

RWANDA

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees from neighbouring countries and provide onward transportation to their area of final destination.
- Monitor returnees in their communities of origin to ensure safety and dignity of voluntary return.
- Promote reconciliation and co-existence under the Imagine Co-existence Project in Rwanda with a focus on women and children in order to maintain the conditions for sustainable return.
- Assist the Government of Rwanda in implementing the new rights-based refugee law and, in building the capacity for refugee and returnee management.
- Continue to provide protection and basic assistance to refugees from neighbouring countries and elsewhere in Africa.
- Increase awareness among refugees on HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence.
- Prevent environmental degradation in refugee areas.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRESS ACHIEVED, AND CONSTRAINTS

The repatriation from DRC is continuing despite reports of some Rwandans being forced by military elements to return without taking into account that they might have family members in the country. In the province of Gisenyi, repatriation slowed down following the volcanic eruption in Nyiragongo on 17 January 2002. As a result, 344 families were displaced from Goma. By the end of May 2002, the Nkamira Transit Centre was occupied by 5,000 internally displaced persons from the Gishwati forest. Since January, some 6,990 Rwandans have repatriated voluntarily from DRC, The United

Republic Tanzania (Tanzania), and other countries. Following the observation of the phenomenon of repeat returnees, UNHCR Ngara started taking photos of the returnees before they left the camp: consequently, the number of candidates for return fell dramatically the following month.

The long-awaited promulgation of refugee law officially entered into force in March 2002. In the meantime, UNHCR started having meetings with officers from the Ministry of Local Government and Social Affairs (MINALOC) and the Director of Immigration to discuss the agenda of activities for the implementation of the legislation.

Training for judges of traditional courts (Gacaca) was conducted throughout the country, sectors and collines throughout the country, trials of suspected perpetrators of human rights abuses started in selected sites during the last week of June. Monitoring of the returnee population continued with sporadic visits made by field offices to check up on returnees and ensure that they have properly settled.

Difficulties in organizing the tracing of Unaccompanied Minors (UAMs) returning from DRC meant that in some cases, minors (sometime under the age of 5) were brought over the border without family tracing having been carried out on the other side. Some of these children were sent to the transit camp (with no adequate facilities for young children) where they remained until the ICRC could take care of them and transfer them to Gitarama. Another challenge with the UAMs is “recycling”, where some Rwandan children have been sent by their family across the border to get the repatriation package given by UNHCR or ICRC.

Progress as measured against indicators

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress
Repatriation movements co-ordinated in a manner that enables a safe, dignified and durable return.	6,990 Rwandans repatriated voluntarily from DRC and Tanzania They returned to Rwanda through UNHCR transit centres in Gisenyi, Cyangugu and Kibungo, where they received basic returnee packages and onward transportation assistance to their communes of origin. However, since the end of 2001 there has been a constant lack of salt in the food basket provided to returnees in the transit centres.
Sustainable return and reintegration for the returnee population promoted. Conflicts among communities minimised and co-existence with local residents promoted.	The pilot project to promote co-existence ended 30 June 2002. From January to June, regular meetings on co-existence were organised, a co-existence network was set up and coordinated by UNHCR.

Congolese Refugees

In May 2002, UNHCR organised a re-registration exercise of the two camps hosting Congolese refugees. A new database was installed which will enable field staff to update the figures on a weekly basis. The resulting figures were: 17,550 refugees in Gihembe camp; and 15,125 refugees in Kiziba camp; however, there are constant new arrivals from DRC at the camps. There are relatively few incidents of violence between refugees, violence against women, young girls being kidnapped and being forced to marry their kidnapper, thanks to regular discussions with elders and women's groups in order to stop such problems.

UNHCR's programme concentrated on meeting the basic needs of refugees living in

Gihembe and Kiziba camp. Regular health education sessions were conducted on the prevention and spread of HIV/AIDS and STDs. However, the response to the pandemic is inadequate due to lack of funding. There has been a shortage of condoms in the camp since the end of the PSI project in April 2002.

In order to extend the Kiziba camp, it was decided in March 2002 to build 530 new shelters. To date, 210 have been completed and 90 others are nearing completion. In Gihembe camp 500 houses with earth/mud walls were built. Additional latrines were dug in Kiziba camp so that there is now an average of 40 persons to one latrine as compared to 80 persons per latrine in March. In Gihembe camp, on average, 28 families use one block of five latrines.

Progress as measured against indicators

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress
Environmentally damaged areas in refugee camps and surrounding refugee-affected areas mitigated	Reforestation activities continued as well as community participation in awareness raising and training on fuel-efficient stoves. 3,400 metallic stoves were distributed and over 427,000 trees planted on 274 ha. in and around Gihembe and Kiziba refugee camps. The tree nursery prepared under the programme contains over 1,000,000 plants.
National Refugee Law is brought into force and becomes the basis for providing legal protection to refugees and asylum-seekers.	The New Refugee Law was printed in March 2002. In May 2002, two officers were trained in refugee law with the aim of helping them to draft the internal regulations of the National Refugee Council. Participation in courses on international protection of refugees was facilitated for four government officials.

Burundian Refugees

As at the end of June 2002, there were 510 Burundian refugees sheltering in Kigeme camp in Gikongoro province. There is great uncertainty over the possibility of local integration of Burundian refugees, who have been in Rwanda since 1972. A small number have been allowed to integrate, but many others remain in the camp with no prospect of

local settlement. Due to this uncertainty, refugees in the camp are increasingly requesting to be resettled on the basis that they can neither go home nor stay in Rwanda. 34 Burundian refugees have been resettled since the beginning of 2002. The demand for vocational skills-training and self-help activities for women and adolescents is still very high.

Progress as measured against indicators

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress
Provide UNHCR's basic standards of refugee assistance to the camp-based refugees.	General distribution of NFIs such as blankets, plastic mats, kitchen sets and jerry cans took place in the camp. Sanitary materials were distributed to all women in need. Food, soap and firewood were distributed and supplementary feeding provided to the most vulnerable. Basic primary education was provided to 164 children and secondary education to 18 students. Vocational skills training benefited 34 refugees. Water and sanitation, health and nutrition services were also provided.

Urban Refugees

The number of asylum-seekers is constantly growing. At present there are 2,747 cases. Since the beginning of the year, there are more than 500 asylum-seekers whose refugee status has not been determined.

Urban refugees who are not able to be self-sufficient in Kigali are encouraged to go to one of the camps. The Government maintains a policy of assisting refugees only if they are in the camps.

Assistance to urban refugees is therefore very limited. UNHCR is only able to give food and non-food items to 1,000 of the most vulnerable refugees, and financial assistance is only available in case of birth and death.

Since the beginning of the year, UNHCR resettled 73 refugees, 148 are waiting to depart.

REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER 2002

The initial objectives for the Rwanda programme will remain the same as those set out at the beginning of the year. However, priorities will be placed on:

- Continuing to facilitate the return of Rwandans in order to reach the 2002 target of 25,000; reviewing collaboration with JCRRRR, the Rwandan Refugee Commission due to the challenges encountered during the previous six months.
- Improving the infrastructure in the refugee camps and continuing the provision of material assistance to all camp-based refugees.
- Increasing involvement of refugee committees in community-based activities in the camps; combating sexual and gender-based violence, HIV/AIDS in the refugee camp, ensure the implementation of the High Commissioners five commitments to refugee women.

- Continuing activities to ensure the implementation of the newly adopted Refugee Law through training and drafting of internal regulations and setting up the National Refugee Council; sensitising officials to refugee matters, and training implementing partners on programme delivery.
- Continuing to provide health care, education support and food assistance only to the most vulnerable urban refugee.

Financial Data (USD)

Annual Programme Budget			
Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level
8,307,269	7,760,821	4,040,036	4,034,900