

SUDAN

IN SHORT

Main Objectives

- Promote voluntary repatriation for Eritrean, Ethiopian, Chadian, Congolese and other refugees settled in camps and urban areas.
- Provide international protection and life-sustaining services pending lasting solutions for camp-based and urban refugees and asylum-seekers.
- Plan for the gradual phase-out of assistance and hand-over to relevant government authorities.
- Undertake selective rehabilitation activities in areas with a large refugee population.



Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Eritrean Refugees	147,000	122,000
Ethiopian Refugees	12,000	2,000
Chadian Refugees	4,400	0
Congolese Refugees	334	0
Other Refugees	8,900	8,900
Urban Refugees*	232,000	232,000
Total	404,634	364,900

* Although urban refugees are covered under UNHCR's protection mandate, only the particularly needy among them receive limited material assistance.

**Total Requirements
USD 10,778,367**



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

Sudan is hosting more than 170,000 camp-based refugees and an estimated 232,000 urban refugees, principally from Eritrea, with lesser numbers from Ethiopia, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Uganda and Somalia. Most refugees have been in the country for many years due to the political conditions in their home countries. Current relations between Eritrea and Sudan, and the recent border conflict between Eritrea and Ethiopia, have hampered UNHCR's efforts to resume the voluntary repatriation operation for the Eritreans. Following political changes in Ethiopia in 1991, many Ethiopian refugees were assisted by UNHCR to return home and the voluntary repatriation operation came to a close in June 1998. In September 1999, UNHCR announced that the cessation clause applied to pre-1991 refugees from Ethiopia, as they are no longer in need of international protection because of the changed circumstances. Consequently, plans are underway to begin phasing-out the Ethiopian refugee programme by March 2000.

Constraints

Although many of the refugees were born and raised in Sudan, and have therefore assimilated to the local urban or camp communities, the Government of Sudan does not accept local integration as a lasting solution. Local integration is further impeded by the lack of legislative provisions by which citizenship could be conferred on long-staying refugees. The continued reluctance of the authorities to involve competent technical departments or ministries in refugee activities limits the prospects of a smooth transition when UNHCR carries out its plans to wind down the programme. In addition, diplomatic tensions between Sudan and Eritrea, as well as delays by the Government of Eritrea in promoting the return of its nationals, hamper the repatriation of refugees willing to return.



STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

The Sudan is party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1969 OAU Convention. All in all, its asylum policy has been generous. Responsibility for the administration of the country's asylum policy is entrusted to the

Commissioner for refugees. UNHCR will make every possible effort to have the Government of Eritrea agree to the promotion of repatriation of Eritrean nationals still living abroad as refugees. Notwithstanding the protracted nature of the refugee situation in the Sudan, UNHCR will continue to promote refugee law and principles of protection, as well as improved protection monitoring. It will, furthermore, endeavour to advocate the local integration of refugees who have lived in the country for a long time, and pursue resettlement opportunities in cases where this is considered the most suitable solution.

Assistance

Eritrean Refugees

UNHCR will provide assistance to camp-based Eritrean refugees pending their voluntary repatriation. Given the political situation in the region in general, and between Eritrea and Sudan in particular, it is difficult to foresee when repatriation will take place. In the meantime, WFP will provide refugees in camps with basic food rations. UNHCR will work towards improved health (especially the nutritional status of vulnerable groups) and education; create special programmes for women and children; complete further camp maintenance works; provide technical training for refugees; and carry out selected rehabilitation activities in areas environmentally affected by refugees. Community awareness campaigns will be organised to curtail the spread of disease and to help create a safer camp environment. Small business grants will be issued to a limited number of refugees, giving preference to women engaging in small-scale income-generating activities.

Ethiopian Refugees

At the end of the voluntary repatriation operation in June 1998, nearly 12,000 Ethiopians remained in refugee camps in Sudan. Following UNHCR's decision that the circumstances prompting Ethiopians to seek asylum before 1991 had sufficiently changed to permit the application of the cessation clause, consultations are underway on a plan of action that will include a package of assistance intended to have a lasting effect on areas affected by refugees. UNHCR intends to gradually consolidate services in the camps. Current operations have been examined in light of potential reductions where possible. Under the High Commissioner's "Good Offices" mandate, UNHCR will intercede on behalf of former refugees wishing to return to Ethiopia.





Chadian Refugees

Given that the 4,400 Chadian refugees in Sudan are integrated in local communities, UNHCR will concentrate on assisting those who wish to repatriate.

Congolese Refugees

The remaining group of 334 Congolese women and children in Juba will continue to be assisted by humanitarian aid workers under the umbrella of Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), pending their repatriation. As all the refugees in this group have expressed willingness to return home, UNHCR is planning to repatriate them as soon as the security situation in DRC permits.

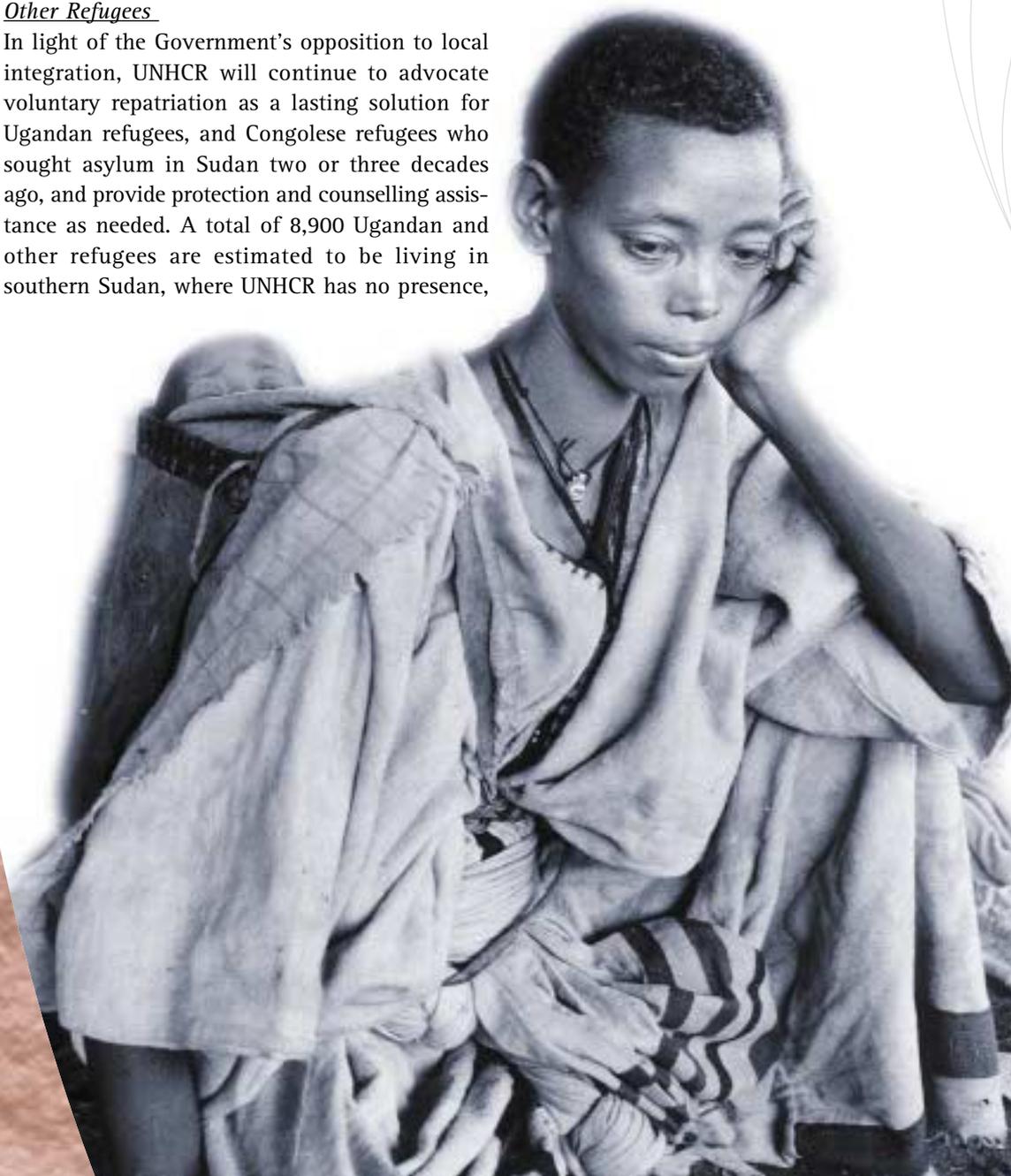
Other Refugees

In light of the Government's opposition to local integration, UNHCR will continue to advocate voluntary repatriation as a lasting solution for Ugandan refugees, and Congolese refugees who sought asylum in Sudan two or three decades ago, and provide protection and counselling assistance as needed. A total of 8,900 Ugandan and other refugees are estimated to be living in southern Sudan, where UNHCR has no presence,

and are supported by OLS. A small number are living in the capital Khartoum. UNHCR is supporting OLS efforts and is prepared to facilitate the return of these refugees as soon as this becomes an option.

Urban Refugees

It is estimated that some 232,000 refugees are living in urban areas, particularly in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref and Port Sudan. Eritreans are the majority, with smaller numbers of Ethiopians, Chadians, Ugandans, and others. Urban refugees, many of whom are self-sufficient, receive only limited material assistance, but are still covered by UNHCR's protection mandate.



Desired Impact

Because of the protracted nature of the refugee situation in Sudan, UNHCR is hoping to re-orient its assistance activities, in order to streamline services and accomplish the phasing-out of the programme within the next three to three years. Furthermore, UNHCR expects that its capacity-building activities (both in terms of protection work and boosting the technical expertise of line ministries and local authorities) will hasten a smooth handing over of sectoral activities to relevant government ministries.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

The country programme is being implemented by 92 staff, comprising 18 international and 74 national positions. In addition, two Junior Professional Officers are assigned to Sudan. The Office in Port Sudan is being phased down for eventual closure by the end of 2000.

Coordination

UNHCR will continue to work in partnership with the Government, related UN agencies, and a number of national and international NGOs, and in consultation with regional governments and refugee leaders, including the representatives of women's groups. UNHCR will continue to cooperate with UNICEF and WFP, in accordance with the Memoranda of Understanding signed between UNHCR and the two agencies. UNHCR's main implementing partner in the Sudan remains the national Commissioner for Refugees.

Offices	
Khartoum	
Es-Showak	
Port Sudan	
Partners	
Government Agencies	
Commissioner for Refugees	
National Forestry Corporation	
NGOs	
<i>Action contre la Faim</i>	
Benevolence International Organisation	
Global Health Foundation	
Human Appeal International	
Islamic Relief African Agency	
Ockenden Venture	
Sudan Aid	
Sudanese Red Crescent	
Other	
WFP	
UNICEF	

Budget (USD)	
Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	2,202,370
Community Services	44,459
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	64,686
Education	712,188
Forestry	302,318
Health/Nutrition	1,556,203
Income Generation	18,703
Legal Assistance	100,699
Livestock	10,903
Operational Support (to Agencies)	915,311
Sanitation	142,107
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	839,964
Transport/Logistics	1,541,504
Water (non-agricultural)	508,655
Total Operations	8,960,070
Programme Support	1,818,297
Total	10,778,367