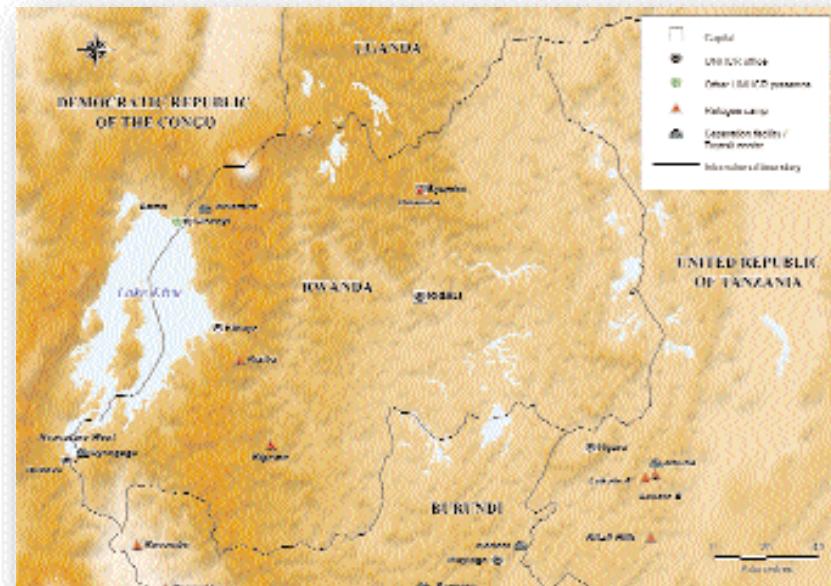


Rwanda

Main Objectives

- Continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees from neighbouring countries and provide onward transport to the area of final destination.
- Monitor returnees regularly in their communities of origin to ensure safety and dignity of voluntary return.
- Promote reconciliation and co-existence in Rwanda with a focus on women and children in order to maintain the conditions for sustainable return.
- Assist the Government of Rwanda and non-governmental institutions 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-impacted areas.



PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002
Refugees from DRC	31,000	28,000
Refugees from Burundi	515	515
Urban Refugees	3,000	3,000
Returnees ¹	25,000	25,000
Total	59,515	56,515

¹ Since repatriation began, more than three million Rwandan refugees have returned. During 2001, UNHCR will have assisted an estimated 25,000 returnees. About 25,000 returnees are expected to arrive in 2002.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 8,307,269

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

Some progress has been made in Rwanda since 1994 in the areas of democratisation, decentralisation, reconciliation and the rule of law. The first election in 30 years was held at the communal level in March 2001 and the Government is continuing to implement its decentralisation programme. A plan to organise legislative and presidential elections within two years is under consideration. Parliament is playing an active role between the Government and civil society. The new legislation concerning children and refugees is being implemented.

In addition the restructuring of the national police as an independent organ has taken place and police officers have been trained in human rights.

In the area of human rights, a national Commission was set up to investigate human rights abuses. With regard to justice and reconciliation, the revived traditional court (Gacaca) is carrying out its functions. However, the consolidation of peace in

Rwanda depends on substantial progress being achieved in the key sectors of health, economy, education, land reform, environment, and the judiciary.

For the Rwandan Government, repatriation of the remaining Rwandan refugees is a priority. So far, UNHCR has facilitated the return of those who voluntarily chose to repatriate. During the first eight months of 2001, 14,269 Rwandan refugees, out of an annual target of 25,000, repatriated from DRC and Tanzania. Despite the security incidents of May 2001 in the prefectures of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri, which sporadically interrupted the return movement, this repatriation trend is expected to continue in 2002, with a total of some 25,000 returnees.

UNHCR Rwanda has phased out of most of its reintegration activities. These are being passed on to development agencies through initiatives such as the Brookings Process, which began its work in Rwanda on 10 September 2001. A Task Force composed of Donors, UN agencies and the Government is currently analysing the land and human settlement issue in the context of post-conflict engagement.

By June 2001, Rwanda was hosting some 34,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, of whom 31,304 were Congolese refugees, 504 were Burundian refugees, and 2,192 were urban refugees of various nationalities. The Congolese refugees are accommodated in the Gihembe and Kiziba camps while the Burundian refugees are hosted in the Kigeme camp. The urban refugees generally reside in Kigali. UNHCR provides protection and basic assistance to the camp-based and urban refugees. Rwanda

with a population of 8.1 million has been severely hit by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Given these conditions, UNHCR is putting particular focus on increasing awareness among refugees on HIV/AIDS.

Constraints

The July 1999 Lusaka peace agreement aims at durable solutions for the DRC conflict and also for the Great Lakes Region as a whole. Since the signature of this agreement, the region has continued to face recurrent instability. This instability is affecting the activities UNHCR is implementing in Rwanda, especially in the area of repatriation. Sustainable repatriation of Rwandan nationals depends on the security situation within the country, which remains a prime concern of the Rwandan Government. Another issue which directly affects the repatriation of Rwandan refugees is the lack of land.

The current security situation prevailing in the Kivu province (eastern DRC) is not conducive to repatriation. In addition, unrest in Burundi persists, despite numerous attempts for a peaceful settlement of the civil war. UNHCR will therefore continue to provide assistance to both Congolese and Burundian refugees.

Other constraints relate to the environmental degradation of refugee-impacted areas as well as increasing problems with regard to the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Both issues are addressed in UNHCR's assistance programme for 2002.

Returnees making handicrafts to raise funds for widows and orphans in Butare. *UNHCR/B. Clarke*.



STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

In 2002, UNHCR will continue to focus on strengthening the capacity of institutions and organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, that have in the past collaborated with the agency in preparing, implementing and monitoring repatriation, reintegration and emergency response activities. A wide range of training activities is envisaged, with the aim of reinforcing these institutions and organisations in terms of knowledge, information, skills, experience and overall commitment to refugee protection. Special training seminars on women's and children's rights will take place, as well as seminars for the refugees themselves on their rights and obligations. Besides promoting support for the adoption of the new rights based refugee law, UNHCR will also assist the Rwandan Government and relevant ministerial departments in implementing this new refugee legislation. By training those responsible for the protection of refugees, and by promoting a culture of respect for human rights and the rule of law, UNHCR will continue to complement the Government's efforts to promote reconciliation and prevent conflict.

Political instability and armed conflict throughout the Great Lakes region present UNHCR with serious obstacles in the search for lasting solutions. As part of its core mandate, UNHCR will provide protection and basic assistance in Rwanda to refugees from the DRC, Burundi and elsewhere in Africa. This will include the promotion and monitoring of protection activities for individual cases.

Progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Accord needs to be sustained to improve the prospects for repatriation of the Congolese refugees. The possibility of local settlement for this group is precluded by the lack of land in Rwanda. For the time being, UNHCR will continue to run a basic assistance programme for these refugees. Provision of legal assistance and protection for refugee women and children will also be a priority, in order to promote their rights and mitigate all forms of violence. The aim is to create an environment in the refugee camps which ensures the physical security of women and children in particular.

UNHCR will continue to search for appropriate lasting solutions for the remaining Burundian refugees in the Kigeme refugee camp in Gikongoro. Pending the implementation of the Arusha Peace Accord in Burundi and the possibility of voluntary repatriation of the Burundian refugees, UNHCR will pursue negotiations with the Government of Rwanda regarding local settlement, subject to the availability of land.

In the absence of assistance for urban refugees from other organisations, UNHCR will work with the Government on community and social services programmes. When appropri-

ate, UNHCR will seek legal measures to enable eligible refugees to integrate locally or resettle in other countries. Preparatory activities have commenced for the establishment of a National Eligibility Committee in Rwanda.

Assistance

The refugees residing in Rwanda will receive adequate assistance including the distribution of necessary household items. UNHCR will also provide assistance in the areas of health and education. Primary focus issues for sensitisation and special assistance activities include gender-based violence, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS awareness. UNHCR aims to involve the refugees in the planning and management of the assistance activities through refugee committees and other participatory measures.

UNHCR will continue to promote awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and refugee rights. Increased access to primary and secondary education for refugee children will remain a priority, with an emphasis on girls. Camp recreational facilities and playing fields for children will be improved. Women will benefit from vocational training projects and education programmes on the rights of women, as well as measures to combat gender-based violence.

Rwandan returnees will be assisted with transportation and repatriation kits. The returnees will be provided with onward transport to their community of origin. As the first period after arrival needs to be bridged with subsistence assistance, UNHCR will distribute repatriation packages including food and household items. These activities will take special account of the needs of vulnerable groups, including elderly returnees, single parent families and handicapped persons. The communities where returnees reintegrate will receive quick impact project assistance in order to minimise the conflict between returnees and established communities. Reception and transit facilities will also be maintained.

Family separation remains a major concern in the context of the conflicts of the Great Lakes region. UNHCR will continue to assist the ICRC's efforts in tracing and repatriating children separated from their families, and provide special assistance to unaccompanied returnee minors.

Sustainable repatriation depends on the prevalence of peace and coexistence. UNHCR will thus continue to co-operate with and assist the National Commission on Unity and Reconciliation, the National Commission on Human Rights as well as local human rights organisations and the National University of Rwanda.

UNHCR will contribute to the measures taken by the Rwandan Government to prevent further environmental degradation in refugee-impacted areas. Existing environmental

damage caused by massive movements of refugees will be redressed through soil conservation and reforestation programmes. As the scarce existence of firewood poses a major problem, UNHCR will continue to provide improved cooking stoves and disseminate information on their usage. With the objective of finding solutions to the firewood problem, alternative energy sources will also be identified.

Desired Impact

UNHCR's local partners will gain enhanced skills and knowledge in the areas of project design, implementation and monitoring through capacity-building, training and the provision of material means to carry out their tasks. The refugees will benefit from international protection and the provision of basic assistance. The repatriation of Rwandan nationals will be facilitated in dignity and safety. Co-existence programmes will contribute to ensure the sustainability of repatriation. Unity and reconciliation will be fostered through the support of a variety of activities.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

In 2002, UNHCR will operate with 68 staff in Rwanda (nine international, 48 national, 10 United Nations Volunteers, one JPO). The office in Kigali will be responsible for overall management of the programme and liaison with the Government, diplomatic missions and NGOs. Two field offices and two antennae offices will administer the activities on the ground. Security of both refugees and the humanitarian personnel working on their behalf continues to be a main concern of UNHCR. This means respecting the strict application of UN Security Management Team recommendations, including military escorts for travel to certain areas.

Co-ordination

UNHCR will work with four government institutions and nine NGO implementing partners (seven international and two national). In the area of reintegration UNHCR will co-operate closely with development agencies present in the country in the context of the Joint Reintegration and Programming as well as the Brookings Process. The aim is to facilitate a smooth transition from emergency relief and rehabilitation to development-oriented activities. The Ministry of Local Administration and Social Affairs will continue to be responsible for the overall management of the refugee camps, including the distribution of food and other items. WFP will continue to take charge of the provision of food.

OFFICES

Kigali
Byumba
Cyangugu
Gisenyi
Kibuye

PARTNERS

Government Agencies

Joint Commission for Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Rwandan Refugees

Ministry of Gender and Women Development

Ministry of Local Administration and Social Affairs

National Unity and Reconciliation Commission

NGOs

African Humanitarian Action

American Refugee Committee

Duterimbere

Jesuit Refugee Services

Norwegian People's Aid

OXFAM (UK)

Population Services International

Rwandan Rural Rehabilitation Initiative

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

WFP

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,507,593
Community Services	270,300
Domestic Needs	256,250
Education	213,000
Food	61,500
Forestry	20,900
Health	730,200
Income Generation	33,800
Legal Assistance	269,300
Operational Support (to Agencies)	645,000
Sanitation	387,560
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	138,500
Transport/Logistics	1,812,630
Water	148,760
Total Operations	6,495,293
Programme Support	1,811,976
Total	8,307,269