	34,700	55	63
Returnees (from DRC)	17,600	17,600	-	-
DRC (asylum-seekers)	4,800	2,000	50	61
Returnees (from Tanzania)	4,700	4,700	-	-
Burundi (refugees)	1,800	1,800	48	57
Burundi (asylum-seekers)	1,000	1,000	40	51

Income and expenditure (USD) Annual programme budget				
Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
7,211,454	2,532,569	4,171,509	6,704,078	6,704,078

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. The above figures do not include costs at headquarters.

Note: The Supplementary programme budgets do not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

The number of refugees and asylum-seekers assisted by UNHCR in Rwanda increased to 39,623 at the end of 2003, including 5,563 new arrivals from the DRC, 287 from Burundi, and 30 from other countries of origin.

Refugees

Having been forced to leave Gihembe camp in 2002, many Congolese refugees returned in 2003; 186 families were living in temporary shelter constructions inside the camp, as their homes had been dismantled in 2002.

UNHCR tried to improve on crime prevention, but also guaranteed legal support for detainees. Several refugees were detained for crimes such as the illegal cutting of trees or domestic violence. The incidence of rape and "rapt" (a traditional practice whereby a girl is kidnapped, raped and then forced to marry) continued. Through its collaborative work on SGBV, UNHCR attempted to sensitize refugees to the illegality of the practice.

Asylum-seekers

The 5,880 people who requested asylum in 2003 were mainly of Congolese and Burundi origin. While new arrivals to the camps were given refugee status on a *prima facie* basis, individual RSD was conducted for all those arriving in Kigali. The lengthy and growing backlog of applications was highly problematic in light of the planned handover of RSD to the National Council for Refugees (NCR) in 2004. UNHCR organized training and seminars for members of the Council, including weekly training for registration clerks.

Returnees

In 2003, an estimated 80,000 Rwandan refugees remained abroad, mainly in the DRC, Uganda and the Southern African region. The Government maintained its policy to bring all Rwandans home. UNHCR continued to promote voluntary repatriation and assisted the return of 23,172 Rwandans, including all remaining Rwandan refugees from camps in Tanzania. Agreements signed with the Republic of the Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Uganda will streamline repatriation of Rwandan from these

countries in 2004. The MONUC/World Bank-sponsored demobilization process in eastern DRC enabled UNHCR to receive 1,150 dependants of ex-combatants, who were provided with repatriation packages, medical treatment and transport to communes of origin. Moreover, UNHCR successfully reunited 70 families after undertaking tracing work in cooperation with the countries of asylum and ICRC.

Durable solutions

Resettlement was still the most viable durable solution for refugees in Rwanda. There was insufficient land for local integration, and repatriation was ruled out by the volatility of the two main countries of origin, DRC and Burundi (although some individuals chose to return on their own initiative). The files on a considerable number of urban refugees, as well as those in Kigeme and Kiziba camps, were submitted to the United States, Canada, Australia and Sweden. After several screening missions by those countries, a total of 133 refugees were resettled. Of these, 17 were resettled as part of the family reunification scheme. Resettlement was temporarily suspended while the Government resolved staffing and procedural problems in Kigali. Rumours of possible resettlement opportunities apparently caused a slight increase in the number of new cases arriving from Burundi.

Activities and assistance

Refugees

UNHCR provided material assistance to 34,309 camp-based refugees, 33,561 of whom were Congolese and 748 Burundians. In Kigali, 2,299 urban refugees and 3,015 asylum-seekers of various nationalities received limited assistance.

Community services: Some 500 Congolese refugees (70 per cent women) benefited from vocational training such as sewing, embroidery, masonry, carpentry, shoemaking and cooking. Extremely vulnerable urban refugees were assisted in setting up small-scale income-generating projects through the establishment of a micro-credit scheme. In the camps, 2,397 sick and vulnerable refugees received special assistance. Staff in all sectors and refugee leaders received courses and activities on training-of-trainers and prevention and responses to SGBV.

Domestic needs/Household support: Non-food items were distributed to female heads of household, including sanitary towels. Cooking stoves were distributed to over 5,000 refugee families in camps and firewood was provided.

Education: Basic primary education was provided for over 7,480 Congolese and 520 Burundian refugee children based in the camps and in Kigali. 1,931 Congolese and 111 Burundian refugees received secondary education. DAFI scholarships enabled 17 refugee students to pursue tertiary education.

Food: WFP provided food to all camp-based refugees and UNHCR made special food assistance available to vulnerable urban refugees. The WFP rations amounted to an average of 1,991 kilocalories per refugee per day.

Forestry: Reforestation activities were successfully conducted in 2003 with the production of 6.5 million saplings, of which 84 per cent were planted in provinces hosting refugee camps.

Health/Nutrition: All refugees had access to preventive and curative primary health care services. Cases requiring special treatment were referred to local hospitals. Over 84,000 consultations were carried out at the health centres, resulting in 1,260 cases of hospitalization and more than 2,500 referrals. Supplementary and therapeutic feeding programmes helped 1,854 refugees. UNHCR delivered sensitization campaigns and counselling on sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS and SGBV. Various training activities were organized for medical personnel, community health workers, and traditional birth attendants.

A Congolese refugee girl in front of her "tented" home at the Kiziba refugee camp near Kibuye. *UNHCR/J. Meer*



Legal assistance: The National Council (established in 2003) received logistical and training support from UNHCR. From 15 to 19 December 2003, a seminar on RSD was held by the Protection Unit for the National Council for Refugees, which will be formally responsible for this procedure as of 2004. UNHCR also organized refugee law workshops.

Sanitation: Hygiene was maintained in the refugee camps through the construction and rehabilitation of latrines, showers, garbage disposal pits, and the management, cleaning and maintenance of public areas. At the end of the reporting period, there was one latrine for every 20 refugees in the Kiziba camp, while in the Gihembe camp the ratio was 1 to 22.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: Public infrastructure in camps and 2,740 houses were rehabilitated. Decongestion of the camps continued with the construction of 1,058 new shelters, roads and bridges, and the water system was enlarged accordingly. In the Gihembe camp, all public facilities (schools, the market place, health facilities, latrines) were rehabilitated and restored to the levels prior to their dismantling in 2002.

Transport/Logistics: An implementing partner managed warehouse distribution services and the mechanical workshop. Wood and other non-food items were distributed in the camps on a regular basis.

Water: Water storage and distribution systems were maintained, including water quality control. In Kiziba, refugees received more than 20 litres per person per day; in Gihembe, over 16 litres per person per day was provided. Water was regularly trucked to the Kigeme and Gihembe refugee camps.

Returnees

Community services: UNHCR provided support to returnees in the form of school fees in 53 districts in six selected provinces.

Domestic needs/Household support: Plastic sheeting, mats, blankets, jerry cans and soap were distributed to returnees upon arrival in the transit centres. Firewood was made available to returnees staying at transit centres for more than a week. Hoes were provided to 323,744 vulnerable returnee families in Butare, Cyangugu, Gisenyi, Kibungo, Kibuye and Kigali provinces. Shelter materials (roofs and

nails) were procured for 655 families in the Cyangugu and Kibuye provinces.

Food: WFP provided three-month food rations to returnees.

Health/Nutrition: Medical assistance was provided to returnees in transit centres and serious medical cases were referred to main hospitals. In six provinces, UNHCR supported 6,986 vulnerable returnees to join the local health care scheme.

Legal assistance: UNHCR and the governmental implementing partner monitored the returnees' situation in six provinces, giving special assistance to vulnerable refugees.

Operational support (to agencies): Operational support was provided to government counterparts for the repatriation and reintegration of Rwandan returnees. Tripartite meetings were organized.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: Transit facilities were rehabilitated and regularly maintained; one new transit centre was established near Rukomo to cater for returnees from Uganda.

Transport/Logistics: Returnees who arrived from the border entry points in Gisenyi, Cyangugu, Kibungo (and Kanombe airport) were assisted with transportation to their different districts of origin.

Water: The water systems in the Nyagatare, Nkamira and Nyakarambi transit centres were maintained on a regular basis.

Organization and implementation

Management

In 2003, UNHCR maintained its main office in Kigali, with field offices in Byumba and Kibuye, as well as antenna offices in Gikongoro, Cyangugu, Gisenyi and Kibungo. A new transit centre near the town of Rukomo, Byumba, was built in November in anticipation of repatriation from Uganda.

UNHCR Rwanda comprised nine international staff, 43 local staff and nine UNVs.

Working with others

UNHCR worked with five international NGOs and two government agencies. Among the UN agencies, UNHCR cooperated with WFP on the provision of food rations for camps and returnees, with MONUC on repatriation from DRC, and with UNDP as the coordinating agency in Rwanda. UNHCR contributed the common country assessment (CCA) on resettlement and reintegration as part of the mid-term UNDAF assessment. UNHCR also participated in UNCT theme groups and task forces.

Overall assessment

In 2003, the focus of UNHCR's work was on repatriation, as political stability and security improved in Rwanda and in the region. Seven new tripartite agreements were signed and the one with Tanzania brought to a successful conclusion. This enabled UNHCR to end its presence in Kibungo. Returnees started arriving from Zambia and the Republic of the Congo, but the vast majority of the remaining refugees are expected to return in 2004. Consequently, the cessation clause could be invoked.

There was insufficient capacity to accurately assess the reintegration of more than 23,000 refugees who returned in 2003. However, such monitoring of reintegration is crucial to ensure sustainability of returns.

UNHCR tried to expedite resettlement for Burundian refugees from the Kigeme camp, with the intention of closing the camp. However, this effort was stymied by complicated administrative procedures. Despite the need to assist more refugees with reduced resources, the Office managed to make adequate protection and material assistance available.

Workshops on sexual violence and reforestation programmes yielded positive results. UNHCR was particularly successful in planting 5,500,000 trees as part of the reforestation programme. Alternative sources for fuel wood remain a concern because of the pressure on land.

In the light of the declining presence of UNHCR in Rwanda, there is a need to ensure the sustainability of the remaining programme through more thorough and targeted capacity building.

Offices

Kigali

Byumba
Cyangugu
Gikongoro
Gisenyi
Kibungo (closed end 2003)
Kibuye

Partners

Government agencies

Joint Commission for the Repatriation and Reintegration of Rwandan Refugees
Ministry of Local Government, Social Services and Information

NGOs

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

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects		Prior years' projects	
	Annual programme budget	notes	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	1,263,280		3,722	
Community Services	57,055		27,740	
Crop Production	0		42,406	
Domestic Needs/Household Support	327,957		42,802	
Education	207,240		51,655	
Food	23,070		24,041	
Forestry	127,400		3,862	
Health/Nutrition	380,833		259,270	
Income Generation	0		1,831	
Legal Assistance	44,082		2,362	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	426,768		192,800	
Sanitation	75,826		89,044	
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	120,751		55,932	
Transport/Logistics	1,185,408		411,231	
Water (non-agricultural)	83,386		71,760	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	1,004,817		(1,186,292)	
Sub - total Operational	5,327,873		94,165	
Programme Support	1,056,484		4,285	
Sub - total Disbursements / Deliveries	6,384,357	(3)	98,450	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	319,721	(3)	0	(5)
Total	6,704,078	(1) (3)	98,450	
Instalments with Implementing Partners				
Payments Made	3,332,948		0	
Reporting Received	2,328,131		1,186,292	
Balance	1,004,817		(1,186,292)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		1,227,159	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		69,423	
Currency Adjustment	0		28,556	
Outstanding 31 December	1,004,817		0	
Unliquidated Obligations				
Outstanding 1st January	0		149,106	(5)
New Obligations	6,704,078	(1)	0	
Disbursements	6,384,357	(3)	98,450	(5)
Cancellations	0		50,656	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	319,721	(3)	0	(5)

Figures which can be cross-referenced to the Accounts:

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