

Democratic Republic of the Congo



Main Objectives

Provide protection and basic humanitarian assistance to refugees from Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda in the provinces of Bas-Congo, Bandundu, Equateur, Katanga, Kasai-Oriental and Province Oriental and to the urban refugees in Kinshasa, Bukavu, Goma, Lubumbashi and Mbuji-Mayi; assist and facilitate the safe return of those refugees by establishing or reactivating Tri-partite Agreements between the country of origin, the country of asylum and UNHCR; support local settlement initiatives for refugees from Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda, paying special attention to the needs of women, children, adolescents and the environment; strengthen the

capacity of UNHCR and of its partners to respond effectively to complex humanitarian crises of a regional nature; provide emergency assistance to newly arrived Central African and Angolan refugees.

Impact

- DRC hosted a total of 366,250 refugees, 194,980 of whom UNHCR regularly received material assistance from UNHCR.
- UNHCR received and assisted 48,370 new arrivals, mainly from Angola (19,000) and the Central African Republic (26,500). The new arrivals were provided with basic humanitarian assistance and agricultural tools.
- UNHCR assisted the local authorities with the

- registration of 16,496 new Angolan refugees and with the identification and establishment of local settlement sites, which accommodated 12,702.
- An emergency response team was deployed to Zongo in Equateur Province to undertake a needs assessment and to provide basic humanitarian assistance to some 26,500 newly arrived refugees from the Central African Republic.
 - The new refugees from the Central African Republic were composed of a mix of military and civilians. To ensure the civilian character of the humanitarian camp to be established at Mole, UNHCR and the United Nations Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) separated and transferred some 1,450 military personnel to a site in Bokilio, in collaboration with the de facto authorities in Zongo, the *Mouvement pour la libération du Congo* (MLC).
 - 28,125 refugees, 16,564 of whom were assisted by UNHCR, returned voluntarily mainly to Rwanda, but also to Angola, Burundi, the Republic of Congo, Sudan and Uganda. Among these were 60 Sudanese refugees who were assisted with repatriation by air from northeastern DRC to northern Sudan.
 - Of a total of 55 refugees resettled from DRC to third countries, 47 were assisted by UNHCR.

- 3,300 urban refugees (out of 32,790, mainly based in Kinshasa) were assisted by UNHCR (education, health, income-generating activities); 85 were helped with repatriation.

Working Environment

The Context

To access and assist those in greatest need in the DRC, the humanitarian agencies have had to work in an environment characterised by economic devastation and fractured social infrastructure. Many years of war have been ruinous for DRC's civilian population and it is often the refugee-hosting rural areas that have borne the brunt of the hostilities. Agricultural production has plummeted, livestock herds are depleted and the livelihoods of families have been virtually destroyed both in rural and urban areas.

Although the United Nations was able to deploy MONUC, sporadic armed hostilities and other violations of the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement signed in July 1999 continued. In late 2001, the hostilities subsided as the belligerent parties prepared for an inter-Congolese dialogue and a peace conference in Malawi under the aegis of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Despite welcome progress in the peace process, UNHCR, UN Agencies and other humanitarian agencies remained cautiously optimistic in the identification, programming and implementation of their activities.

For many years, six of DRC's neighbours have been engulfed in armed conflict. As a result, 48,370 new refugees arrived in DRC in 2001. In the interior of the country there are a large number of civilians who have been displaced by the protracted war and who are caught up in conflict and insecurity. The internally displaced, as well as the refugees, are often in remote areas, which are hard to access.

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin/ Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Angola (Refugees)	186,900	120,300	54	57
Sudan (Refugees)	75,000	42,600	47	58
Rwanda (Refugees)	30,400	1,600	53	48
Central African Republic (Refugees)	26,500	26,500	-	-
Uganda (Refugees)	20,800	1,100	-	-
Burundi (Refugees)	19,500	980	40	49
DRC (IDPs)	3,500	-	-	-
Republic of the Congo (Refugees)	2,900	1,900	45	53
Returnees (from Zambia)	750	-	-	-

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget				
Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
25,005,328	12,829,631	11,304,531	24,134,162	24,077,163

¹ Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

Constraints

Over the course of the year 2001, security improved, and therefore, access to persons of concern to UNHCR was relatively easier. This was also possible to because of the progress in the peace negotiations and the deployment of MONUC forces. Nevertheless, insecurity, previously a major impediment to the provision of humanitarian assistance, continued in many areas to impede operations in varying degrees. In addition, the sheer size of the country and the poorly developed, in some places completely, non-existent, infrastructure, continued to pose daily operational and logistical challenges. For instance, UNHCR and its partners had to rehabilitate and extend roads in order to reach newly arrived refugees from Angola in the province of Bas Congo. Similarly, investment in road clearance was required in Equateur Province to enable the transfer of the Central African Refugees to the local

integration sites. At the year's end UNHCR was still unable to reach a group of some 8,800 Angolans who had spontaneously settled in the Tembo area in the province of Bandundu. A high turnover of UNHCR's vehicle fleet was the price of maintaining adequate logistical capacity: poor roads frequently put vehicles out of service and inflated maintenance costs. Due to the size of the country, operations in far away locations are dependent on chartered aeroplanes for supplies and transport of staff.

The continued poverty of the host communities coupled with the inadequate support and aid provided to the population at large continued to create disparity between the refugees and local people and made UNHCR's work difficult. UNHCR's limited resources did not allow balanced delivery of humanitarian assistance to both refugees and hosting communities, though efforts were made to diminish the disparity. Furthermore, limited funds

Refugee children often make up the majority of the camp population. Newly arrived Angolan refugees in the Ngidinga, Bas-Congo Province. *UNHCR / S. Szadic*



reduced the scope for a smooth bridging from humanitarian assistance to development work in refugee settlement areas.

Due to adverse living and working conditions in many of the remote areas of operation, UNHCR has had difficulty attracting adequate personnel. Likewise, qualified and experienced implementing partners and development partners (the latter complementing UNHCR's assistance with assistance to the hosting communities) are in short supply. Finally, unforeseen and recurrent emergencies put a continual strain on available resources and staff.

Funding

Funding was not sufficient for the provision of appropriate assistance to the beneficiaries. The implementation of specific activities was limited, e.g. the empowerment of refugee women and access to secondary schooling for girls. Funding constraints at the end of the year stopped several partners carrying out their activities as planned for 2001, e.g. rehabilitation of the airport and the road in Zongo, the installation of water points in Kimpese, the construction of classrooms for more than 100 new students in Kisenge and the rehabilitation of roads and bridges in Kahemba.

Achievements and Impact

Protection and Solutions

Following a series of consultations between the Ministry of the Interior and UNHCR, the final draft of national refugee legislation was presented to the Minister for the Interior in December 2001 to be submitted to the Parliament in 2002. A working team consisting of government and UNHCR representatives elaborated a comprehensive plan for refugee registration, which is expected to take place in the first quarter of 2002. During the year, 28,125 refugees (16,564 assisted by UNHCR), were repatriated, while 55 were resettled to a third country (47 with UNHCR assistance).

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: In Kisenge, UNHCR provided training for 180 Angolan refugee women as bakers,

while 10 social assistants were trained in the management of micro-projects in such trades as carpentry, joinery and tailoring. 977 improved traditional stoves were constructed by refugees in Aru.

Crop Production: In Kisenge, 9,000 hoes, 4,000 axes and 90 tonnes of seed (maize and beans) were distributed to 15,365 families. In Kahemba, 1,000 hoes, and more than three tonnes of seeds (peanuts, soya & cassava) were distributed for 600 families. In Aru, 4,771 families produced 5,612 tonnes of rice, peanuts, maize and beans.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: In collaboration with government counterparts and NGOs, UNHCR provided non-food items to assist 16,496 newly arrived Angolans in the Province of Bas-Congo. Similarly, 2,300 kitchen sets, 8,100 lengths of plastic sheeting, 4,000 kg of soap, 10,000 blankets and 8,230 jerrycans were dispatched to Zongo to be distributed to all newly arrived Central African refugees. Clothes were distributed to newly arrived refugees.

Education: 18 new classrooms were constructed in Kisenge to cater for the increased number of primary school children among the Angolan refugees. In addition, UNHCR supplied wooden desks, school-books and school material to existing schools. Four primary school classrooms were constructed on the new refugee site in Zongo, while three others were rehabilitated in Zongo town. UNICEF provided three of its standard school kits for 150 CAR students in Zongo, four for 200 Angolan students in Ngidinga and three for 150 Angolan students in Kimvula. Two schools consisting of 12 classrooms each were constructed in Kimpese and 20 local classrooms were rehabilitated in Ngidinga. 3,754 pupils attended school, 80 percent of whom were Sudanese refugees and 20 per cent Congolese children from neighbouring villages.

Food: WFP supplied food for regular monthly distribution to approximately 61,000 refugee beneficiaries. In addition to this regular distribution, locally procured food was provided for the newly arrived Central Africans, and donated food was distributed to the 16,496 newly arrived Angolan refugees. WFP provided additional food for distribution to some 1,900 refugees from the Republic of the Congo who, contrary to expectations, had remained in the DRC

throughout the year (UNHCR had foreseen their repatriation). Food was also distributed to the UNHCR nutritional rehabilitation centre in Kisenge, which assists both refugees and the local population.

Forestry: 5,500 palm trees and 1,820 fruit trees were planted.

Health/Nutrition: In Kisenge, where some 51,000 Angolan refugees were assisted, three new health centres were constructed. Four health posts were constructed in Kimvula, two in Ngidinga and four in Mbuji-Mayi and all were supplied with essential drugs. 2,600 impregnated mosquito nets were bought and distributed to 5,100 vulnerable Angolan refugees in Bas-Congo and Bandundu. 1,490 baby kits were distributed in those two provinces. A health centre was set up in the new camp in Zongo. Two referral hospitals were rehabilitated (one in Kahemba and one in Kimvula). A number of health training sessions were organised for two medical teams under the “roll back malaria” campaign; three doctors and four nurses were trained in the treatment of severe malaria; 10 social workers were trained on mosquito net impregnation, and another 14 social workers were trained on reproductive health.

Income Generation: Micro-loans of between USD 100 and USD 500 each were granted to 81 urban refugees in Kinshasa (52 women). The loans enabled refugees to set up projects which generated enough income to pay school fees, food, rent and other essential goods and services. In Aru, 56 co-operatives with 508 refugee members were operational throughout the year with approximately 54 per cent women. There was an average 42 per cent reimbursement rate. 14 fishponds were constructed in Aba and Biringi, where 130 refugees received technical training. On average, each fishpond yielded 70 kg of fish per year. 97 refugees from Aba and Biringi were trained in poultry farming. In Aba, 13,000 eggs and 2,350 chickens were produced. These activities resulted in benefits for a total of 2,720 refugees.

Legal Assistance: Following the emergency influxes from Angola to Ngidinga and Kimvula, UNHCR and the local authorities registered 16,496 newly arrived refugees. In addition, UNHCR developed and distributed brochures on the rights and obliga-

tions of refugees and organised seminars on UNHCR’s mandate and the rights and obligations of refugees.

Operational Support (to Agencies): In an effort to strengthen the management of implementing partners, UNHCR provided them with funds to cover administrative support costs, such as office rental, furniture, supplies, processing material and salaries. Special attention was given to strengthening the capacity of national implementing partners.

Sanitation: Pit-latrines were constructed on the new refugee site in Zongo for 5,000 refugees. 563 pit latrines were constructed in Ngidinga and Kimvula for 4,946 and 7,756 newly arrived Angolan refugees respectively. 1,205 were constructed in Nkondo and Kilueka for 23,443 Angolans. UNHCR dug a dual pit-latrine at the health centre in Aru for Sudanese refugees.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: UNHCR and its partners prepared a site and established a new refugee camp 30 km east of Zongo to accommodate the newly arrived Central African Refugees. UNHCR also provided shelter material for the preparation of the site in Bokilio (to accommodate CAR military personnel).

Transport/Logistics: UNHCR transferred some 1,000 Central African refugees from the reception villages to the prepared site in Mole. UNHCR also assisted the separation of military elements from civilian refugees in Zongo, by loaning its trucks to MONUC and the local authorities for the transfer of the military personnel to the Bokilio site, some 140 km from Zongo. Of the 19,000 newly arrived refugees from Angola, 12,702 individuals opted for relocation, for security reasons, from border zones to villages further up-country. UNHCR organised their transfer and settlement on sites allocated by the local authorities.

Water: UNHCR financed the construction of 24 water points and 38 wells for 48,311 Angolan refugees in Kisenge, nine water points for 4,949 Angolan refugees in Ngidinga, ten water points for 7,756 Angolan refugees in Kimvula, 40 water points for 11,700 refugees in Nkondo camp and 84 water points for 23,443 Angolan refugees in

Kilueka camp. In Province Oriental, UNHCR installed 29 water points for Sudanese refugees in the various settlements and 194 women were trained to oversee the use of these facilities.

Organisation and Implementation

Management

UNHCR had funding for 29 international posts and 82 national posts of which eight international posts and 14 national posts were vacant. Ten UNVs and one JPO were also working with UNHCR in DRC in 2001. In addition to its main office in Kinshasa, UNHCR maintained 13 offices in strategic points close to operations. The offices in Aba, Biringi, Dungu and Matadi were closed in the first half of the year. In the second half of the year new emergencies led to the establishment of UNHCR representation in Kimvula, Ngidinga and Zongo.

Working with Others

In 2001 UNHCR worked with eight international and 12 national partners.

Close collaboration with WFP with regard to the distribution of food continued throughout the year. FAO, in close co-operation with WFP, assessed the agricultural situation country-wide, taking into account needs in refugee hosting areas. FAO also donated a substantial amount of agricultural inputs to Angolan refugees. UNICEF supported UNHCR's operations in the various locations with a clean water supply, immunisation, basic education on health and hygiene, and family reunification, and donated school kits for refugee primary school pupils. Technical support was provided by WHO. As part of its contribution to humanitarian operations, the Government of DRC exempted all relief goods from customs duties and taxes. In addition, UNHCR chartered flights were exempted from landing fees. The Government facilitated humanitarian operations by ensuring free and unhindered passage for all humanitarian personnel. MONUC supported UN-funded and other humanitarian operations with the provision of flights (mainly for cargo). In addition, MONUC continually shared security-related information

collected from its field locations. In Zongo, MONUC provided logistics support (helicopter) and deployed military observers during the process of separating and relocating the CAR military personnel.

Under the aegis of UNHCR, quarterly co-ordination meetings were organised with the participation of government authorities, donors and implementing partners from DRC and ROC.

Overall Assessment

During the year 2001 some positive developments on the political scene benefited the work of humanitarian agencies in DRC including UNHCR. The Government eased up administrative requirements, such as local travel permits, and thereby facilitated implementation of the planned programme. The year was marked by several emergencies which put a strain on UNHCR's available resources but which were nonetheless handled satisfactorily by UNHCR (through expansion and the creation of new offices as necessary). UNHCR's country programme continued to be geared towards the promotion of self-sufficiency and local integration activities with particular attention to the needs of refugee women, children and adolescents, pending opportunities and conditions conducive to voluntary repatriation. Where feasible practically and financially, assistance was also provided to the hosting communities. During the year, UNHCR ensured the establishment of an effective communications network for field locations. This improved security for staff in remote locations and information flow and co-ordination between the offices. A major component of UNHCR's strategy was the establishment of supply routes to previously inaccessible areas. Despite this effort, the main obstacles remained the size of the country and lack of infrastructure.

Offices

Kinshasa

Aba (closed in June)

Aru

Biringi (closed in June)

Dungu (closed in June)

Goma

Kahemba

Kimpese

Kimvula

Kisenge

Lubumbashi

Matadi (closed in August)

Mbanza-Ngungu

Mbuji-Mayi

Ngidinga (opened in September)

Zongo (opened in July)

In addition, the Regional office in Kinshasa oversees UNHCR's programme in the Republic of the Congo through a liaison office in Brazzaville.

Partners

NGOs

Actions et interventions pour le développement et l'encadrement social

Association pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement

Atlas Logistique

Bureau diocésain des oeuvres médicales catholiques

Caritas

Catholic Relief Services

Croix-Rouge

Equipe d'urgence de la biodiversité

Equipe mobile et gestion de la logistique

Human Dignity in the World

Human Protection Association

International Rescue Committee

Médecins Sans Frontières (France)

OXFAM

World Vision International

Others

Diocèse de Boga

Diocèse de Boma

Diocèse de Mahagi

Fédération internationale de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant Rouge

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Gouvernorat du Nord Kivu

Saint Joseph Girl Congregation

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Annual Programme Budget		Annual Programme Budget	
	Current Years' Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	6,394,071		13,796	
Community Services	642,699		364,696	
Crop Production	626,786		100,883	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	384,969		197,828	
Education	1,223,349		790,046	
Fisheries	0		620	
Food	41,850		27,560	
Forestry	30,617		6,914	
Health / Nutrition	1,334,353		673,822	
Income Generation	27,897		24,503	
Legal Assistance	124,957		13,510	
Livestock	0		8,867	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,339,744		647,639	
Sanitation	114,740		41,267	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	348,761		125,882	
Transport / Logistics	2,870,216		935,195	
Water	160,238		73,874	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	2,463,659		(3,783,148)	
Sub-total Operational	18,128,906		263,754	
Programme Support	4,100,547		55,657	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	22,229,453	(3)	319,411	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	1,847,710	(3)	0	
TOTAL	24,077,163	(1) (3)	319,411	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	11,391,231		4,223,168	
Reporting Received	8,927,572		8,006,316	
Balance	2,463,659		(3,783,148)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		4,022,208	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		128,589	
Currency Adjustment	0		0	
Outstanding 31 December	2,463,659		110,471	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1st January	0		613,574	(5)
New Obligations	24,077,163	(1)	0	
Disbursements	22,229,453	(3)	319,411	(5)
Cancellations	0		294,163	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	1,847,710	(3)	0	

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

- (1) Annex to Statement 1
- (3) Schedule 3
- (5) Schedule 5