

R W A N D A

AT A GLANCE

Main Objectives and Activities

Continue to ensure the welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers, search for durable solutions and contribute to the reintegration of Rwandan returnees and the empowerment of Rwandan women.

Impact

- Protection and assistance programmes for urban and camp-based refugees continued; efforts were made to ensure that all refugee children went to primary school; and as many as possible to secondary school; nutritional standards were raised and income-generating projects were implemented, especially for women.
- Improvements were made to the layout and infrastructure of the refugee camps and preparations were made for a full registration of the camp population during the first quarter of 2000.
- UNHCR continued to search actively for lasting solutions for the refugees, but was constrained by continuing unrest in their countries of origin.
- UNHCR continued to play a key role in the return and reintegration of returnees. More than 38,000 people returned to Rwanda in 1999 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, the Republic of the Congo and elsewhere in Africa.
- UNHCR supported the Rwandan Women's Initiative, which promotes women's rights and equal participation of women in economic, social and cultural affairs; and the National Commission on Unity and Reconciliation, whose work is designed to reduce conflict between communities.

Persons of Concern

MAIN REFUGEE ORIGIN/ TYPE OF POPULATION	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHICH: UNHCR-ASSISTED	PER CENT FEMALE	PER CENT < 18
Democratic Republic of the Congo (Refugees)	33,000	33,000	51.7	62.5
Burundi (Refugees)	1,400	1,400	47.6	49.5
Other Refugees	30	30	-	-
Asylum-Seekers	1,770	1,770	45	-
Returned IDPs	625,000	450,000	-	-
Returned in 1999*	38,230	38,230	29	-

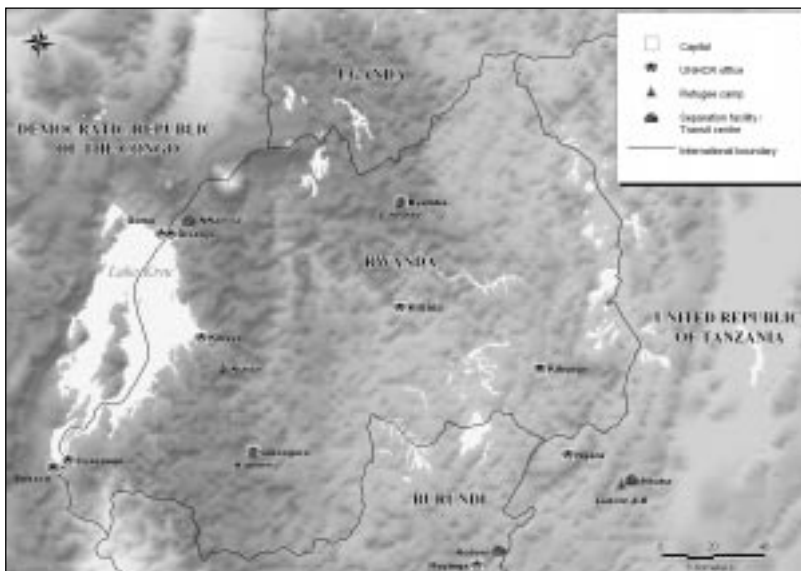
* Since the start of repatriation, over three million refugees have returned.

Income and Expenditure (USD)

WORKING BUDGET*	INCOME FROM CONTRIBUTIONS	OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE**	TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	TOTAL EXPENDITURE*
29,289,172	10,954,163	17,131,834	28,085,997	27,871,294

* Includes costs at Headquarters.

** Includes opening balance and adjustments.



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Context

Security in Rwanda had been improving throughout the year. On 23 December 1999, however, a group of armed infiltrators from the DRC killed 31 people in Gisenyi Prefecture. Although described as an isolated incident by the Government of Rwanda, it raised serious concerns and led to heightened security precautions which remain in force at the time of publication.

Since 1994, close to three million Rwandans have returned to the country. The provision of both land and basic housing for returnees has been crucial in making their return sustainable. The Rwandan Government's policy of *Imidugudu* (villagisation) has, however, proved contentious, with some donor governments withholding assistance because of controversy regarding the nature of this programme. Recently the Rwandan Government renewed its efforts to explain the policy and to make its application more transparent and respectful of individual rights. The UN community responded by adopting a "Framework for Assistance in the context of the *Imidugudu* Policy" which encourages the Government to continue to adopt a more participatory, rights-based approach and to resolve outstanding legal problems related to land ownership and use.

Constraints

Infiltration by Interahamwe and other extremist militias into the north-western prefectures of Ruhengeri and Gisenyi and along the forest areas bordering Burundi, continued to be a source of tension and danger. Travel in these areas required a military escort. This constrained UNHCR's freedom of movement and ability to monitor returnees. Death threats against UN workers were made in November and December. Almost all international staff are required to have private guards at their residences.

Frequent re-shuffling and resignations of ministers and government officials contributed to political instability. The Ministry of Social Affairs underwent re-organisation twice in 1999. As a result, UNHCR lacked a stable government counterpart responsible for refugee matters. Moreover, the draft refugee legislation, now finalised, was not put before Parliament for lack of a sponsor.

Funding

Rwanda is no longer able to attract the level of financial support it received in the aftermath of the genocide, despite a huge need for shelter and infrastructure. If this situation is not addressed, it could lead to renewed conflict.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Protection and Solutions

In the absence of national legislation on refugees or status determination procedures, UNHCR provided protection to urban-based refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR contributed to the drafting, translation and distribution of refugee legislation and conducted a lobbying campaign with members of Parliament. Preparations have been made to assist the national eligibility commission as soon as it is set up.

Camp-based Congolese refugees face protection problems related to violence against women and restrictions on freedom of movement. A public awareness campaign on gender-based violence and sexually transmitted diseases was conducted in all the refugee camps and the reporting and punishment of cases of sexual violence has been actively encouraged.

The situation of the few camp-based Burundi refugees required constant and vigilant monitoring, as their presence is largely unwelcome in Rwanda. Several cross-border meetings were held with relevant government officials in both Rwanda and Burundi to discuss the specific problems faced by these refugees and some cases were identified for resettlement.

UNHCR continued to play a major role in the reintegration of returnees. Although returnee monitoring has been constrained by a shortage of international protection staff, attempts were made to address the problem by selective monitoring, using qualified national staff or, as in Gisenyi, a local human rights NGO. Surveys of returnees were conducted to ascertain their level of integration. These found that the majority had received identification documents, had been able to go back to their communes of origin and their children had been admitted to local schools.

The Protection Unit continued with the training programme for the judiciary: 608 people — magistrates, lawyers and court officials — took part in nine three-day seminars in six prefectures.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: The community services programme covered an extensive array of vocational training and literacy activities aimed, particularly, at young adults and women. Additional activities included family tracing and reunification, support for income generation and women's groups, and the prevention of gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS. Unaccompanied minors at the Nyagatare West and Ngoboka transit centres received accommodation, food and medical care while efforts were made to trace their relatives.

Crop Production: In order to provide income for women returnees, widows survivors of genocide and newly resettled vulnerable families, assistance was provided through the Rwandan Women's Initiative (RWI) to increase their crop production. Agricultural inputs for common food crops were purchased and distributed, as well as agricultural tools. Technical support for crop production was also provided. The benefits of this assistance contributed to the economic empowerment of the beneficiaries and improved their nutritional status. This assistance also helped to promote the reconciliation process by bringing women of different backgrounds to work together.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: Relief items (blankets, plastic sheeting, plastic mats, clothes, soap) were distributed to refugees in Gihembe, Kigeme and Kiziba camps, to urban refugees and to returnees upon arrival. Firewood for cooking was distributed to refugees in the camps and to returnees staying at the transit centres for more than a week.

Education: Refugees had access to primary and secondary education, and to adult literacy and vocational skills training. Additional school space was built in both Gihembe and Kiziba camps. Overall participation in education increased by ten per cent and there was an improvement in the gender equality of school attendance. Scholarships to the National University of Butare were awarded to 13 students.

Food: In addition to the ration provided by WFP, fresh fruit and vegetables were given to vulnerable refugees, particularly children and the elderly.

Forestry: Soil conservation, community forest management and environmental awareness-raising projects were implemented. These included the planting of seedlings, the construction and distribution of improved stoves, and the provision of environmental

training for refugee men and women, as well as local residents. These projects also benefited refugees, returnees and the local population in the vicinity.

Health/Nutrition: Basic medical care was made available to returnees at the Nyagatare West and Nkamira transit centres. When further treatment was needed, patients were referred to the local hospitals. Therapeutic and supplementary nutrition services were provided in all refugee camps. Health education and practical demonstration sessions were regularly conducted on personal, environmental and food hygiene, vaccination and the prevention of HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Income Generation: Activities included communal and livestock credit schemes, assistance to small businesses and crop production. Education and training were conducted in adult literacy, tailoring, poultry-breeding, pottery and agriculture.

Legal Assistance: Through the RWI, legal assistance was given to women in cases involving rape, divorce, inheritance, property and social security. Booklets for women on economic rights and the law were translated into Kinyarwanda and distributed. A revised law on inheritance rights for women entered into force.

Livestock: Vulnerable women returnees and widows of genocide received support through the RWI to raise poultry, cows and goats. Beneficiaries received training in livestock management skills. In total more than 3,000 heads of livestock were distributed. The goats and cows provided manure to fertilise gardens and fields. This assistance brought renewed hope to traumatised widows of genocide and enabled them to become organised in small groups.

Operational Support (to Agencies): The Joint Commission for Repatriation and Reintegration of Rwandese Refugees organised meetings, supervised the technical working committees and monitored the reception of returnees from the United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, the DRC, the Republic of the Congo and other countries. The Ministry of Social Affairs and the National Commission for Unity and Reconciliation were given operational support.

Sanitation: Latrines, baths and garbage pits were constructed in the camps to serve 25 persons per block. All functioning latrines in refugee camps and transit centres were cleaned on a daily basis with chlorine and

treated with sodium hypochlorite and insecticides. Public areas in the camps were cleaned on a regular basis. Education sessions covered the proper use of public facilities and the health risks posed by insects such as flies, mosquitoes and fleas.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: Eight health centres, 15 schools and several staff residences were built and handed over to the Ministries of Health and Education. A total of 8,000 houses were built, together with related infrastructure. An organised and well planned expansion was carried out in order to decongest Gihembe camp and improve its layout. Maintenance and repair of refugee shelters and other infrastructure was implemented throughout the year in Kiziba, Gihembe and Kigeme camps. Nyagatare West and Nkamira transit centres were also regularly maintained.

Transport/Logistics: Firewood, food and other relief items were transported to Kiziba, Gihembe and Kigeme refugee camps. Water was transported daily by tanker to Gihembe camp. Returnees were transported (or given the cost of transport) from the transit centres to their communes of origin. The maintenance and management of UNHCR's fleet of light and heavy-duty vehicles was assigned to an implementing partner.

Water: Clean drinking water was piped into Gihembe and Kiziba camps. In addition, UNHCR transported water to Gihembe camp by tanker. The water systems in the transit centres of Nyagatare West and Nkamira were maintained regularly.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

The country operation was managed from Kigali with the support of offices in six field locations. A total of 17 international staff, 16 UNVs and 62 national staff worked in Rwanda in 1999. As various posts in Gisenyi and Ruhengeri were not filled, the programmes there were run by staff members on mission, assisted by national staff. Eight international and 36 national posts were discontinued during the year. Close coordination between the offices in Rwanda and those in the DRC (Goma and Bukavu), the United Republic of Tanzania (Ngara) and Uganda (Mbarara) ensured greater efficiency in planning and programme delivery.

Working with Others

UNDP and UNHCR continued to work together through the Joint Reintegration Programming Unit (JRPU). Joint UN workshops held in March and September concluded with a call to the Government and development agencies to address the reintegration needs of the returnees. Subsequently, a steering committee was set up, chaired by the Ministry of Land, Resettlement and Environment, with the participation of other ministries, UNDP, WFP and donor governments.

UNHCR participated in the joint UN response coordinated by OCHA to provide humanitarian assistance to the estimated 625,000 internally displaced persons in the north-western prefectures of Rwanda.

Overall, UNHCR worked with six government agencies and 30 NGO partners in Rwanda. Fifteen partners, including nine national and six international NGOs, were involved in the implementation of shelter activities. The UNHCR/NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC) process was revived and national NGO focal points were selected.

UNHCR continued to promote the economic, social and political empowerment of women through the RWI. Education and income-generating activities were funded and information campaigns on women's rights and gender issues were broadcast on Rwandan radio. UNHCR supported efforts to have more women representatives at local level. Psychosocial centres were opened to provide counselling and practical assistance for traumatised women. Campaigns were also organised against all forms of violence towards women, including sexual violence. The projects were implemented in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender and Women Development, national women's associations and NGOs.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

The original plan for the return of 10,000 people was revised to 40,000, on account of increased numbers repatriating from the DRC. Returnees were assisted as described above, but few of them were able to benefit from the reintegration programme in its final phase.

Thanks to improved security in the north-western prefectures, the Government managed to resettle all the IDPs. However, since international assistance

beyond the emergency phase was not forthcoming, this group was resettled in an unplanned manner, without the required social infrastructure. This group remains in a precarious situation in terms of access to basic amenities.

The JRPDU drew up Area Rehabilitation and Development Plans for 11 prefectures. These successfully identified and helped meet the most pressing needs of returnees still in the process of reintegration, in order to facilitate the phasing out of UNHCR's relief and rehabilitation activities and the phasing in of longer-term projects by development agencies. UNHCR's Rwandan experience thus underscored the need to

support reintegration until development agencies and donors are truly ready for the transition from emergency assistance to development.

Offices

Kigali
Butare/Gikongoro
Byumba
Cyangugu
Gisenyi
Kibungo/Umutara
Kibuye

Partners

Government Agencies

Joint Commission for Repatriation and Reintegration
(of Rwandan Refugees)
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Gender and Women Development
Ministry of Internal Affairs
Ministry of Social Affairs
National Unity and Reconciliation Commission

NGOs

Action pour le Développement et l'Habitat rural
Action technique pour le Développement communautaire
African Humanitarian Action
Agence rwandaise pour le Développement et la Coopération
American Refugee Committee
Association de Solidarité des Femmes rwandaises
Association de Soutien aux Rescapés du Génocide
Association pour la Promotion des Batwa
Association pour le Développement agro-pastoral

Association Urumuri rw'Urukundo
Avega Agahozo
Benishyaka Association
Club Mamans Sportives
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
Food for the Hungry International
Forum for African Women Educationalist
HAGURUKA
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgique)
Norwegian People's Aid
OXFAM
Population Services International
Profemmes/Twese Hamwe
Red Barnet
Rwanda Rural Rehabilitation Initiative
Rwandan Development Organisation
SOS RAMIRA
United Methodist Committee on Relief
UNITY Club Association



Voluntary Contributions (USD)

Donor	Income	Contribution
Belgium	525,198	525,198
Denmark	695,410	695,410
France	326,795	326,794
Germany	300,000	300,000
Japan	3,160,000	3,160,000
Norway	500,000	500,000
Sweden	236,740	236,740
United States of America	5,186,000	5,186,000
Denryoku Soren (JPN)	8,308	8,308
Soroptimist International (JPN)	15,591	15,591
Private donors Japan	121	121
TOTAL	10,954,163	10,954,162

Financial Report (USD)

Programme Overview	Current Year's Projects		notes
Opening Balance	13,166,214	(1)	
Income from Contributions	10,954,163	(1)	
Other Funds Available	3,965,620		
Total Funds Available	28,085,997	(5)	
Expenditure	27,871,294	(1) (5)	
Closing Balance	214,703	(1) (5)	
Expenditure Breakdown			Prior Years' Projects
			notes
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination*	4,619,746		271,523
Community Services	638,473		168,955
Crop Production	91,293		14,140
Domestic Needs / Household Support	469,876		72,100
Education	931,965		1,063,849
Food	28,479		0
Forestry	0		45,527
Health / Nutrition	606,675		1,042,371
Income Generation	629,696		0
Legal Assistance	104,337		4,227
Livestock	127,356		21,750
Operational Support (to Agencies)	868,428		537,128
Sanitation	450,637		131,340
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	2,437,983		2,195,104
Transport / Logistics	3,175,227		1,305,781
Water	606,854		499,230
Instalments with Implementing Partners	3,463,831		(4,057,461)
Sub - total Operational	19,250,856		3,315,564
Administrative Support*	1,726,819		11,836
Sub - total Disbursements/Deliveries	20,977,675	(5)	3,327,400
Unliquidated Obligations	6,893,619	(5)	0
TOTAL	27,871,294	(1) (5)	3,327,400
Instalments with Implementing Partners			
Payments Made	13,202,170		1,193,184
Reporting Received	9,738,339		5,250,645
Balance	3,463,831		(4,057,461)
Outstanding 1 January	0		5,980,668
Refunded to UNHCR	0		783,012
Currency Adjustment	0		(12,975)
Outstanding 31 December	3,463,831		1,127,220
Unliquidated Obligations			
Outstanding 1 January	0		7,092,703
New Obligations	27,871,294	(1) (5)	0
Disbursements	20,977,675	(5)	3,327,400
Cancellations	0		3,765,303
Outstanding 31 December	6,893,619		0

* Includes costs at Headquarters.

Figures which cross reference to accounts

(1) Annex 1 to Statement 1

(5) Schedule 5

(6) Schedule 6