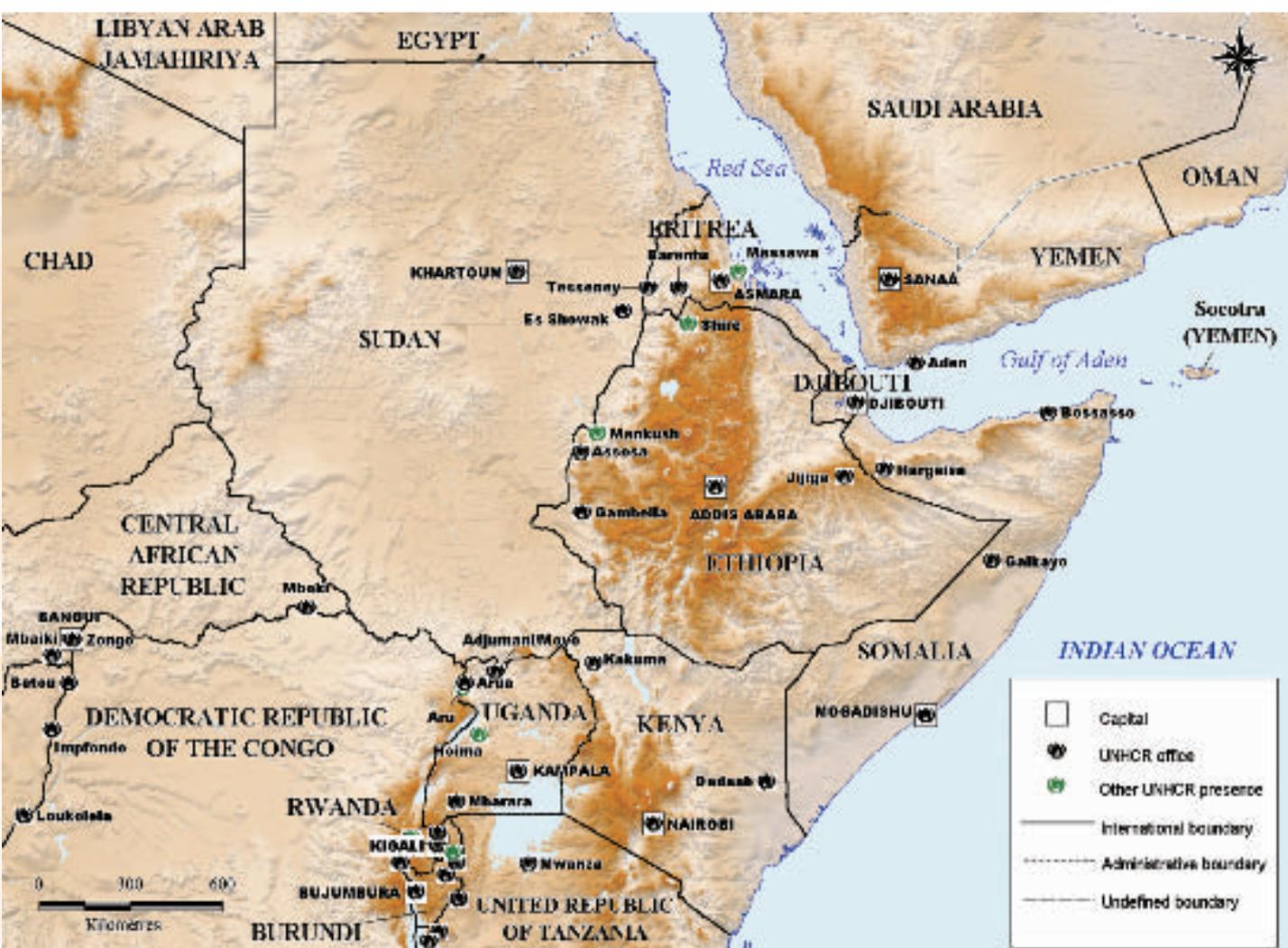


East and Horn of Africa

Recent Developments

During the reporting period, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the UN system as a whole continued working closely with the countries in the East and Horn in peace building and conflict resolution areas. Most of the countries in the region enjoyed a degree of political stability and greater efforts were placed in resolving interstate conflicts. Of particular note was the acceptance by both Eritrea and Ethiopia of the decision of the Boundary Commission in the Hague. This political breakthrough laid the foundation for Eritrea to focus on its national recovery agenda. In this connection, the Government and the UN Country Team have now formulated a joint recovery programme strategy that addresses the unmet needs of the returning refugees, internally displaced persons, demobilised soldiers and others in host communities. This agreement represents a major step towards addressing both the medium and

Djibouti
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Kenya
Somalia
Sudan
Uganda



the longer-term development initiatives in returnee-receiving areas.

Other positive regional developments since June 2002, include the opening of the Somali National Reconciliation Conference in Eldoret/Kenya under the auspices of IGAD. It is hoped that this process will positively contribute to the creation of an enabling political environment that will lay the foundation for peace building and facilitate the return of thousands of refugees to Somalia. In the meantime, the voluntary repatriation to Northwest Somalia (“Somaliland”) continues unabated. Since the beginning of this year some 29,000 people were returned to “Somaliland” from Ethiopia and Djibouti. At the same time, IGAD successfully brokered another peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement (SPLA/SPLM) that resulted with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding which called for a “global cessation of

hostilities” including unimpeded humanitarian access to all areas.

Another political development that had a direct impact on humanitarian interventions was the recent incursions in Kassala State that took place on 4 October 2002. This unfortunate development resulted in the closure of the border between Sudan and Eritrea, the suspension of the voluntary repatriation of Eritreans from Sudan and the registration of urban refugees in the Kassala area.

On another note, the region also noted a marked increase in the deterioration of camp safety and security. This situation was further compounded by the lack of financial resources which resulted in the deferral of some activities that would otherwise have strengthened the Office’s international protection mandate and improved monitoring activities.



Kenya: Bantus in transit from Dadaab to Kakuma camp, for eventual resettlement to the USA. UNHCR / B. Press

Another development, which is of great concern to the region, is the sustainability of food security. The prediction of drought in Ethiopia remains a cause for alarm. It has now been reported that exceptionally dry weather in Ethiopia has doubled the number of people in need of emergency assistance from two to four million, with an additional 2.5 million at-risk. In Eritrea, a large number of people, including those who were internally displaced as a result of the war with Ethiopia, are still recipients of the emergency food supplies. The future outlook therefore remains gloomy in both countries, and if the situation is not contained, the region may be faced with a huge crisis.

Strategic Objectives

UNHCR, in collaboration with IGAD and other UN agencies will continue to seek implementation of the agreed accords for the Somali and Sudanese situations. By the same token, the Office will actively pursue durable solutions strategies and in particular continue to work actively with the Governments in the formulation of the post-conflict recovery plans of action.

In the same vein, every effort will be made to close and consolidate camps where feasible, and at the

same time, provide guidance and assistance to the hosting communities in the rehabilitation of the refugee-impacted areas. In this respect, a conscious effort will be made to include developmental agencies in this process.

Despite financial constraints, UNHCR will continue to place greater emphasis on the promotion of refugee law including refugee rights. This will be achieved through training and or discussion with governments, human rights lobbyists and the beneficiaries themselves. Other priority areas will include HIV/AIDS initiatives; the combating of harmful practices against refugee women and children; and education, including peace education. It is hoped that these efforts will improve the quality of protection and assistance provided to the refugees. Other activities will include the following:

- Finalisation of the individual RSD of urban-based refugees in Sudan and Djibouti.
- Continuation of the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Ethiopia and Djibouti to "Somaliland".
- Promotion of stronger collaborative partnership with developmental agencies, so as to bridge the "gap" between the short-term and "longer-term" reintegration needs of the returnees both in Eritrea and "Somaliland". Every effort will be

made to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of basic infrastructure in areas of return, to avoid conflict between the returnees and the receiving communities.

- Pursuit of ways and means aimed at improving refugee camp(s) safety and security.
- Under the framework of the Machakos Peace Accord, co-ordination by UNHCR of preparations for a possible voluntary repatriation of some 500,000 Sudanese refugees in the region.

Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan** and **Uganda** are described in separate chapters.

Djibouti: As in six of the seven countries in the region, major UNHCR operations in 2003 will focus on finding durable solutions for refugees. The voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to "Somaliland" will continue. It is anticipated that at least 10,000 will opt to voluntarily repatriate. Resettlement of refugees to a third country will also be pursued systematically. Individual RSD of urban-based refugees will be undertaken in collaboration with the National Eligibility Committee (NEC).

Budget (USD)	
Country	Annual Programme
Kenya Technical Support Group	4,256,285
Djibouti	4,066,556
Eritrea	25,159,104
Ethiopia	19,149,457
Kenya	26,274,554
Somalia	5,777,228
Sudan	12,397,463
Uganda	15,774,204
Total	112,854,851