

Sudan

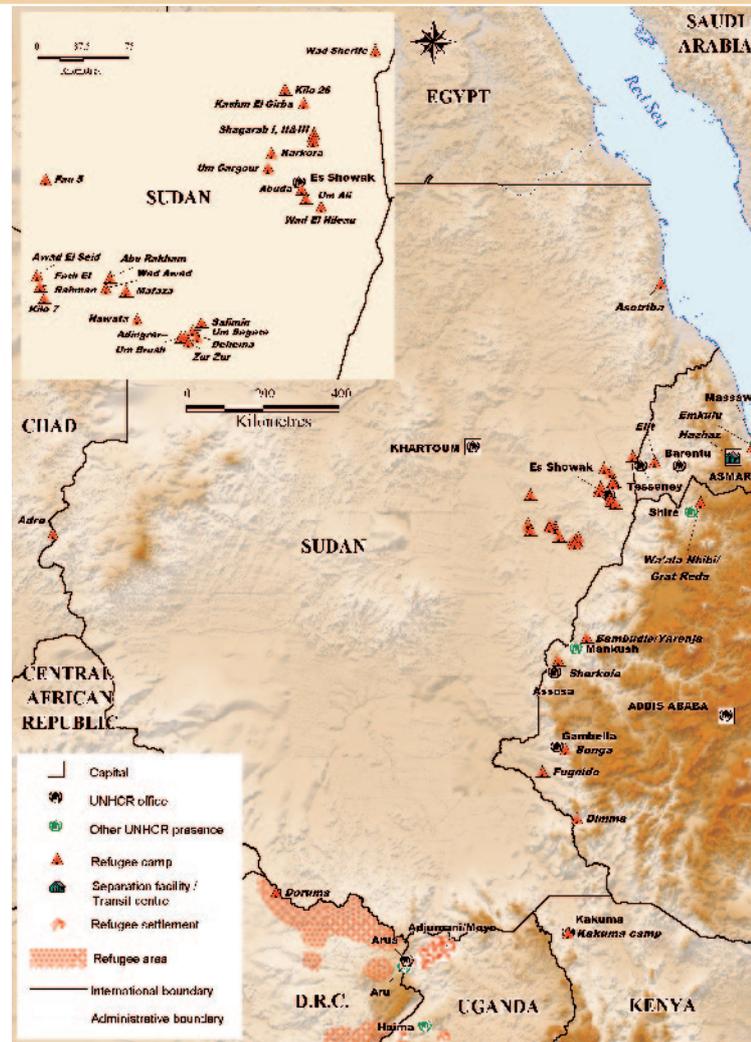
Main Objectives

- Implement the Cessation Clause for Eritrean refugees by facilitating the voluntary repatriation of some 62,000 Eritrean refugees, while continuing to protect and assist those who remain in Sudan pending the identification of durable solutions for them.
- Provide protection and assistance to smaller groups of refugees of mainly Congolese (DRC), Ugandan, Ethiopian and Somali origin, and facilitate durable solutions where possible.
- Promote gender equality concepts and refugee education.
- Pursue environmental rehabilitation in refugee-affected areas.
- Adjust the country programme to reflect the diminishing numbers of refugees.

Working Environment

Recent Developments

Peace talks held in the Kenyan town of Machakos, under the auspices of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development, are aimed at ending the hostilities between the Government of the Sudan and the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA). Despite several setbacks, including the breakdown of negotiations in September 2002 following the SPLA's capture of Torit town in southern Sudan, and mutual allegations of cease-fire violations, the parties nonetheless remain engaged in



the process – partly due to substantial international involvement. In the eastern parts of the country, where the majority of refugee settlements are located, repeated rebel incursions and their occupation of two vital towns have not only made UNHCR's work more difficult, but also put a strain on relations between Sudan and Eritrea, from where the militias are launching their attacks. As a result, the Government of Sudan closed its border with Eritrea on 4 October, thus forcing UNHCR to temporarily suspend its repatriation operation.

In spite of these latest developments, UNHCR remains hopeful that voluntary repatriation to Eritrea will soon resume, and

Planning Figures

Population	Jan. 2003	Dec. 2003
Refugees ¹	104,500	344,500
Other Refugees ²	218,800	N/A ³
Total	323,300	344,500

¹ Camp-based refugees only.

² Government figures for urban refugees.

³ At the time of going to print, estimates were not available.

Total Requirements: USD 12,397,463

that some 62,000 refugees will return in the course of 2003. Demand for repatriation assistance is expected to be high in light of the coming into force of the 'Ceased Circumstances Cessation Clause' for Eritrean refugees on 31 December 2002. Refugees have been comprehensively informed about all the implications of the Cessation Clause and about their respective options. All affected refugees are therefore required to either register for voluntary repatriation, apply for regularisation of their status in Sudan or claim continued refugee status before the end of the year.

Constraints

The Sudanese Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) is at the same time the prime policy-making agency and UNHCR's main implementing partner. This affects UNHCR's ability to choose partners and introduce changes to the programme. Furthermore, operations remain vulnerable to global funding shortages and budget cuts, at a time when additional resources are required for the effective implementation of the Cessation Clause for Eritrean refugees. With regard to durable solutions, the Government of Sudan does not favour local integration of refugees for whom repatriation is not an option, even if they have lived in the country for several decades. UNHCR's ability to phase out assistance programmes will depend on the success of its advocacy in this context.

On a political level, the voluntary repatriation operation could be adversely affected by any deterioration in relations between the Governments of Sudan and Eritrea over incursions into eastern Sudan by elements opposed to the Sudanese Government.

Strategy

Protection and Solutions

Eritrean Refugees: Implementing the Cessation Clause for Eritrean refugees entails organising a large-scale voluntary return movement, offering protection and assistance to returnees in transit, ensuring continued protection for those with compelling reasons not to return, and working towards the legalisation of their status as immigrants or perma-

nent residents. The first priority is to ensure that refugees can make an informed decision about their return and that repatriation occurs in safe and dignified circumstances. Ongoing information campaigns therefore address issues of concern to the refugees, such as the amount of rehabilitation work done and services available in their respective areas of return. Refugees who do not wish to repatriate will be screened and their status determined on a case-by-case basis. As UNHCR is not presently involved in the Government's RSD procedures, the Office will continue to work towards the establishment of a joint RSD body.

Pending the identification of durable solutions for them, the remaining Eritrean refugees as well as refugees of other nationalities will continue to benefit from international protection and assistance. Close protection monitoring will help sustain the civilian nature of refugee settlements and allow for the timely identification of individual protection cases.

Assistance

As in previous years, camp-based refugees will receive basic food rations from WFP in accordance with joint UNHCR/WFP/COR standards. UNHCR will meet a part of the transport and staff cost related to food delivery and distribution. In order to prevent malnutrition, it will provide supplementary food to refugee children, breastfeeding mothers and other vulnerable individuals. Meanwhile, acceptable health standards will be ensured through the provision of health services in refugee settlements, with a focus on preventive rather than curative care. The key elements of UNHCR health programmes will include primary health care services, control of communicable diseases, health education and nutritional rehabilitation as well as a range of activities in the areas of reproductive health and sexually transmitted diseases. HIV/AIDS prevention takes high priority in UNHCR's Sudan programme. A number of activities will be carried out in this context, including the training of healthcare workers, surveillance of HIV/AIDS prevalence, introduction of necessary precautions in healthcare facilities, distribution of condoms, awareness raising and comprehensive care for people living with AIDS.

In order to ensure an adequate daily supply of 15 to 20 litres of potable water per person, UNHCR will

maintain the necessary water infrastructure in refugee camps. Pipelines, water pumps and water systems will be repaired and replaced as needed. The office will make further efforts to involve the refugee communities in the effective management of communal sanitation systems, including regular disposal of human and solid waste, vector control and



Once registered, refugees can begin to collect jerry cans, plastic sheeting and other domestic items being distributed by UNHCR. UNHCR / S. Mann

hygiene education. Tools will be distributed to enable the refugees to maintain their own sanitary facilities. Primary education for refugee children and adolescents will remain one of the mainstays of UNHCR's Sudan programme. All camp-based refugee children will be able to attend classes, and a special effort will be made to ensure a gender balance in schools. UNHCR will provide all teaching materials and cover the cost of teacher training and refresher courses. Although, for lack of funds, UNHCR can no longer sponsor secondary education, it continues to offer vocational training courses in carpentry, tailoring and sheet-metal work to unemployed youth in selected camps and urban centres. Refugees in camps will be able to participate in literacy classes

and make use of community-run libraries to maintain and improve their skills. The spectrum of community services in camps will range from the distribution of sanitary materials for women and girls, or the sensitisation of communities to the effects of harmful traditional practices, to the organisation of sports, music and drama activities.

In Khartoum and Es-Showak, vulnerable urban refugees, such as single mothers, the elderly or the chronically ill, will be supported financially to help them meet the costs of housing and basic subsistence. UNHCR will also offer social, medical and counselling services to urban refugees on a needs basis. In addition, limited literacy and vocational training as well as income-generation activities will be made available to shore up the coping mechanisms of vulnerable refugees in urban centres.

In most sectors, refugee communities will be encouraged to actively participate in the provision of services. The role of women, in particular, will be strengthened by involving them from the outset in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and programmes. Furthermore, they will have access to income-generating activities such as sewing, soap production, embroidery and basket-making. Women will be active in the management of tree nurseries, the distribution of sanitary materials, the production of energy-saving stoves and the maintenance of vegetable gardens. Guided by the objectives of the Action for Rights of Children and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, UNHCR will also strive to further improve protection and care for children and adolescents so as to meet their particular developmental needs. To this end, the Office will provide counselling, educate youth about reproductive health issues and sexually transmitted diseases, and work with communities to discourage harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage of under-age children and early pregnancy.

In light of the scarcity of natural resources and substantial environmental degradation in refugee-hosting areas, UNHCR will undertake a variety of measures to rehabilitate the environment in and around refugee camps. The target for 2003 is to rehabilitate 3,200 hectares of deforested land in eastern Sudan, to maintain 50 hectares of agro-forestry wood-lots in the camps, and to distribute

150,000 tree seedlings to refugees and locals for the “greening” of their settlements. At the same time, the production and distribution of energy-saving stoves will help reduce energy consumption, and awareness raising activities should make people think more carefully about their environment. All environmental projects will rely heavily on the active participation of refugees and local communities. This should generate a sense of ownership at the same time as encouraging better natural resource management.

It is also foreseen that the existing 18 refugee camps will be closed and handed over to the Government. In this regard, UNHCR fielded a joint mission with FAO and Government of Sudan in order to develop projects geared towards rehabilitation of refugee-affected areas that will eventually incorporate other UN agencies. The main objective will be to relocate the residual Eritrean refugees who have compelling reasons not to return, to two existing refugee camps. This objective will be executed with the collaboration of the relevant government departments including Health, Education and Water.

Other Refugees: UNHCR will continue to protect and care for smaller groups of refugees from Ethiopia, Uganda and other countries. They will benefit from protection monitoring and limited assistance in urban centres. Wherever possible,

the Office will facilitate the repatriation of those wishing to go home, while pursuing the resettlement in third countries of refugees who meet the relevant criteria.

Organisation and Implementation

Management Structure

UNHCR’s operations will be managed by the office in Khartoum, with support from one Sub-Office at Es-Showak. The operation is run by a total of 19 international and 59 national staff. The present deployment of screening teams might have to be extended into 2003 to allow them to complete their RSD work in view of the large number of applications for continued refugee status.

Co-ordination

UNHCR will continue to work in partnership with the Government and seven NGOs to implement the programme. Various line ministries and UN sister agencies will also play a key role, especially in rehabilitation activities. National NGOs will be involved in primary healthcare, supplementary feeding, education, water supply and small-scale community development activities.

Offices
Khartoum
Es-Showak

Partners
Government Agencies
Commissioner for Refugees
National Forestry Corporation
NGOs
Benevolence International Foundation
Global Health Foundation
Human Appeal International
Islamic African Relief Association
Ockenden International
Sudan Open Learning Organisation
Sudanese Red Crescent Society

Budget (USD)	
Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,406,980
Community Services	18,261
Domestic Needs	340,213
Education	624,614
Food	500,321
Forestry	300,000
Health	1,588,288
Income Generation	17,431
Legal Assistance	539,907
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,262,139
Sanitation	180,829
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	598,676
Transport / Logistics	2,178,031
Water	300,890
Total Operations	10,856,580
Programme Support	1,540,883
Total	12,397,463