

# RWANDA



## Working environment

### The context

Rwanda remains stable despite concerns about security in eastern areas of the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where armed rebel groups continue to operate despite the presence of the UN peacekeeping mission. Diplomatic relations between the two countries have been restored, which could lead to a repatriation agreement with UNHCR. If that transpires, and security conditions permit, the return of some 52,000 Congolese refugees (the largest population of concern to UNHCR in Rwanda) could become possible.

In early 2009, the Governments of the DRC and Rwanda launched a joint military operation to root out and demobilize members of the rebel Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) in eastern DRC and repatriate them to Rwanda. More than 500 FDLR members have so far been demobilized, repatriated and reintegrated into Rwandan society. Some 3,800 refugees have also returned to Rwanda and reintegrated into their communities of origin.

As of December 2008, there were some 55,000 people of concern in Rwanda, including approximately 350 asylum-seekers, 52,000 Congolese refugees, 2,500 Burundian refugees (most of whom are expected to have returned by the end of 2009) and a few others. Most live in camps, while a small number reside in Kigali.

## Planning figures

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2010		DEC 2010 - JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		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	60,980	60,980	63,800	63,800	65,000	65,000
	Burundi	870	870	400	400	320	320
	Various	60	60	60	60	70	70
Asylum-seekers	DRC	400	400	500	500	550	550
	Various	60	60	20	20	30	30
Returnees (refugees)		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>72,360</b>	<b>72,360</b>	<b>74,780</b>	<b>74,780</b>	<b>75,970</b>	<b>75,970</b>



## ● *The needs*

UNHCR's work on behalf of refugees in the country is generally seen in a positive light. But with the Rwandan population growing, the access of refugees to jobs, business opportunities and agricultural land is limited. Participatory assessments among the refugees highlight a widespread dependency on humanitarian aid. Some appear disillusioned after lengthy periods of displacement.

In most camps, the lack of sufficient space means that houses are constructed close to each other, creating problems of sanitation and hygiene. Currently the average space per person in each camp is 16,33 square metres, instead of the 45 square metres minimum standard.

There is also a need for an increase in the supply of sanitary material for women and girls attending school. The global needs assessment also identified the need for additional funds for secondary education and more support for students with specific needs. There is currently no accurate information on HIV prevalence rates in the camps since there has been no survey conducted since 2005.

Despite receiving some assistance, returnees endure harsh living conditions. Returnees from urban areas

do not receive the appropriate returnee packages, which would assist them in starting a new life, and rural returnees face problems in accessing agricultural land, an issue of crucial importance. The number of Rwandese returning home over the past three years ranged between 8,000 and 10,000 per year. But in 2009, the number has been significantly lower. However, if the FDLR is disarmed, some 20,000 could make their way back home.

## | *Main objectives* |

### Fair protection processes

- Ensure access to refugee status determination procedures (RSD) for all asylum-seekers, by enhancing the capacity of the National Council for Refugees.

### Basic needs and services

- Ensure comprehensive protection and assistance covering basic needs, including the protection of all refugees and returnees in Rwanda against violence and abuse.
- Improve the standard of living and reduce the vulnerability of beneficiaries in all sites, especially in relation to water and sanitation, health and shelter.

## *Key targets for 2010*

- The capacity of the National Refugee Council to conduct RSD according to international standards is strengthened, and the backlog of asylum claims cleared.
- Some 53,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are protected and assisted.
- Living conditions in the camps are improved; standards for the water, sanitation, health and shelter sectors are met.
- If conditions permit, 2,000 Congolese refugees are repatriated to the eastern DRC.
- Some 10,000 Rwandan refugees return home.

### Durable solutions

- While observing the evolving situation in the DRC, prepare for the eventual voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees.
- Use resettlement as a protection tool and a durable solution, and include it in the comprehensive strategy.
- Promote the voluntary repatriation of 10,000 Rwandan refugees, through the provision of return packages, and plan for reintegration activities.



Rwandans returning home from Burundi.

## UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	5
□ Total staff	79
International	7
National	57
JPOs	1
UNVs	11
Others	3

## PARTNERS

### Implementing partners

#### Government agencies:

National Refugee Council (Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance and Community Development and Social Affairs)

#### NGOs:

African Humanitarian Action  
American Refugee Committee  
Jesuit Refugee Service  
Forum for African Women Educationalists

#### Others:

*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*

### Operational partners

#### Government agencies:

National Refugee Council (Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance and Community Development and Social Affairs)

#### NGOs:

American Refugee Committee  
Jesuit Refugee Service

#### Others:

UNDP  
FAO  
UNICEF  
WFP  
WHO  
*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*

## | Strategy and activities |

The current environment in Rwanda revolves mainly around protection activities, with the limited pursuit of durable solutions. In 2010, the protection strategy will endeavor to ensure proper reception and RSD facilities. In an effort to assist refugees to become self-reliant, pending the realization of durable solutions, the Office will promote income-generation activities and provide basic technical skills in carpentry, tailoring and other professions.

Repatriation is largely dependent on the evolving and unpredictable situation in the countries of origin and on broader developments in the Great Lakes Region. Local integration is not an option, due to the shortage of land in Rwanda. Resettlement remains the main durable solution for refugees who meet the required criteria. Given the protracted situation of the refugees, the pursuit of durable solutions and self-reliance initiatives should be strengthened.

The majority of the returnees have a farming background, but their chances of ensuring their subsistence are limited by difficulties in retrieving their land. In order to evaluate the sustainability of the repatriation and the restoration of national protection, UNHCR's monitoring activities will focus on issues such as access to land and housing, security, justice and reconciliation, the relationship of the returnees with regard to the *Gacaca* (village) courts, and the situation of children and women.

#### ○ Constraints

A 2007 intention survey and a 2008 profiling exercise revealed that 71 per cent and 80 per cent, respectively, of Congolese refugees are willing to return to their country should peace, security and stability be guaranteed. The joint operation of the

Rwandan and DRC forces was credited with the repatriation of hundreds of FDLR militiamen who are being reintegrated in Rwanda. However, rebels are now retaking many of their positions and carrying out reprisals on civilians suspected of cooperating with the joint offensive. More than 160,000 civilians have been displaced since January 2009.

## | Organization and implementation |

#### ○ Coordination

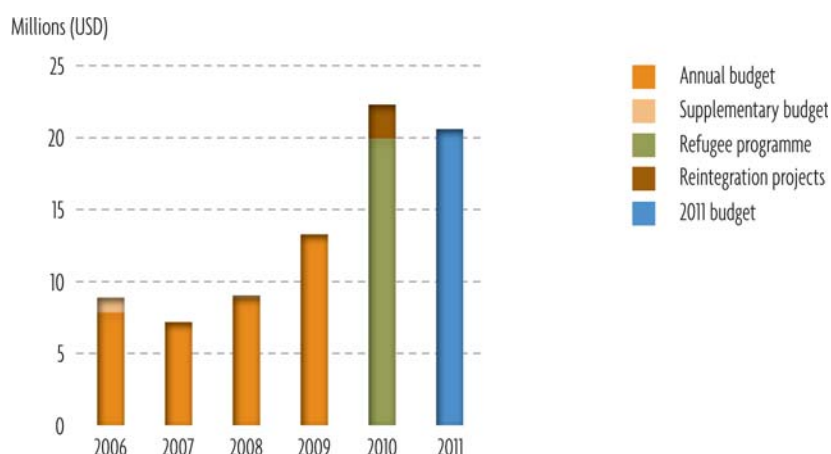
UNHCR works with one national NGO, the Government and four international NGOs in Rwanda. Among the UN agencies, UNHCR works closely with WFP to provide food rations in the camps and transit centres. UNHCR has also established a partnership with UNICEF to provide education and therapeutic milk in the nutritional centres in the camps, and medicines in the transit centres. During the course of the year, UNICEF also provided a number of school kits to the children at the transit centres. UNHCR works with other UN agencies in the UN Country Team and in the framework of the One UN initiative. As regards the latter, UNHCR is responsible for social protection, health, HIV and AIDS and education. UNHCR will continue to participate in the Disaster Management Task Force and co-chair the body.

## | Financial information |

Rwanda was selected as one of the pilot countries for the One UN initiative and pilot global needs assessment, which led to the slight increase in the budget for 2009. The increased requirements for 2010 reflect the need to improve standards in the provision of basic needs, especially health care, education, shelter and clean water for refugees.



## UNHCR's budget in Rwanda 2006 - 2011



## 2010 UNHCR Budget for Rwanda (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	TOTAL
<b>Favourable protection environment</b>			
International and regional instruments	76,487	0	<b>76,487</b>
National legal framework	59,097	0	<b>59,097</b>
National administrative framework	185,487	0	<b>185,487</b>
National and regional migration policy	121,487	0	<b>121,487</b>
Prevention of statelessness	97,987	0	<b>97,987</b>
National development policies	105,987	0	<b>105,987</b>
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	292,694	0	<b>292,694</b>
Access to territory	96,087	0	<b>96,087</b>
Non-refoulement	70,587	0	<b>70,587</b>
Environmental protection	886,420	0	<b>886,420</b>
Emergency management	158,487	0	<b>158,487</b>
Subtotal	<b>2,150,806</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2,150,806</b>
<b>Fair protection processes and documentation</b>			
Reception conditions	297,346	0	<b>297,346</b>
Registration and profiling	411,279	0	<b>411,279</b>
Fair and efficient status determination	130,083	0	<b>130,083</b>
Individual documentation	231,996	0	<b>231,996</b>
Civil status documentation	332,655	0	<b>332,655</b>
Subtotal	<b>1,403,359</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,403,359</b>
<b>Security from violence and exploitation</b>			
Gender-based violence	396,091	0	<b>396,091</b>
Protection of children	334,174	30,160	<b>364,334</b>
Non-arbitrary detention	0	22,635	<b>22,635</b>
Access to legal remedies	269,044	19,635	<b>288,679</b>
Subtotal	<b>999,309</b>	<b>72,429</b>	<b>1,071,739</b>

## Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Some 10,000 returnees will not receive packages for shelter, domestic supplies and hygiene items.
- No communal infrastructure (health centers, schools) will be rehabilitated to facilitate the reintegration of the returnee population.
- Some 2,250 returnee children will not have access to education.
- Only 27 out of 90 victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the camps will be assisted, and counselling will be provided to only 75 of the 250 people planned.
- Only nine people of the 30 planned officials will benefit from targeted training in RSD procedures.
- Some 65 per cent of people of concern will not have access to adequate sanitation; 25,200 sanitary kits will not be provided.
- An estimated 40,000 persons out of 58,000 will not benefit from primary health care in the camps.
- Only 1,750 of the planned 2,500 Congolese will be assisted with repatriation.
- Only 3,000 of the 10,000 refugees in the camps will receive vocational skills training.
- Individual assistance will not be made available to those with specific needs among the 2,300 urban refugees.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROJECTS PILLAR 3	TOTAL
<b>Basic needs and essential services</b>			
Food security	60,000	109,477	169,477
Nutrition	792,608	47,385	839,993
Water	1,524,908	0	1,524,908
Shelter and other infrastructure	1,291,915	655,592	1,947,507
Basic domestic and hygiene items	1,149,440	14,450	1,163,890
Primary health care	1,494,460	0	1,494,460
HIV and AIDS	838,518	20,527	859,045
Education	1,708,817	548,027	2,256,844
Sanitation services	1,664,108	0	1,664,108
Services for groups with specific needs	816,776	580,307	1,397,084
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>11,341,550</b>	<b>1,975,767</b>	<b>13,317,317</b>
<b>Community participation and self-management</b>			
Participatory assessment and community mobilization	204,294	0	204,294
Self-reliance and livelihoods	898,203	0	898,203
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,102,497</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,102,497</b>
<b>Durable solutions</b>			
Voluntary return	692,383	0	692,383
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	146,086	146,086
Resettlement	530,116	0	530,116
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,222,499</b>	<b>146,086</b>	<b>1,368,585</b>
<b>External relations</b>			
Donor relations	260,915	0	260,915
Resource mobilization	310,915	0	310,915
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>571,830</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>571,830</b>
<b>Logistics and operations support</b>			
Supply chain and logistics	524,253	138,885	663,139
Programme management, coordination and support	621,895	68,492	690,387
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,146,148</b>	<b>207,377</b>	<b>1,353,525</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,937,999</b>	<b>2,401,659</b>	<b>22,339,658</b>
<b>2011 Budget</b>			<b>20,611,000</b>
<b>2009 Revised annual budget</b>			<b>13,265,626</b>