



# Central Africa and the Great Lakes

## Operational highlights

- UNHCR helped more than 200,000 refugees living in camps or local settlements.
- Some 59,200 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 39,800 Burundians, 6,000 Angolans, 7,000 Rwandans, and 5,200 Sudanese returned home with UNHCR assistance.
- In the DRC, the Office facilitated the return of about 84,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) to their communities of origin.
- UNHCR worked within the cluster approach in the Central African Republic (CAR) and the DRC to improve the safety and security of IDPs.
- The Office strengthened its efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence and established standard operating procedures to deal with the issue in all countries of the region.

Burundi

Cameroon

Central African Republic

Republic of the Congo

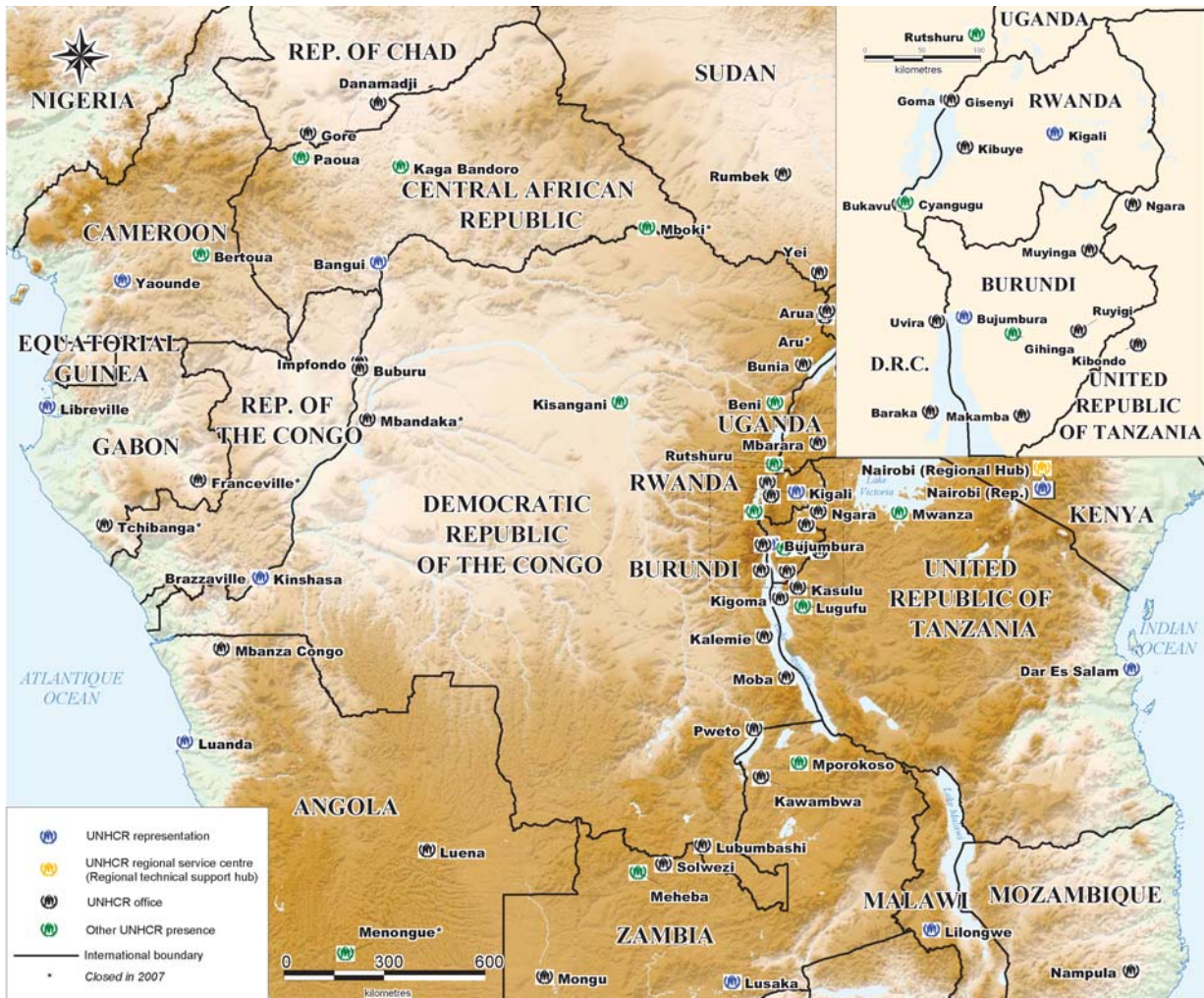
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Gabon

Rwanda

United Republic of Tanzania





## Working environment

Political stability remained a distant prospect in the Central Africa and Great Lakes region. In the DRC, renewed fighting in North Kivu province and the northern part of South Kivu displaced more than 500,000 people. While about 1 million IDPs returned to their villages in other areas, 1.3 million were still displaced in the country at the end of the year. The security situation also deteriorated in northern parts of the CAR, where the number of IDPs reached 197,000, and renewed clashes between rebel groups and the national army caused more than 50,000 refugees to flee to Cameroon.

In Burundi, a ceasefire agreement signed in September 2006 had not been implemented. Clashes between government forces and rebel groups continued in the north-west of the country and the general security situation deteriorated. In Rwanda, the traditional *Gacaca* justice process was expected to be completed by the end of 2007, with a total of some 800,000 cases tried in traditional courts. However, the process will continue into 2008. The security situation in the Republic of the Congo (RoC) remained calm despite some incidents in the Pool region. Cameroon, Gabon and the United Republic of Tanzania also remained stable.

UNHCR assisted more than 300,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in the region, as well as about 133,000 IDPs. Most of the refugees in Burundi, Rwanda and Tanzania live in camps, while refugees in Cameroon, the CAR, the RoC, the DRC and Gabon live in local settlements.

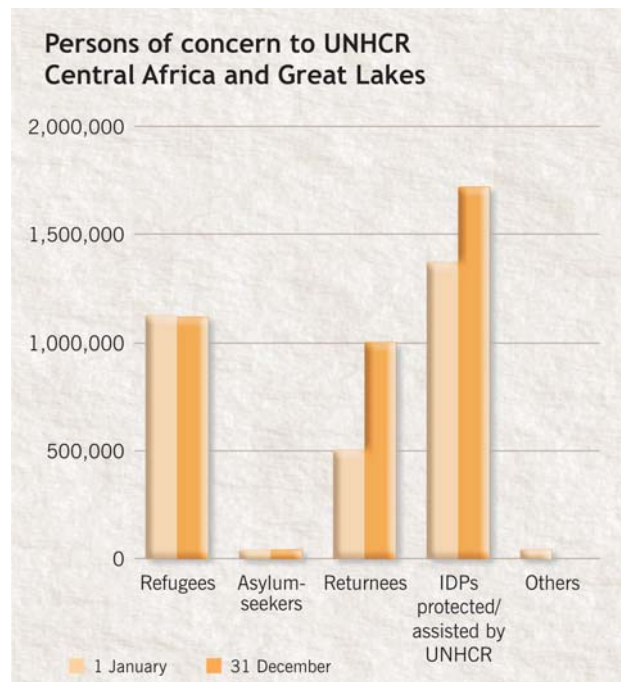






Photo: MONUC/M. Frechon

Internally displaced persons on the move to Camp Bulengo, North Kivu, DRC.

## Achievements and impact

Voluntary repatriation was the main durable solution UNHCR pursued in the region. In the DRC, some 59,200 refugees returned to relatively stable parts of the country. Some 39,800 Burundian refugees repatriated, mostly from Tanzania, while 7,000 Rwandans returned home, mainly from the DRC. Approximately, 9,000 Sudanese repatriated from the CAR and the DRC and about 6,000 Angolan refugees in the DRC returned to their country. Finally, UNHCR also facilitated the return of about 84,000 Congolese IDPs to their communities of origin.

There have been some positive developments regarding the local integration of remaining groups. The Government of Tanzania has agreed to naturalize a large group of Burundian refugees who arrived in 1972 and have since lived in the so-called Old Settlements. Also, the Government of Cameroon is prepared to integrate the remaining Nigerian refugees in the country. UNHCR referred about 7,600 refugees for resettlement to third countries. Of these, almost 80 per cent were submitted in Tanzania, including 4,300 Burundians under a group resettlement programme.

To strengthen protection in the region, UNHCR continued to work with governments to improve refugee status determination (RSD) and registration processes, especially in the CAR, Gabon and Tanzania.

In Gabon, UNHCR supported the self-reliance of Congolese refugees by distributing identity cards, which enabled them to work and enjoy the rights of residents. The Office reinforced efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence by improving reporting and providing victims with medical, psychosocial and legal support. Standard operating procedures to deal with the issue are now in place in all countries in the region and are regularly updated.

In the DRC, UNHCR assumed responsibility for camp coordination and management in six IDP camps, and protected and assisted some 72,900 IDPs. The Office assisted some 60,000 IDPs in the CAR.

## Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Burundi, the Republic of Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Tanzania** are presented in separate chapters.

In **Cameroon**, UNHCR protected and assisted 60,100 refugees and 2,200 asylum-seekers (mainly from the CAR and Chad). Some 13,900 people of concern lived in urban areas (Yaoundé and Douala) and about 45,000 CAR refugees were settled in the Eastern and Adamaoua provinces. Some 2,900 Nigerian refugees lived in the Banyo area near the Nigerian border.

In 2007, UNHCR assisted urban refugees by helping them gain access to primary and secondary schooling, and for a few students, to university. Particular attention was paid to enhancing the self-reliance and welfare of individuals with specific needs. Refugees living with HIV and AIDS received regular treatment. During the reporting period, UNHCR registered all refugees. The waiting period between registration and an RSD interview has decreased from six to three months. UNHCR made sure that all people of concern had access to health care. Standard operational procedures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence were instituted.

Alerted by the deterioration of the situation in the CAR and an increase in refugee arrivals, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and the Government of Cameroon carried out assessment missions. Subsequently, some 45,500 refugees were registered and 59 per cent of them received identification documents. Food and non-food items were distributed in collaboration with WFP. The Office organized immunization campaigns for all children under 15. In partnership with UNICEF and the Government, UNHCR created five therapeutic feeding centres and 36 supplementary feeding centres in district hospitals in order to treat acute malnutrition.

Some 2,900 Nigerians chose not to return during the 2004-2006 repatriation operation. This group is well integrated into the local population. The Office closed its programme for Nigerian refugees in 2007 after conducting training sessions for local authorities on refugee issues and the distribution of identity cards. UNHCR finalized its exit strategy with the closure of its Banyo satellite office in June 2007.

In the **Central African Republic**, some 197,000 people remained displaced due to insecurity in the northern part of the country. UNHCR helped some 60,000 IDPs in Ouham, Ouham-Pende and Nana-Grebizi. As the focal point for refugee and IDP protection, UNHCR has led the protection working group since the introduction of the cluster approach in August 2007. Thanks to the greater presence of humanitarian actors, rebel and army reprisals against the civilian population have decreased significantly since mid-2007.

At the end of 2007, about 5,500 refugees lived in urban areas. UNHCR supported the self-sufficiency of most of the urban refugees, and provided assistance to newly arrived Sudanese refugees from South Darfur in Sam Ouandja. The Office integrated assistance to all people of concern living with HIV and AIDS in its programmes. Standard operating procedures for the prevention of, and response to, sexual and

gender-based violence were finalized and put in place in 2007. Victims of such violence received medical, psychosocial and legal assistance. Throughout 2007, UNHCR helped urban refugee children gain access to primary, secondary and tertiary education. The Office helped the Government to draft a refugee law, which was adopted by the National Assembly in November 2007.

UNHCR facilitated the return of 5,200 Sudanese refugees, most of whom travelled by air. At the conclusion of the operation in April 2007, some 9,700 people had returned to their villages of origin. In the meantime, UNHCR completed the repatriation operation to the DRC, which brought 5,500 Congolese refugees back to Equateur province.

**Gabon** is host to some 13,100 persons of concern – 8,800 refugees and 4,300 asylum-seekers. UNHCR and the Government discussed the cases of some asylum-seekers who were denied refugee status because they were not present during a revalidation exercise in 2005.

UNHCR has registered some 5,000 refugees and distributed identity cards to 1,500 of them. Meanwhile, data was collected on some 2,500 refugees in all the accessible provinces. The Office facilitated the return of 130 refugees to the RoC, although returnees complained about a lack of reintegration opportunities in the country.

## Constraints

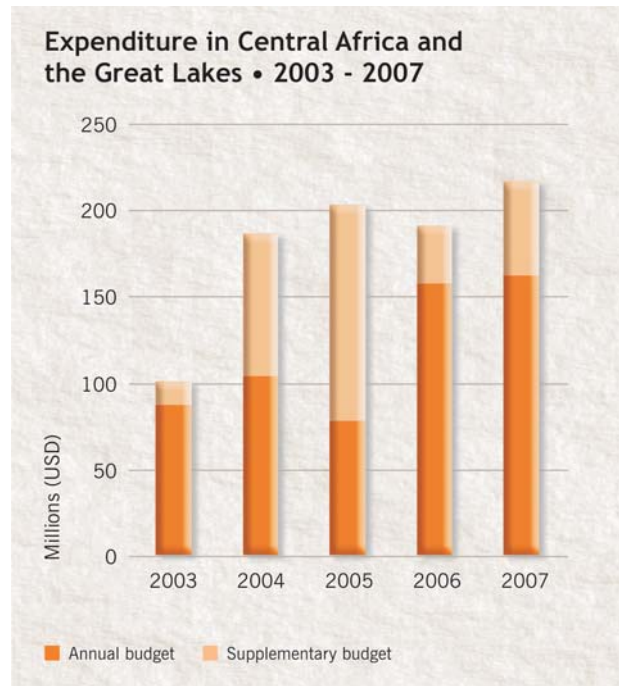
Access to refugees and IDPs in the DRC and the CAR remained difficult due to the presence of armed factions. Logistics were often difficult, as most operations are in remote areas with poor transport routes. UNHCR could not facilitate as many returns as envisaged, especially as Rwandan refugees remained hesitant to return because they fear the *Gacaca* process and have concerns about reintegration possibilities.

## Financial information

UNHCR's annual programme in 2007 was fully funded. However, the budget for some programmes was not adequate to provide more than the most critical assistance. Also, funds for the supplementary programme for IDPs in the DRC came late in the year, delaying the start of some activities to 2008.



Over the past five years, UNHCR's expenditure in the Central Africa and Great Lakes region has steadily increased. The past three years saw the repatriation of Burundian, Congolese, and Sudanese refugees, which led to a significant increase in expenditure. In addition, in 2006 a supplementary programme was established for the protection and assistance of IDPs in the DRC. In 2007, the expenditure rose again due to the ongoing repatriation of Congolese refugees and more activities to assist IDPs in the eastern parts of the country.



Budget and expenditure (USD)						
Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget <sup>1</sup>	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Burundi	25,726,992	0	25,726,992	25,565,224	0	25,565,224
Cameroon <sup>2</sup>	3,560,125	0	3,560,125	3,452,395	0	3,452,395
Central African Republic	2,291,055	2,479,533	4,770,588	2,278,532	1,901,432	4,179,964
Chad	74,271,002	9,221,809	83,492,811	74,228,776	8,149,619	82,378,395
Democratic Republic of the Congo	11,151,859	48,736,100	59,887,959	10,095,867	37,753,200	47,849,067
Gabon	2,671,743	0	2,671,743	2,442,566	0	2,442,566
Republic of the Congo	4,677,772	2,648,370	7,326,142	4,671,201	2,282,216	6,953,417
Rwanda	7,163,347	0	7,163,347	6,660,819	0	6,660,819
United Republic of Tanzania	28,396,650	5,501,993	33,898,643	25,618,980	4,746,646	30,365,625
Regional activities <sup>3</sup>	6,126,000	2,697,109	8,823,109	6,116,340	550,863	6,667,204
<b>Total</b>	<b>166,036,544</b>	<b>71,284,914</b>	<b>237,321,459</b>	<b>161,130,700</b>	<b>55,383,976</b>	<b>216,514,676</b>

<sup>1</sup> Excludes a seven per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

<sup>2</sup> Cameroon was moved from West Africa subregion to Central Africa and the Great Lakes in 2007.

<sup>3</sup> The annual budget includes resettlement, repatriation and care and maintenance of refugees, as well as support costs for UNV's and consultants, aircraft charter and scholarships for refugee students. The supplementary budget includes repatriation assistance to Congolese refugees.

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)			
Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budget
Central Africa and the Great Lakes	Belgium	4,054,054	0
	Canada	1,724,138	0
	Denmark	4,142,350	0
	Finland	4,719,764	0
	France	0	120,623
	Ireland	1,315,789	0
	Sweden	13,682,678	0
		Sub-total	29,638,773
Regional activities	Luxembourg	341,997	0
		Sub-total	341,997
Burundi	Belgium	1,351,351	0
	Burundi	246	0
	Denmark	881,834	0
	European Commission	5,315,673	0

Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budget
	Germany	567,646	0
	Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS (GLIA)	126,383	0
	Ireland	657,895	0
	Japan	6,972,477	0
	Netherlands	1,235,000	0
	OPEC Fund for International Development	75,000	0
	Spain	992,908	0
	UN Peacebuilding Fund	651,000	0
	United Kingdom	977,888	0
	United States	6,997,710	0
	Sub-total	26,803,013	0
Cameroon	CERF	500,000	0
	United Kingdom	77,824	0
	Sub-total	577,824	0
Central African Republic	Austria	163,488	0
	CERF	0	658,879
	Canada	0	434,579
	France	648,508	0
	Ireland	657,895	0
	Italy	25,628	0
	Japan	0	462,972
	Luxembourg	341,997	0
	Spain	0	335,014
	Switzerland	409,836	0
	United States	200,000	158,100
	Sub-total	2,447,353	2,049,545
Chad	<i>Amitié sans Frontières</i> (Monaco)	56,738	0
	Australia for UNHCR	1,591,540	0
	Austria	163,488	0
	Belgium	136,799	0
	Canada	2,014,711	160,345
	CERF	0	934,579
	Denmark	1,805,054	0
	<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe E.V.</i>	158,754	0
	ES Bank S.A. (Panama)	50,000	0
	<i>España con ACNUR</i>	11,967	0
	European Commission	9,078,748	0
	France	1,059,231	402,075
	Germany	3,464,609	0
	Greece	136,799	0
	Holy See	34,545	16,064
	Ireland	1,315,789	0
	Islamic, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	15,000	0
	Italy	1,468,691	0
	Japan	3,000,000	1,077,140
	Japan Association for UNHCR	176,468	0
	Luxembourg	0	317,623
	Netherlands	2,271,480	183,694
	Norway	1,644,737	937,815
	Online donations (Headquarters)	38,757	0
	OPEC Fund for International Development	118,000	0
	Private donors in Canada	331,572	0
	Private donors in Greece	153,511	0
	Private donors in Italy	692,283	0
	Private donors in Luxembourg	168	0
	Private donors in the United Kingdom	37,164	0
	Private donors in the United States	43,746	0
	South Africa	268,033	0
	Spain	2,572,262	0
	<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (Netherlands)	92,690	0

Earmarking	Donor	Annual budget	Supplementary budget
	Sweden	2,620,087	291,994
	Switzerland	1,361,339	0
	United Kingdom	2,404,810	1,490,982
	United Nations Foundation	0	384,750
	United States	19,750,000	1,720,500
	USA for UNHCR	1,114,223	0
	Sub-total	61,253,791	7,917,560
Congo (Republic of the)	CERF	368,773	0
	OPEC Fund for International Development	43,441	0
	Spain	0	197,522
	United States	750,000	0
	Sub-total	1,162,214	197,522
Democratic Republic of the Congo	CERF	0	12,567,520
	<i>Comité Belge pour l'UNHCR ASBL</i>	0	31,119
	DRC Pooled Fund	0	2,863,240
	<i>España con ACNUR</i>	0	39,695
	European Commission	0	3,695,364
	France	518,807	0
	Germany	266,667	1,848,269
	Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS (GLIA)	162,400	0
	Greece	68,399	0
	Japan	1,569,104	3,947,253
	Japan Association for UNHCR	0	16,454
	Norway	0	1,563,025
	<i>Programme National Multisectoriel de Lutte contre le SIDA</i>	447,795	0
	Spain	0	1,290,937
	Sweden	3,056,769	0
	Switzerland	1,236,339	0
	UNAIDS	243,550	0
	United States	1,800,138	13,224,600
	USA for UNHCR	3,331	0
	Sub-total	9,373,299	41,087,476
Gabon	United States	233,001	0
	Sub-total	233,001	0
Rwanda	CERF	166,385	0
	Germany	109,751	0
	Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS (GLIA)	223,270	0
	OPEC Fund for International Development	100,000	0
	Private donors in Sweden	263,655	0
	Sweden	727,802	0
	United States	1,100,945	0
	Sub-total	2,691,808	0
United Republic of Tanzania	Belgium	36,711	0
	Denmark	471,361	0
	European Commission	10,032,036	1,270,492
	Germany	260,136	36,602
	Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS (GLIA)	168,340	0
	Japan	1,000,000	0
	Netherlands	56,119	0
	OPEC Fund for International Development	100,000	0
	Spain	0	259,513
	UN Trust Fund for Human Security	106,973	0
	United Kingdom	507,422	0
	United States	4,712,345	0
	Sub-total	17,451,442	1,566,606
Total		151,974,514	52,939,332

Note: Contributions shown exclude indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities - mandate related" (NAM) Reserve.