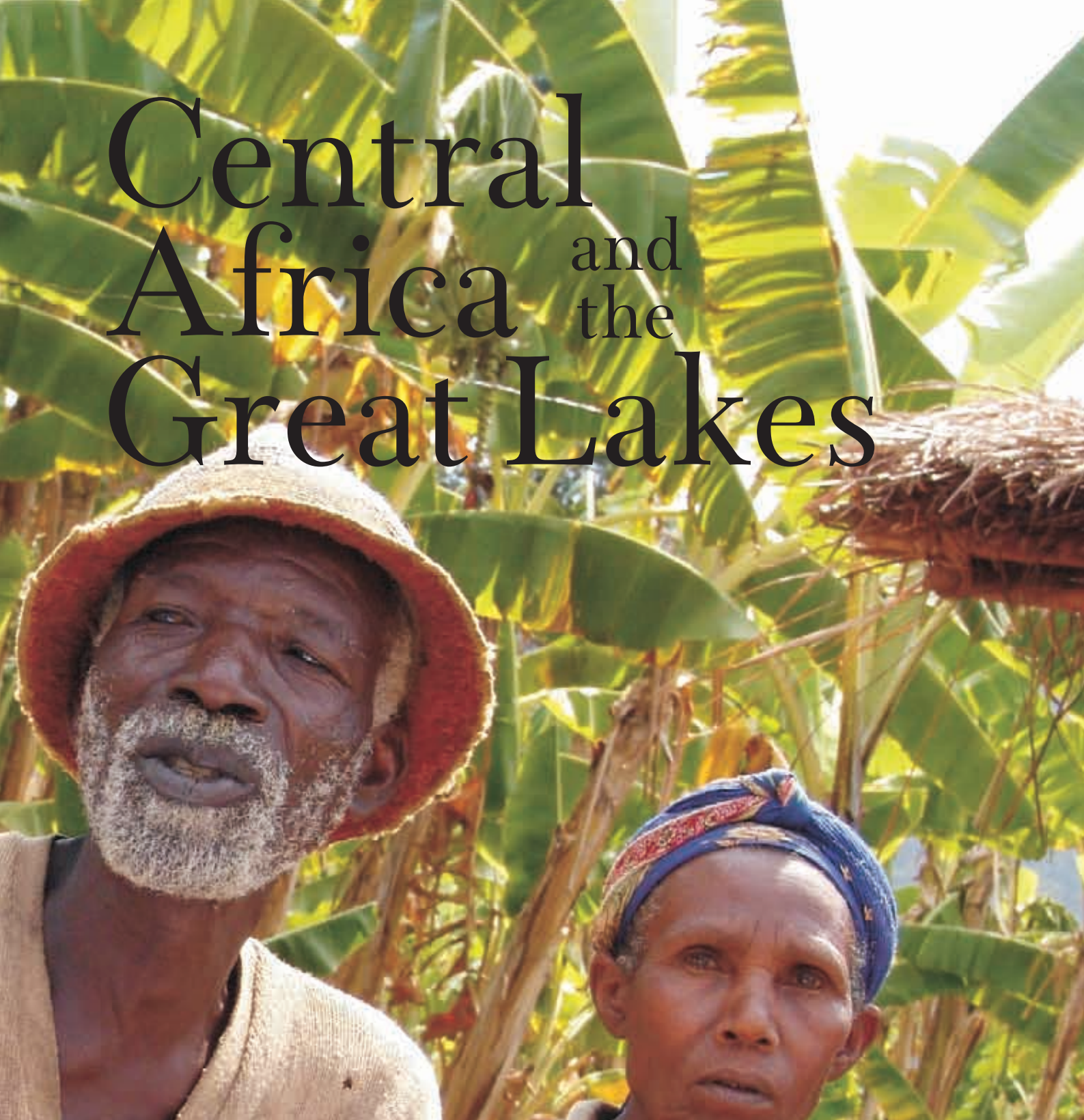


UNHCR's partner Ligue Iteka visits recently returned refugees
in Ruyigi province, Burundi

Burundi
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Republic of the Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gabon
Rwanda
United Republic of Tanzania

UNHCR / A. KIRCHHOF

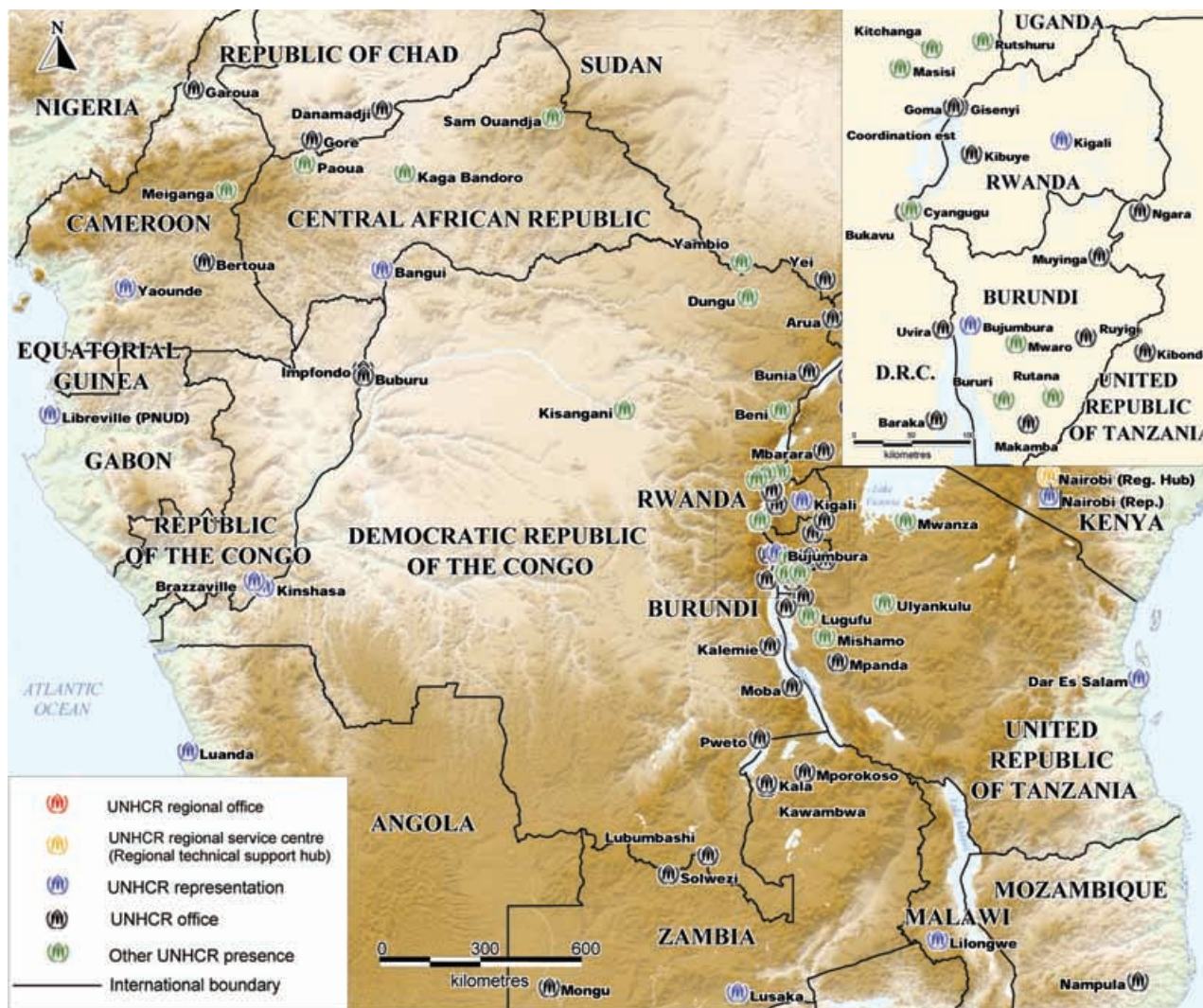


Central Africa and the Great Lakes

| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- UNHCR helped more than 150,000 refugees find a durable solution through voluntary repatriation and reintegration in their home countries, including 40,000 refugees who repatriated to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), 95,000 to Burundi and some 8,600 to Rwanda.
- The Office strengthened its resettlement capacity and almost 2,400 refugees departed for third countries.
- UNHCR provided international protection and material assistance to some 676,000 refugees, of whom 68,300 Congolese were in camps in Burundi, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Office also protected and assisted 2,700 Burundians in Rwanda, 112,000 Angolans in the DRC, more than 8,500 refugees from Chad, Sudan and the DRC in the Central African Republic (CAR) and some 81,000 refugees in Cameroon, of whom almost 63,000 were from CAR.
- The Office led the efforts of the protection cluster to improve the safety and security of IDPs in CAR and the DRC. UNHCR prepared for its office in Kinshasa to assume regional responsibilities in areas such as technical support and policy guidance in 2009.

Central Africa and the Great Lakes



Working environment

The global rise in food and fuel prices increased the cost of UNHCR operations in all countries in the region. Even though the price hikes led to some riots in Cameroon, the political situation was still not seriously affected in Cameroon, Republic of the Congo (RoC), Gabon, Rwanda and Tanzania, all of which remained stable. However, political uncertainty and insecurity did hamper operations in Burundi, CAR and the DRC.

In Burundi, peace talks with the country's last rebel group, Palipehutu-FNL, experienced setbacks in the first half of the year, culminating in armed confrontations in areas around the capital, Bujumbura, in April 2008. Talks between the Government and the rebels then resumed, raising hopes for the conversion of the rebel group into a political party as well as the demobilization of its combatants.

Despite the positive results of the Goma conference in the DRC and the signing of a peace agreement in January, fighting between government forces and rebels resumed in the second part of the year in both North Kivu and *Province Orientale*. Some 500,000 people were displaced by the fighting.

In June 2008, a peace agreement was signed in Gabon between the CAR Government and the main rebel groups active in the northern part of the country. In December, an Inclusive Political Dialogue was held in Bangui. The objective was to bring together the Government, opposition

parties and rebel groups to discuss the future of CAR and build on the momentum achieved.

In 2008, Cameroon witnessed two major influxes of refugees due to armed conflicts and social and political unrest in Chad and CAR. By the end of 2008, Cameroon was hosting and providing international protection to some 81,000 refugees, mostly from CAR.

Achievements and impact

Voluntary repatriation remained the main durable solution pursued in the region. Some 40,000 DRC refugees repatriated from neighbouring countries, including 15,700 from Tanzania, 13,500 from the RoC and 9,700 from Zambia. More than 95,000 refugees returned to Burundi, mainly from Tanzania, including 30,500 long-term refugees who had fled in 1972 and had been living in settlements.

Some 8,600 Rwandan refugees returned voluntarily from the DRC to their communities of origin with the help of UNHCR. To support their reintegration, UNHCR distributed return packages, provided shelter support and implemented community based programmes to support access to basic services and livelihood opportunities for repatriating refugees. UNHCR also helped mobilize reintegration support from other agencies and worked to find peaceful resolutions to land and property conflicts.

Protection and assistance services in camps in Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania were improved, and most standards

were either achieved or surpassed. Malaria and HIV and AIDS prevention and treatment programmes were in place in all camps.

Various programmes to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and the exploitation of children were implemented. These included improving access to firewood and education, as well as making children and communities aware of the problem of sexual violence.

To improve the protection of asylum-seekers and refugees in Cameroon, UNHCR helped to strengthen the national asylum framework and issued tamper-proof identification documents to all refugees. In 2008, priority was given to health, education, vocational training and micro-credit programmes. Cameroon was one of the eight countries selected to implement the Global Needs Assessment pilot project.

UNHCR continued to lead the protection clusters in both CAR and the DRC. In CAR, a network of humanitarian observers contributed to decreasing violations of human rights in conflict areas. In the DRC, advocacy and interventions with security forces, particularly MONUC, helped mitigate the impact of conflict and ensure the protection of displaced civilians. Non-food items were made available for emergency response in north and north-western CAR and the DRC.

Operations

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

In **Cameroon**, UNHCR assisted and protected more than 81,000 refugees made up of four population groups: some 63,000 refugees from CAR settled among the local population in villages in East and Adamaoua provinces; almost 2,900 Nigerian refugees in Adamaoua and North-West provinces; some 4,420 Chadian refugees in Langui camp in Garoua; and 10,820 refugees in urban areas in Douala and Yaoundé. There were some 2,230 pending asylum claims.

In 2008, UNHCR continued to conduct refugee status determination (RSD) and issue identification cards and certificates to refugees and asylum-seekers. More than 2,370 RSD cases, representing almost 5,200 individuals, were assessed. The average length of time between registration and an RSD interview increased, however, from three to more than four months due to a sharp increase in the number of applicants. In addition, 46 families, representing some 150 persons (mainly from the DRC and CAR) were approved for resettlement.

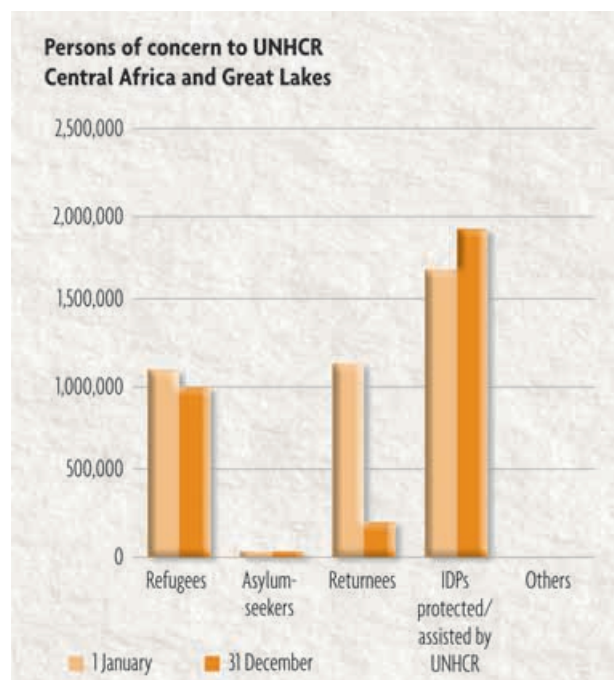
Central African refugees, settled in Cameroon's East and Adamaoua provinces, benefited from the monthly distribution of food and non-food items. Moreover, UNHCR signed agreements with 36 integrated health centres and seven district hospitals to provide medical care to refugees. UNHCR also supported 36 supplementary feeding centres and seven therapeutic feeding centres. The Office supported water and sanitation programmes in schools and health centres. As part of a malaria control project, 50,000 mosquito nets were distributed to families among both the refugee and local populations and complemented by the donation of 195,000 rapid diagnostics test kits to health centres.

Chadian refugees living in Langui camp relied entirely on humanitarian assistance and received monthly food rations from WFP. Additionally, more than 1,200 tents were installed in the camp and all refugee households received non-food and domestic items. A primary school was established in the camp and enrolled all school-aged children, and a health post furnished with essential drugs was set up in the camp to administer primary health care.

In the **Central African Republic**, some 197,000 people remained displaced due to insecurity in the northern part of the country. An increase in the number of humanitarian actors in conflict areas reduced army and rebel reprisals against the civilian population in the last quarter of 2008. UNHCR, through its partners, focused its activities on four priority areas: protection, livelihoods, community mobilization and community rehabilitation. To help small-scale agro-businesses, 212 farming cooperatives were trained and provided with kits and tools.

After the completion of the voluntary repatriation of Sudanese and DRC refugees in 2007, UNHCR's programmes for urban refugees focused on local integration. The number of asylum-seekers and refugees stood at some 5,300. Seventy-nine refugees were granted resettlement. UNHCR continued basic health and education assistance programmes and provided financial assistance to urban refugees with specific needs. Local integration and resettlement were pursued as durable solutions for those Sudanese, Congolese and other refugees who did not opt for voluntary repatriation.

UNHCR and its government partner, the National Refugee Commission, registered Sudanese refugees from Darfur in Sam Ouandja. More than 3,200 people, including some 2,000 children, were registered in the *proGres* database. Health and nutrition services were provided with a focus on community management of malaria and malnutrition. Some 650 children were enrolled in primary school, but only about half of the pupils passed the exam. The enrolment rate of girls was lower than expected.



Gabon is host to some 13,300 people of concern, of whom 9,000 are refugees and 4,300 are asylum-seekers. Most originate from the ROC, the DRC and CAR. UNHCR and the Government revisited the cases of some asylum-seekers who were denied refugee status due to their absence during a revalidation exercise in 2005. UNHCR and the National Commission for Refugees conducted a joint verification exercise which identified some 3,000 refugees.

Some 380 persons were identified as suitable for resettlement and departed for Canada, New Zealand and the United States.

During the year, UNHCR replaced one of its implementing partners in Gabon.

Constraints

Refugees in CAR do not live in camps but are scattered in more than 70 settlements along the border. Their mobility

and dispersion through over a vast swathe of territory, in addition to bad road conditions, hinders humanitarian access. Access to IDPs in CAR also remains a challenge given the lack of security in some areas.

Financial information

Over the past five years, UNHCR's expenditures in Central Africa and the Great Lakes continued to increase. This was mainly due to efforts in strengthening repatriation operations, which enabled refugees from several countries to return home. Operations were generally well funded as UNHCR continued to develop partnerships and raised funds from local donors.

In Burundi, contributions by the European Union helped to ensure reintegration activities, in particular the shelter programme. Supplementary programmes established for the protection and the assistance of IDPs in the DRC and CAR were fully funded.

Budget and expenditure in Central Africa and the Great Lakes (USD)

Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total	Annual budget	Supplementary budget	Total
Burundi	31,062,820	5,576,463	36,639,283	30,028,742	4,717,846	34,746,588
Cameroon	10,812,227	500,000	11,312,227	10,230,360	442,333	10,672,693
Central African Republic	2,848,448	2,804,057	5,652,505	2,582,915	1,983,248	4,566,163
Chad	85,024,423	15,082,897	100,107,320	81,883,972	11,329,960	93,213,932
Democratic Republic of the Congo	38,341,107	28,507,764	66,848,871	37,141,664	25,231,378	62,373,042
Gabon	2,513,449	0	2,513,449	2,232,994	0	2,232,994
Republic of the Congo	6,315,434	0	6,315,434	6,014,040	0	6,014,040
Rwanda	8,856,308	176,000	9,032,308	8,608,207	170,492	8,778,699
United Republic of Tanzania	28,722,652	14,808,612	43,531,264	27,218,503	14,708,533	41,927,036
Regional activities ¹	9,566,898	0	9,566,898	8,954,285	0	8,954,285
Total	224,063,766	67,455,793	291,519,559	214,895,682	58,583,790	273,479,472

¹ Includes assistance to refugees in the Central Africa and the Great Lakes region, such as resettlement, repatriation and care and maintenance, as well as support costs for UNVs and consultants, aircraft charter costs.

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

Voluntary contributions to Central Africa and the Great Lakes (USD)				
Earmarking	Donor	Annual Budget	Supplementary Budget	Total
Burundi	Belgium	1,244,168	289,269	1,533,437
	CERF		1,230,000	1,230,000
	Denmark	978,474		978,474
	European Commission	11,104,195	1,076,865	12,181,060
	France	145,773		145,773
	Germany	1,986,400	31,330	2,017,730
	Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA)	35,000		35,000
	Japan	1,800,000		1,800,000
	Netherlands	2,027,351		2,027,351
	United Kingdom	1,971,985		1,971,985
	United States of America	6,529,739		6,529,739
Burundi subtotal		27,823,084	2,627,464	30,450,549
Cameroon	Canada	153,374		153,374
	CERF	2,347,843		2,347,843
	European Commission	1,577,287		1,577,287
	Australia for UNHCR	19,737		19,737
	<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (Netherlands)	133,136		133,136
	UN Foundation (USA)	757,882		757,882
	Switzerland	501,505		501,505
	United Kingdom	193,474		193,474
	United States of America	500,000		500,000
Cameroon subtotal		6,184,238		6,184,238
Central Africa and the Great Lakes	Belgium	1,477,105		1,477,105
	Canada	2,249,489	475,460	2,724,949
	Denmark	4,694,112		4,694,112
	Finland	6,309,148		6,309,148
	France		271,137	271,137
	Italy		813,411	813,411
	Luxembourg	1,603,499		1,603,499
	Dutch Postcode Lottery (Netherlands)	2,139,380		2,139,380
	South Africa	72,993		72,993
	Sweden	15,100,154		15,100,154
Central Africa & the Great Lakes subtotal		33,645,879	1,560,008	35,205,887
Central African Republic	Belgium		724,299	724,299
	Canada		475,460	475,460
	CERF		427,500	427,500
	France	437,318		437,318
	Ireland	739,645		739,645
	Japan		186,916	186,916
	Luxembourg	364,431		364,431
	Spain	481,242		481,242
	Turkey		46,500	46,500
	Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS)		115,000	115,000
	United States of America	320,000	651,000	971,000
Central African Republic subtotal		2,342,636	2,626,675	4,969,311

Central Africa and the Great Lakes

Earmarking	Donor	Annual Budget	Supplementary Budget	Total
Chad	Canada	1,310,709	468,278	1,778,987
	CERF	3,047,976	1,118,258	4,166,234
	Denmark	2,087,683		2,087,683
	European Commission	13,350,794		13,350,794
	France		813,411	813,411
	Germany	2,701,008		2,701,008
	Greece	315,457		315,457
	Ireland	1,479,290	687,870	2,167,160
	Italy	2,505,701		2,505,701
	Japan	3,150,000	747,664	3,897,664
	Luxembourg	728,863		728,863
	Netherlands	1,939,300	395,901	2,335,201
	Norway	1,560,694	340,462	1,901,156
	Australia for UNHCR	770,845	19,032	789,877
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Bermuda)	25,000		25,000
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Brazil)	50,000		50,000
	Private donors In Canada	345,978		345,978
	Private donors In China	249,950		249,950
	PricewaterhouseCoopers Cyprus)	30,000		30,000
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Czech Republic)	10,700		10,700
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Fiji)	10,000		10,000
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Finland)	14,641		14,641
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (France)	99,968		99,968
	<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO</i> (Germany)	162,266		162,266
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Germany)	763,173		763,173
	Private donors In Greece	99,691		99,691
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Israel)	2,261		2,261
	Private donors In Italy	913,868		913,868
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Jamaica)	7,500		7,500
	Japan Association for UNHCR	81,066		81,066
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Kenya)	10,000		10,000
	Private donors in Korea	50,060		50,060
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Luxembourg)	50,000		50,000
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Malaysia)	53,666		53,666
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Malta)	10,000		10,000
	Dutch Postcode Lottery (Netherlands)	211,044		211,044
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Netherlands)	100,000		100,000
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Norway)	126,482		126,482
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Philippines)	5,000		5,000
	Private donors In Poland	50		50
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Portugal)	10,000		10,000
PricewaterhouseCoopers (Singapore)	50,000		50,000	
PricewaterhouseCoopers (South Africa)	10,000		10,000	
<i>España con ACNUR</i> (Spain)	582,502		582,502	
HQ Online Donations	326,021		326,021	
PricewaterhouseCoopers (Switzerland)	28,708		28,708	
PricewaterhouseCoopers (Thailand)	40,184		40,184	

Earmarking	Donor	Annual Budget	Supplementary Budget	Total
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Trinidad and Tobago)	12,000		12,000
	Charities Aid Foundation (UK)	192,154		192,154
	Private donors in the United Kingdom	28,918		28,918
	PricewaterhouseCoopers (Uruguay)	20,000		20,000
	Private donors in USA	1,100		1,100
	USA for UNHCR	2,232,387		2,232,387
	Spain	4,167,641		4,167,641
	Sweden	5,626,838	1,746,479	7,373,317
	Switzerland	1,489,390		1,489,390
	Turkey		69,750	69,750
	United Kingdom	2,371,542	551,383	2,922,925
	United States of America	23,090,331	3,236,400	26,326,731
	Chad subtotal	78,710,400	10,194,888	88,905,289
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Belgium	1,919,942		1,919,942
	Canada		950,920	950,920
	CERF	1,197,972	1,263,367	2,461,339
	Czech Republic	156,250		156,250
	European Commission	4,716,981	686,854	5,403,835
	France	594,752	677,843	1,272,595
	Germany	321,930	2,012,798	2,334,728
	Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA)	30,995		30,995
	Greece		465,000	465,000
	Italy	1,166,181		1,166,181
	Japan	7,977,040	5,527,132	13,504,172
	Luxembourg		360,931	360,931
	New Zealand		491,970	491,970
	Pooled Funds for DRC	1,174,240	1,229,595	2,403,835
	Australia for UNHCR	825,174		825,174
	Private donors in Canada	108,714	890	109,604
	Private donors in China	2,170		2,170
	<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO</i> (Germany)	323,666		323,666
	Private donors in Italy	83,992		83,992
	Japan Association for UNHCR	71,480	181,057	252,537
	<i>España con ACNUR</i> (Spain)	26,064		26,064
	HQ Online Donations	5,018		5,018
	Private donors in the United Kingdom	2,757		2,757
	USA for UNHCR	6,753		6,753
	Spain	1,364,287	656,541	2,020,828
	Sweden		1,432,974	1,432,974
	Switzerland	1,489,390	389,447	1,878,838
	Turkey		69,750	69,750
	Joint UN Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS)	229,539		229,539
	United States of America	12,444,359	5,733,379	18,177,738
	Democratic Republic of the Congo subtotal	36,239,646	22,130,449	58,370,095

Central Africa and the Great Lakes

Earmarking	Donor	Annual Budget	Supplementary Budget	Total
Gabon	United States of America	45,581		45,581
Gabon subtotal		45,581		45,581
Rwanda	Germany	188,113		188,113
	Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA)	210,000		210,000
	Private donors in Canada	200,670		200,670
	Foundation FC Barcelona (Spain)	102,500		102,500
	Private donors in Sweden	298,547		298,547
	HQ Online Donations	10,682		10,682
	UN Delivering as One	378,000		378,000
	United States of America	1,089,278		1,089,278
Rwanda subtotal		2,477,789		2,477,789
Republic of the Congo	CERF	456,358		456,358
	United States of America	957,856		957,856
Republic of the Congo subtotal		1,414,214		1,414,214
United Republic of Tanzania	Belgium	40,671	1,626,143	1,666,814
	Denmark	108,564	372,000	480,564
	European Commission	9,456,249	4,393,167	13,849,416
	Finland		1,446,345	1,446,345
	France	145,773		145,773
	Germany	288,219	1,703,011	1,991,230
	Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS (GLIA)	210,000		210,000
	Ireland		513,407	513,407
	Japan	1,500,000		1,500,000
	Netherlands	605,598	753,300	1,358,898
	Norway		1,199,140	1,199,140
	Poland		100,000	100,000
	Japan Association for UNHCR	9,868		9,868
	Private donors in USA	100		100
	Sweden		1,457,680	1,457,680
	United Kingdom	239,430	1,016,899	1,256,328
	United States of America	4,149,647	5,022,000	9,171,647
United Republic of Tanzania subtotal		16,754,117	19,603,093	36,357,210
Countries in Central Africa	Luxembourg	364,431		364,431
Countries in Central Africa subtotal		364,431		364,431
Total		206,002,016	58,742,578	264,744,594

Note: Contribution listed above excludes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions against supplementary programmes and the "New or additional activities-mandate-related" (NAM) reserve.