

RWANDA



Working environment

The context

The political situation within Rwanda remains relatively stable, despite some unrest during preparation for presidential elections that were conducted peacefully in August 2010. In April 2010, the Government established a new Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), which is expected to provide more attention to issues related to refugees and others of concern to UNHCR. Rwanda's legislative processes have been particularly active and 58 new laws, the majority concerning the economy, have been passed by the Parliament. They notably include a new Gender Law which aims to ensure

gender equality at all levels. It will also guarantee the economic self-reliance of women—which should include refugee women.

The Rwandan Government has among its priorities the repatriation of Rwandan refugees still in neighbouring countries, and has requested UNHCR to invoke the cessation clause for this group. UNHCR is working with all concerned parties, including the Rwandan Government and asylum countries, towards the possible application of this clause by the end of 2011. Prior to that, UNHCR will promote the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees still in exile, search for alternative solutions for those who may not be able to return, and meet the protection needs of selected cases. The date of the declaration of the cessation clause will depend on progress in these areas.

Planning figures for Rwanda

TYPE OF POPULATION	ORIGIN	JAN 2011		DEC 2011	
		TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR	TOTAL IN COUNTRY	OF WHOM ASSISTED BY UNHCR
Refugees	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	53,600	53,600	43,000	43,000
	Burundi	360	0	0	0
	Various	0	0	210	210
Asylum-seekers	Dem. Rep. of the Congo	0	0	180	180
Returnees (refugees)	Rwanda	20,000	20,000	30,000	30,000
Total		73,960	73,600	73,390	73,390



The Community Technology Access project in Kiziba camp allows refugees to use computer technology for education as well as business and livelihood purposes.

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By mid-2010, UNHCR was assisting some 55,000 people of concern in Rwanda, mainly refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The majority of these refugees live in camps, while a small number reside in Kigali. In 2011, it is envisaged that some 10,000 of this population will be assisted to voluntarily repatriate, subject to the improvement of the security situation in the DRC.

● *The needs*

Refugee households in Rwanda remain highly dependent on the protection and assistance provided by UNHCR. Lack of land, of income-generating activities and limited access to education, as well as low skill levels hinder their self-reliance and increase this dependency. The harsh living conditions in the camps are further exacerbated by poor soil, erosion-prone hillsides, inclement weather and crowded shelters. The average camp area per refugee is 16.2 square metres, significantly lower than the standard of 45 square metres, posing sanitation and hygiene problems.

Returnees to Rwanda receive three-month food rations as well as basic non-food items (NFIs), before their transport to their districts of origin is facilitated. But there is also a need for reintegration projects, including skills training, income-generation and livelihood activities. The returnees face extreme poverty, as well as land and shelter issues, lack of medical coverage, a dearth of job opportunities and the need to walk long distances in search of water. By mid-2010, some 6,600 returnees had been received and assisted by UNHCR since the beginning of the year.

Main objectives and targets

Favourable protection environment

- An asylum environment conducive to protection is maintained through the observance of asylum, refugee and returnee rights.
- Tolerance and understanding for refugees are promoted.
 - ☞ *Government officials are trained in international refugee and human rights law.*

Fair protection processes

- Access, admission, registration and eligibility determination for persons of concern are improved.
- Registration is carried out on a continuous basis, and documentation is provided to all people of concern.
 - ☞ *National institutions are assisted in the issue of civil documentation.*
 - ☞ *National institutions are also assisted to issue travel documents.*

Security from violence and exploitation

- Incidents of sexual and gender-based violence among refugees is reduced.
- Child-protection activities are increased.
 - ☞ *More early childhood development centres are set up.*
 - ☞ *Training on children's rights is provided, and child protection committees are instituted.*

Basic needs and services

- Shelter and infrastructure are improved.
 - ☞ *Some 95 per cent of households live in adequate dwellings.*
- The supply of potable water is increased or maintained.
 - ☞ *Refugees have access to 20 litres of water per person per day.*
- The population of concern enjoys satisfactory sanitation.
 - ☞ *All camp-based refugees have adequate sanitation.*
- The population of concern has optimal access to education.
 - ☞ *Some 15,000 refugees aged six to 11 are enrolled in primary education.*
- The health of the population of concern improves or remains stable.
- The risk of HIV and AIDS is reduced and the quality of response improved.

Durable solutions

- Voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees and asylum-seekers is promoted.
 - ☞ *Information campaigns are conducted in and outside Rwanda.*
 - ☞ *The Government provides favourable reception conditions for 30,000 returnees.*
 - ☞ *Reintegration assistance is provided and monitoring activities are undertaken throughout the country.*
- Resettlement is promoted as a durable solution.
 - ☞ *Some 3,500 individuals are submitted for resettlement.*
 - ☞ *Suitable solutions are found for the remaining 360 Burundians in Rwanda.*

UNHCR's presence in 2011

□ Number of offices	5
□ Total staff	61
International	8
National	38
JPOs	1
UNVs	9
Others	5

PARTNERS

Implementing partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs

NGOs:

Africa Humanitarian Action
American Refugee Committee
Jesuit Refugee Service
Adventist Development and Relief Agency

Operational partners

Government agencies:

Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs

NGOs:

American Refugee Committee
Jesuit Refugee Service

Others:

WFP
UNICEF

Strategy and activities in 2011

UNHCR's protection and solutions strategy in Rwanda increasingly focuses on finding durable solutions for populations of concern, especially through voluntary repatriation and resettlement. In terms of repatriation, the focus is on the voluntary return of Congolese refugees to the DRC and the reception of Rwandan refugees back in Rwanda. Local integration possibilities will also be pursued, although the results are expected to be limited.

Beyond providing basic life-saving assistance, UNHCR will endeavour to ensure a more favourable protection environment by improving child protection through secondary school education, preventing and addressing sexual and gender-based violence and developing a robust solutions strategy. This will include skills training and self-reliance projects, as well as long-term solutions through resettlement, voluntary repatriation and reintegration.

The year 2011 will mark an important stage in deliberations regarding the possible declaration of the cessation clause for Rwandans still in asylum countries. A roadmap of activities has been developed in May 2010, consisting of a series of actions to be undertaken in asylum countries in 2010–2011, to prepare for the return home of Rwandan refugees, or to provide them with an alternative status. It also includes the setting up of reintegration projects, clear and transparent information-sharing processes, and a series of regional meetings with countries hosting the largest numbers of Rwandan refugees and asylum-seekers.

Constraints

Military operations and political uncertainty in the eastern parts of the DRC and in Burundi may hamper the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Rwanda.

Waning public tolerance of the presence of refugees and asylum-seekers could pose a challenge to the protection of those remaining in Rwanda. The provision of additional land to expand the camps may still prove contentious, with the result that overcrowding in the camps is likely to persist. The scarcity of land in Rwanda is expected to affect local integration and self-reliance measures for refugees in the country.

Organization and implementation

Coordination

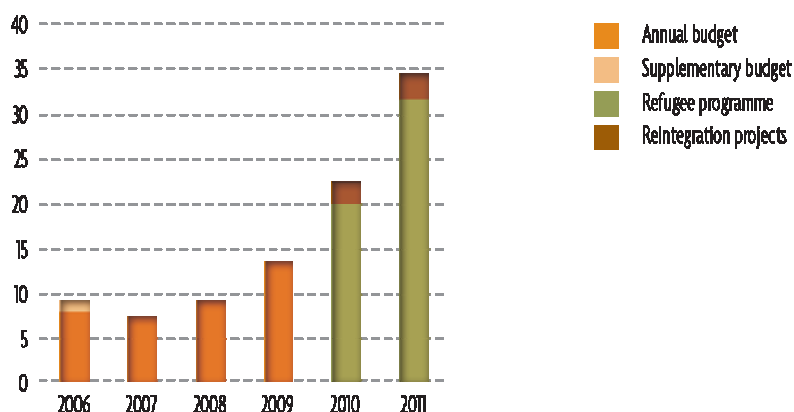
UNHCR works with the Government and with four international NGOs in Rwanda. It also works closely with WFP to provide food rations in the camps and transit centres, and has established a partnership with UNICEF on child protection interventions in the camps. Along with other UN agencies, it participates in the UN Country Team and in the Delivering as One initiative. UNHCR continues to participate in and co-chair the Disaster Management Task Force.

Financial information

UNHCR's comprehensive budget in Rwanda for 2011 totals some USD 34.4 million, up from USD 22.4 million in 2010. The increase will allow for improvements in basic services in the camps, particularly shelter, education, health care and sanitation.

UNHCR's budget in Rwanda 2006 – 2011

Millions (USD)



2011 UNHCR Budget for Rwanda (USD)

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME PILLAR 3	TOTAL
Favourable protection environment			
International and regional instruments	17,265	0	17,265
National legal framework	57,875	0	57,875
National administrative framework	202,112	0	202,112
National and regional migration policy	120,265	0	120,265
Prevention of statelessness	27,265	0	27,265
National development policies	17,265	0	17,265
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	269,201	0	269,201
Access to territory	94,865	0	94,865
Non-refoulement	17,265	0	17,265
Environmental protection	576,716	0	576,716
Emergency management	367,265	0	367,265
Subtotal	1,767,361	0	1,767,361
Fair protection processes and documentation			
Reception conditions	187,217	0	187,217
Registration and profiling	651,410	0	651,410
Fair and efficient status determination	297,923	0	297,923
Individual documentation	198,747	0	198,747
Civil status documentation	381,169	0	381,169
Subtotal	1,716,466	0	1,716,466
Security from violence and exploitation			
Gender-based violence	241,319	0	241,319
Protection of children	453,494	44,457	497,951
Non-arbitrary detention	0	37,457	37,457
Access to legal remedies	502,039	34,457	536,496
Non-arbitrary detention	0	37,457	37,457
Subtotal	1,196,852	116,372	1,313,224
Basic needs and essential services			
Food security	80,161	18,989	99,149
Primary health care	3,115,467	0	3,115,467
Nutrition	1,025,946	55,230	1,081,176
Water	2,165,960	0	2,165,960
Shelter and other infrastructure	2,454,497	763,999	3,218,496
Basic domestic and hygiene items	1,193,416	18,989	1,212,404
HIV and AIDS	703,400	41,527	744,927
Education	3,293,930	93,989	3,387,919
Sanitation services	3,046,946	0	3,046,946
Services for groups with specific needs	550,852	586,136	1,136,988
Subtotal	17,630,575	1,578,857	19,209,432

Consequences of a 20 – 40 per cent funding shortfall

- Some 2,000 shelters will not be rehabilitated or reconstructed, exposing families to inclement weather.
- No vocational or skills training will be provided in the camps, leaving refugees to develop survival strategies on their own, and putting them at risk of exploitation.
- Only 3,000 of the planned 10,000 Congolese refugees will receive repatriation packages.
- Some 65 per cent of people of concern will not have access to adequate sanitation and 400,000 pieces of soap will not be provided.
- Some 3,000 refugee children will not be able to complete primary school.
- Only a third of victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the camps will receive assistance and counselling.
- Individuals with specific needs among the 1,740 urban refugees will not receive assistance.
- Some 20,000 Rwandan returnees will not receive adequate assistance, leading to a decline in interest in return.
- Only 60 per cent of refugee households will be provided with firewood, leaving women and girls exposed to sexual abuse and exploitation while they are out of the camp to fetch firewood.

RIGHTS GROUPS AND OBJECTIVES	REFUGEE PROGRAMME PILLAR 1	REINTEGRATION PROGRAMME PILLAR 3	TOTAL
Community participation and self-management			
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	179,913	0	179,913
Self-reliance and livelihoods	2,485,779	0	2,485,779
Subtotal	2,665,692	0	2,665,692
Durable solutions			
Voluntary return	947,881	0	947,881
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	0	464,777	464,777
Resettlement	1,733,889	0	1,733,889
Subtotal	2,681,770	464,777	3,146,547
External relations			
Donor relations	143,135	0	143,135
Resource mobilisation	93,135	0	93,135
Subtotal	236,269	0	236,269
Logistics and operations support			
Supply chain and logistics	1,672,491	416,238	2,088,729
Programme management, coordination and support	2,049,779	223,074	2,272,853
Subtotal	3,722,270	639,312	4,361,582
Total	31,617,255	2,799,319	34,416,574
2010 Revised budget	19,987,999	2,401,659	22,389,658