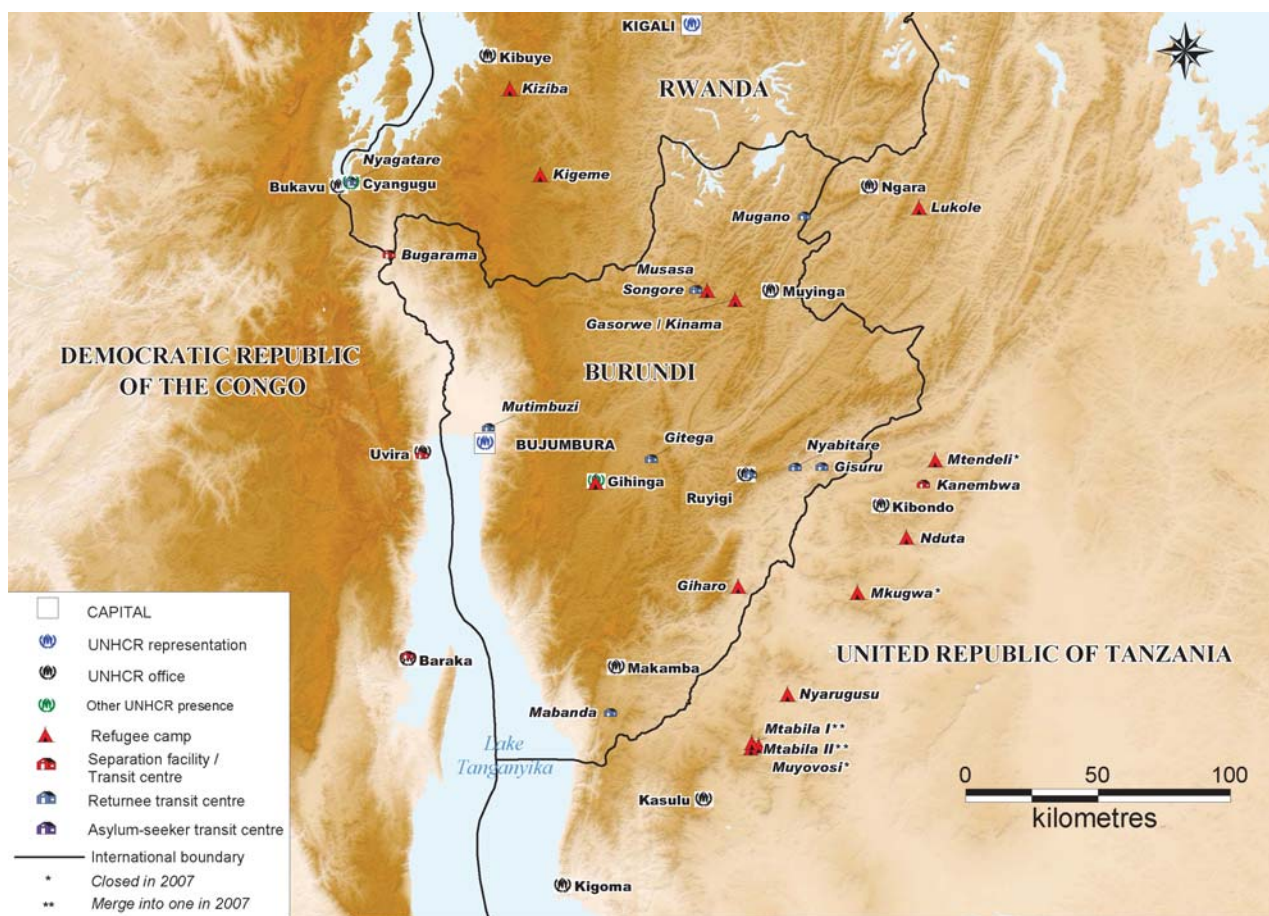


# Burundi



## Operational highlights

- Some 38,900 Burundian refugees returned home under UNHCR auspices, and another 600 returned spontaneously. Between 2002 and the end of 2007, approximately 378,800 Burundian refugees repatriated.
- The Office protected and assisted almost 18,800 refugees living in camps and another 12,800 asylum-seekers and refugees in urban areas. Most were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).
- Returnees received cash grants, non-food items, identity cards, shelter kits and legal assistance. They also benefited from mediation in land disputes.

- UNHCR helped 574 refugees resettle in third countries.
- The Burundian authorities drafted a refugee law with UNHCR's assistance. The law was adopted by Parliament in December 2007.

## Working environment

In January 2007, the UN ended its peacekeeping operation in Burundi. However, the UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) remained to help consolidate the peace. The UN Peacebuilding Commission and the newly established UN Peacebuilding Fund supported the peace process.

## Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	23,900	23,900	50	61
	Rwanda	600	250	23	24
	Various	20	20	-	-
Asylum-seekers	DRC	7,500	7,500	51	57
	Various	70	70	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	From United Rep. of Tanzania	39,500	38,900	-	-
	Various	310	310	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>71,900</b>	<b>70,950</b>		

However, progress on political and security issues in 2007 was not as great as expected. The last active rebel group, Palipehutu-FNL, withdrew from negotiations on the implementation of the September 2006 ceasefire agreement. There were clashes between government forces and rebels in the north-west of Burundi, and banditry and armed robberies increased. These developments obliged the UN country team to impose security restrictions in the areas which saw the most returns, reducing UNHCR's freedom of movement and monitoring ability.

## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives for 2007 were to facilitate the repatriation to Burundi of 80,000 refugees from neighbouring countries, persuade development actors to take part in reintegration activities, and improve living conditions in areas of return. As the pace of return did not match expectations, the repatriation figure was revised to 60,000. Further objectives were to protect and assist camp-based refugees from the DRC and to help the Government of Burundi strengthen the national bodies responsible for refugee and returnee matters.

### Protection and solutions

The rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in Burundi were generally respected. A refugee law drafted with UNHCR support in 2005 was adopted by both chambers of Parliament in December 2007.

The year saw some 38,900 Burundian refugees, mainly from the United Republic of Tanzania, return home with UNHCR's assistance, while another 600 returned on their own. The Office also helped some 574 Congolese refugees, most of them survivors of the massacre at the Gatumba transit centre in 2004, to resettle abroad.

UNHCR assisted the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi to hold Tripartite Commission meetings at which the need to provide more incentives for returns was highlighted. This was followed by the introduction of cash grants and six-months food rations (instead of four months) for Burundian returnees from the camps.

### Activities and assistance

#### Refugees

All camp-based refugees were registered and refugee statistics regularly updated. Some 31 per cent of

registered refugees received identity cards from the Government, compared to 3 per cent in 2006.

**Community services:** Victims of sexual and gender-based violence were given medical and psychosocial help. They were encouraged to take legal action against their attackers. Almost 30 per cent of the staff of Government and NGO partners attended training sessions on the prevention of, and response to, sexual and gender-based violence.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Basic non-food items were distributed to all camp-based refugees. Women and adolescent girls received sanitary items.

**Education:** About 80 per cent of school-age refugee children were enrolled in educational institutions during the academic year 2006-2007, with 1,700 at the primary level and 902 in secondary. Girls made up 48 per cent of primary school attendees and 36 per cent of those in secondary school. The low rate of girls' enrolment in secondary education is due to their diversion to domestic duties or their entry into forced or early marriages. Some 70 per cent of all primary school children passed their exams, compared with only 2 per cent in secondary schools. The quality of secondary education was generally poor due to the lack of qualified teachers and textbooks. UNHCR will work to improve the situation in 2008.

**Food:** In addition to food rations, supplementary food supplies were given to groups with specific needs in the camps.

**Health and nutrition:** The main health indicators were within acceptable standards. On average, 77 per cent of refugee children and 37 per cent of pregnant women were immunized. However, not all refugees who needed anti-retroviral treatment for HIV and AIDS could get it, due to a lack of medical supplies.

**Operational support:** UNHCR supported its partners financially and helped train their staff. In March 2007, the Office conducted participatory evaluations in order to incorporate age, gender and diversity considerations into all activities in refugee camps and transit centres, as well as among refugees in Bujumbura.

**Sanitation:** Following sensitization meetings held with refugee committees, most latrines, showers and pits were kept clean within the camps.

**Shelter and other infrastructure:** Despite the opening of a new camp at Musasa and the construction of some 220 new shelters at Gihinga to host transferred refugees, most camps were overcrowded. The Government allocated a site in Ruyigi province for the construction of a new camp in 2008.

**Water:** During the reporting period, an average of 16 litres of water was available per refugee per day. This was below standards, but the budget for refugee programmes did not allow UNHCR to cope with the demand from the growing number of refugees in the camps.

## Returnees

**Community services:** During 2007, some 230 unaccompanied minors and separated children were repatriated. Some 67 per cent of them were reunited with their relatives or placed with foster families. There were 300 reported cases of sexual and gender-based violence in five communities; UNHCR assisted 290 female victims of such violence.

**Domestic needs and household support:** In July 2007, UNHCR began granting FBU 50,000 (approximately USD 45) to returnees from the camps in Tanzania, in addition to a returnee kit. In August, food rations were increased to cover a six-month period as compared to the previous four-month ration allotment. Returnees also received seeds and educational materials from FAO and UNICEF, respectively.

**Education:** The Office funded the visits of expert missions from Burundi's Ministry of Education to the camps in Tanzania. The aim was to ensure that education in Burundi would meet the standards in Tanzania, and that returnees could easily integrate into the Burundian school system. Vocational training in carpentry and construction was provided in the areas with the most returns.

**Forestry:** UNHCR distributed some 310,000 fruit and forest tree seedlings to host communities and returnees to compensate for the wood used to construct shelters. Also, 425,000 trees were planted in the Makamba and Rutana regions.

**Health and nutrition:** UNHCR medically screened all returnees, and identified some 310 of them with specific needs. Another 70 individuals suffering from chronic diseases or other serious medical problems were referred for further care.

**Income generation:** With the support of UNHCR and UNDP, the Federation of Cooperatives of Burundi provided credit to 1,800 returnees.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR provided legal assistance and mediation to solve conflicts, 73 per cent of which were land-related. The Office established legal clinics that dealt with more than 4,800 conflicts and solved more than 1,100 cases. It also helped the Government provide over 28,600 national identity cards. With the support of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, UNHCR assisted Burundi's National Land Commission to increase its capacity.

**Shelter and infrastructure:** Some 6,750 shelters were constructed, with the cost of shelter materials borne by UNHCR. The scheme benefited at least 33,800 individuals.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR provided transport for more than 38,900 returnees and their belongings.

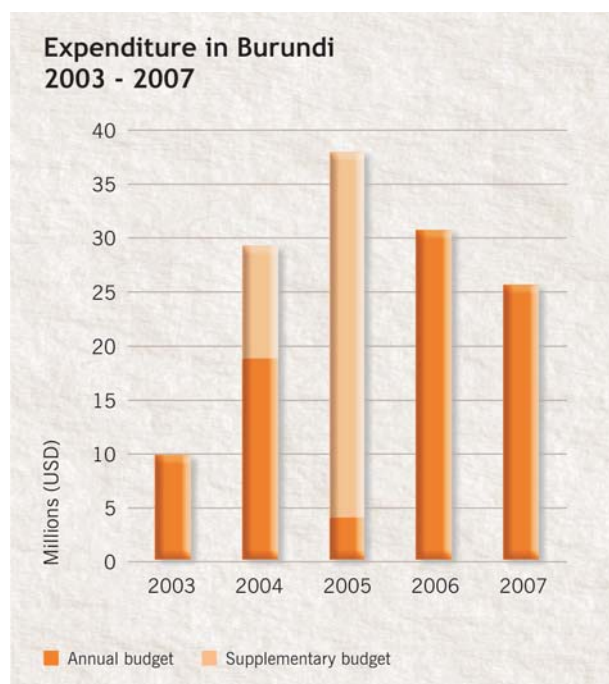
## Constraints

Political uncertainty, the deteriorating security situation, food insecurity, particularly in early 2007, and instability in the eastern parts of the DRC hampered UNHCR operations in Burundi. The return of DRC refugees came to a halt in early 2007 and has not resumed.

## Financial Information

Donors showed increasing interest in UNHCR's operations in Burundi, especially in reintegration activities. The budget was fully funded after being revised upwards by 15 per cent from the initial USD 23 million.

The annual programme expenditure increased significantly in 2004, when UNHCR assisted a new influx of 40,000 Congolese refugees and offered more reintegration activities to Burundian returnees. For the return and reintegration of Burundian refugees, a supplementary programme was established in 2004 and incorporated in the annual programme in 2006. The overall expenditure has been decreasing during the past two years.







UNHCR/T. Irwin

About 10,000 refugees from Burundi, some of whom have been living in camps in Tanzania since 1972, have been offered permanent resettlement by the United States.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

In 2007, UNHCR had a Representation Office in Bujumbura, a sub-office in Muyinga, field offices in Ruyigi and Makamba and a field unit in Mwaro. The Office employed a total of 139 staff, including 101 local and 38 international staff. Of the latter, 26 were in the professional category, one was a JPO and 11 were UNVs.

### Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with the authorities, its partners, donors and sister UN agencies. An *ad hoc* committee for refugee return was created in mid-2007; it comprised five key ministers, donors and heads of UN agencies.

### Overall assessment

The planning figure for the return of Burundians had to be revised downwards. The pace of return was slow during the first part of 2007 as it was harvest time and

children were in the middle of their school year. But the introduction of cash grants in July 2007 dramatically increased returns. Indeed, some 34,700 of the total of 39,500 Burundians who returned did so between July and December 2007. UNHCR's main reintegration assistance was in the form of shelter materials. However, due to the immense needs there was a waiting list for this assistance.

Through UNHCR's refugee care and maintenance programme, living conditions in camps were improved.

### Partners

#### Implementing partners

**Government agencies:** Government agencies: Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique, Ministère de la solidarité nationale, des droits de la personne humaine et du genre, Commission Nationale des Terres et Autres Biens

**NGOs:** African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, African Humanitarian Action, *Association des femmes juristes*, *Fédération Nationale des Coopératives d'Épargne et de Crédit du Burundi*, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Services, *Ligue Iteka*, Handicap International (France), *Stop SIDA*, Norwegian Refugee Council, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization - Health Net International, World Outreach Initiatives

**Others:** *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*

#### Operational partners

**NGOs:** Norwegian Refugee Council, Solidarité

**Others:** BINUB, FAO, ICRC, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

## Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	25,726,992	26,803,013	63,695	26,866,707	25,565,224

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

## Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	5,481,116	0
Community services	502,950	82,636
Crop production	0	27,494
Domestic needs and household support	1,852,193	39,149
Education	246,796	51,339
Food	106	43,231
Fisheries	0	2,849
Forestry	123,564	(11,391)
Health and nutrition	1,530,055	200,229
Income generation	142,088	11,886
Legal assistance	1,290,763	213,494
Operational support (to agencies)	1,179,137	215,827
Sanitation	43,889	21,369
Shelter and infrastructure	4,276,122	150,632
Transport and logistics	4,335,133	160,034
Water	40,629	9,580
Instalment to implementing partners	718,242	(1,218,359)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>21,762,783</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	3,802,441	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>25,565,224</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>		<b>(225,382)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Payments made	10,060,814	
Reporting received	(9,342,572)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>718,242</b>	
<b>Previous years' report</b>		
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Outstanding 1st January		1,954,506
Reporting received		(1,218,359)
Refunded to UNHCR		(217,723)
Adjustments		58,433
<b>Balance</b>		<b>576,857</b>