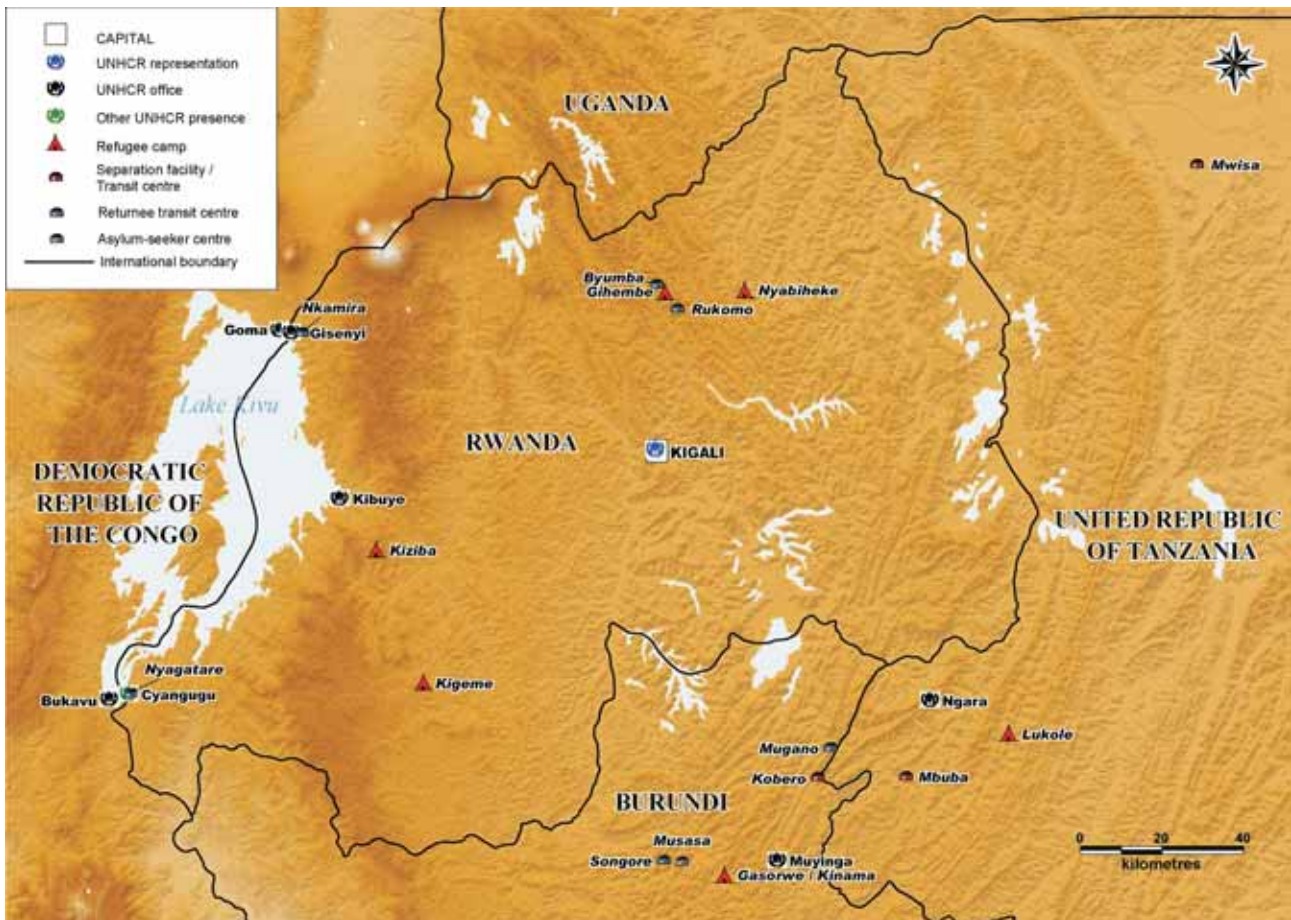


Rwanda



Working environment

The context

The relatively stable political situation in Rwanda is not expected to change in 2008 and 2009. The country joined the East African Community in July 2007. Though Rwanda has seen some economic growth recently, the landlocked and densely populated country remains impoverished, especially in its rural areas.

Rwanda's justice and reconciliation process received a boost when a law abolishing the death penalty entered into force in July 2007. This had been one of the conditions set by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to allow the transfer of genocide suspects from other countries to Rwanda. The Government is now expected to sign a series of extradition agreements with various States. The traditional *Gacaca* tribunals, implemented to deal with a backlog of more than 700,000 genocide-related cases, are scheduled to end in December 2007.

UNHCR's activities in Rwanda are strongly affected by political events in neighbouring countries, particularly the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). In December 2006, renewed fighting in the DRC's two easternmost provinces, North and South Kivu, triggered a fresh influx of refugees into Rwanda. Many of these arrivals are currently staying in transit centres where living conditions are difficult. UNHCR has begun to transfer them to camps, where they will benefit from more assistance.

The needs

The findings of an inter-agency and NGO assessment in 2006 on the needs of refugees and returnees in Rwanda have been incorporated into UNHCR's planning for 2008 and 2009.

The lack of space for camps forces most refugees, regardless of family size, to live in cramped dwellings. Such conditions, coupled with the poor state of the water-supply, make it difficult to meet assistance

standards in the shelter, water and sanitation sectors. The shortage of skilled medical staff has led to overcrowding at the health centres in the Kiziba and Gihembe camps; each camp hosts some 18,000 refugees.

While most primary-level children are enrolled in school, secondary school enrolment is no higher than 40 per cent. The percentage of girls enrolled is dramatically low. Access to vocational training for refugee youth is restricted. To deal with sexual and gender-based violence and ensure that its perpetrators are brought to justice, the police need more training and the camp population needs to be sensitized to the issue.

Serious protection gaps have arisen due to the inconsistent application of Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures by the national refugee committee. Most camp-based refugees from the DRC have obtained *prima facie* refugee status. However, urban DRC asylum-seekers from the same areas of origin are subject to individual RSD procedures and, if accepted, receive identification documents.

Camp-based refugees lack access to job opportunities and many are dependent on food distributed by the World Food Programme. Food rations are often traded to meet other essential needs such as clothes and firewood and to vary diets.

Currently, 85 per cent of Rwandan returnees live below the poverty line; only 20 per cent have jobs or are engaged in income-generating activities. More than 50,000 Rwandans, most from urban areas, remain in exile. A lack of reintegration projects is one reason for their reluctance to return home.

Total requirements
2008: USD 5,450,315
2009: USD 5,271,838

Main objectives

- Protect and assist refugees from the DRC and Burundi and asylum-seekers from other countries.
- Improve shelter, water supplies, sanitation and educational facilities in three camps hosting a total of 50,000 DRC refugees.
- Help the Government promote the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees and create income-generating activities for them.
- Strengthen the national authorities' RSD capacity.

Key Targets for 2008 and 2009

- 50,000 refugees and asylum-seekers receive international protection and material assistance.
- 10,000 Rwandan refugees (5,000 in 2008) repatriate voluntarily in safety and dignity. They receive an improved returnee package and are transported to their communities of origin.
- 2,000 Burundian refugees repatriate voluntarily by the end of 2008, and Kigeme refugee camp is closed. Other durable solutions are sought for those Burundians who do not repatriate.
- If the political situation permits, 500 DRC refugees repatriate voluntarily.
- Full enrolment in primary school for all refugee children is maintained, and girls' secondary-school enrolment is increased to 100 per cent.
- All victims of sexual and gender-based violence receive appropriate psychosocial and medical care; all perpetrators of such violence are prosecuted; and at least 50 per cent of the male population participates in campaigns to sensitize them to the issue of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Eight cross-border and Tripartite Commission meetings with the DRC and Mozambique are held, and lead to the signing of tripartite agreements for the repatriation of DRC and Rwandan refugees.

Strategy and activities

UNHCR will protect all refugees in the country and raise living conditions in the camps to required standards. The Office will involve all its partners in child protection. To reduce sexual and gender-based violence, it will conduct training sessions and workshops, and set up educational and income-generating activities for all children, girls and women at risk. Health services will be improved to prevent malnutrition, HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Rwanda remains host to more than 2,900 Burundian refugees. UNHCR will pursue voluntary repatriation for them, and search for other durable solutions for those Burundians who choose to remain in the country. Kigeme camp will be closed by the end of 2008.

The Office will continue to promote the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees in neighbouring countries. Refugees will be provided with a returnee package, which will be increased or adjusted for those returning to urban areas. The returnees will also benefit from monitoring and legal advice on property and justice issues. Targeted reintegration activities will increase their self-reliance.

Rwanda benefits from an asylum framework in line with international standards. UNHCR is helping the National Refugee Committee to increase its efficiency. The Office is also promoting the provision of identity documents to all refugees currently living in the country.

Constraints

Budgetary constraints have reduced UNHCR's programmes to minimum levels. Further cuts will hamper its capacity to provide international protection and basic material assistance to refugees. The persistence of political instability in the DRC's eastern Kivu provinces compels UNHCR Rwanda to prepare contingency plans to cope with a large new influx of refugees.

The majority of DRC refugees would like to return to their country, most of them to the Masisi and Rutshuru regions, but UNHCR is unlikely to be able to monitor the returnees. However, once they are in these regions due to the volatile political situation.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

	2008	2009
Number of offices	4	4
Total staff	48	48
International	6	7
National	31	30
UNVs	11	11



After 11 years of refuge in the DRC, this former refugee has begun teaching again in her old classroom in Rwanda.

Coordination

UNHCR will strengthen its cooperation with the Government, UN agencies, donor-country embassies, development actors and a range of partners in Rwanda to meet the needs identified by joint participatory assessments. These needs are the basis for its biennial programme for 2008 and 2009.

Rwanda is one of eight pilot countries for the "Delivering as One" programme. The United Nations reform seeks to align the activities of different UN agencies in order to substantially increase the performance, efficiency, accountability and results of the UN Country Team.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2008		Dec 2008 - Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	DRC	47,320	47,320	47,910	47,910	48,980	48,980
	Burundi	2,940	2,940	2,970	2,970	3,040	3,040
	Various	50	50	50	50	50	50
Asylum-seekers	DRC	3,260	3,260	3,240	3,240	3,210	3,210
	Burundi	550	550	540	540	540	540
	Various	10	10	10	10	10	10
Returnees ¹		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total		59,130	59,130	59,720	59,720	60,830	60,830

¹ Planning figures only reflect the number of refugees who returned during the reporting year. However, UNHCR supports reintegration of returnees in Rwanda for up to two years. In 2008 and 2009, the Office will assist a total number of 10,000 returnees each year.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: National Refugee Council, Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs.

NGOs: American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service, Save the Children UK, African Humanitarian Action.

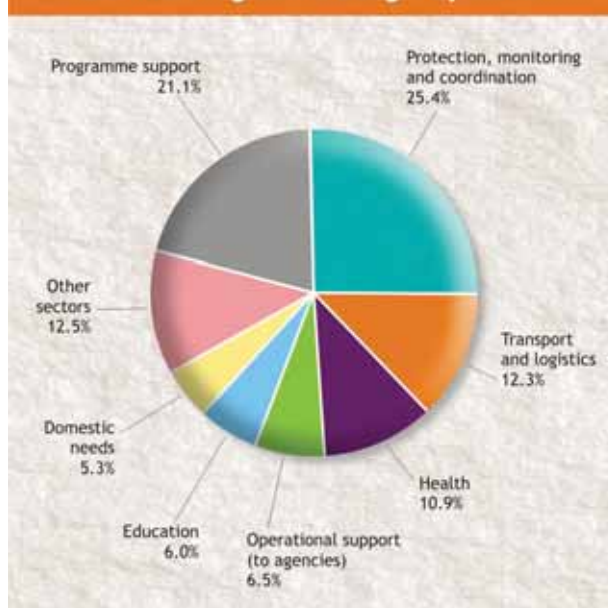
Operational partners

Government agencies: National Refugee Council, Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs.

NGOs: American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service, Save the Children UK.

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*, UNICEF, WFP.

2008-2009 Biennial Programme Budget by sector



Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget		
	2007	2008	2009
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,127,388	1,313,058	1,412,966
Community services	50,984	67,481	52,896
Domestic needs	239,052	306,556	263,145
Education	312,855	335,180	306,350
Food	12,072	0	0
Forestry	16,780	46,450	30,000
Health	558,883	572,787	590,855
Income generation	3,772	100,000	50,000
Legal assistance	77,784	133,001	70,173
Operational support (to agencies)	361,979	349,773	343,801
Sanitation	141,839	142,234	139,397
Shelter and other infrastructure	103,305	146,650	100,150
Transport and logistics	736,514	664,832	655,071
Water	134,181	135,057	131,142
Total operations	3,877,388	4,313,058	4,145,946
Programme support	1,050,482	1,137,257	1,125,892
Total	4,927,870	5,450,315	5,271,838