

Democratic Republic of the Congo

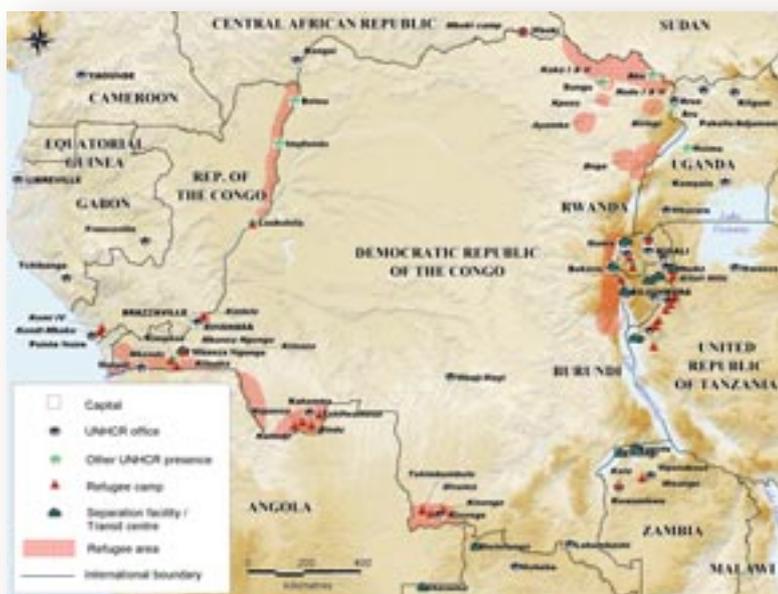
AT A GLANCE

Main Objectives and Activities

Provide protection and assistance to refugees from Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda; assist and facilitate the safe return of refugees to and from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) by establishing or reactivating tripartite agreements between the refugees' country of origin, the country of asylum and UNHCR; encourage local settlement and initiatives conducive to self-reliance for refugees from Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda, paying special attention to the needs of women, children and the environment.

Impact

- Out of a total of 332,400 refugees in the DRC from Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda, UNHCR provided protection and assistance to 148,260 refugees on a regular basis.
- 108,800 Angolan refugees were assisted in the provinces of Bas-Congo, Bandundu and Katanga; as a result, they became partially self-reliant.
- 7,175 Angolan refugees repatriated voluntarily with UNHCR's assistance.
- 1,400 Rwandan and 400 Burundi refugees were locally settled in Mbuji-Mayi. As a result of UNHCR's interventions, the Government allocated land to enable the refugees to achieve self-sufficiency.
- 23,340 Rwandan refugees repatriated from the Kivu regions with UNHCR's assistance.
- UNHCR provided assistance to some 2,100 Congolese (Brazzaville) refugees in two camps (Luozi and Kimaza) from January to March and in one camp (Kimaza) from April to December (after Luozi was closed).
- 5,520 Congolese refugees were assisted to return from Bas-Congo to the Republic of the Congo.



Persons of Concern				
Main Refugee Origin/Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted ¹	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Angola (Refugees)	175,400	108,800	54	64
Sudan (Refugees)	72,900	34,000	47	58
Rwanda (Refugees)	46,200	1,500	62	54
Burundi (Refugees)	19,800	760	50	47
DRC (Returnees)	14,800	640	-	-
Uganda (Refugees)	13,000	1,100	-	-
Rep. of the Congo (Refugees)	5,100	2,100	45	50
DRC (IDPs)	-	3,000	-	-

¹In addition, UNHCR assisted some 3,600 urban refugees.

Income and Expenditure (USD)				
Annual Programme Budget				
Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
23,487,499	7,111,407	13,342,355	20,453,762	20,453,762

¹Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

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

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

- Some 34,000 Sudanese refugees in three locations (Aba, Dungu and Biringi) benefited from UNHCR's assistance geared towards local integration and partial self-reliance.
- Roughly 3,600 urban refugees were locally settled in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.
- UNHCR funded 78 income-generating projects designed to make urban refugees more self-sufficient.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

The Context

The DRC has been at war since 1998. Most of the neighbouring countries are either also afflicted by internal conflict (Angola, Burundi, Sudan and Uganda) or in a fragile post-conflict recovery phase (the Republic of the Congo and Rwanda). Efforts to achieve peace in the DRC have been frustrated by repeated violations of the cease-fire agreement signed in 1999 in Lusaka. Moreover, the planned inter-Congolese dialogue has not taken place, mainly because President Laurent Desire Kabila objected to the former President of Botswana, Ketumile Masire, serving as facilitator. The DRC is furthermore continuously destabilised by an intricate network of regional cross-border alliances between governments, rebel movements and other insurgent groups, the whole further complicated by ethnic conflict within the DRC. This results in continuous population displacement, makes repatriation highly unlikely for the foreseeable future and undermines peace initiatives.

As fighting continued unabated throughout the year, the deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) was not possible. The continued fighting produced a regular flow of about 1,000 refugees per month from the Kivus in the east to the refugee camps in Tanzania (a total of 12,000 by the end of the year). In addition, the advance of the Rwandan army in Katanga Province in the south-east prompted the outflow of some 14,000 refugees to Zambia. Finally, confrontations in the north-west, in Equateur Province, between rebel and government forces caused the flight of more than 85,000 villagers to the Republic of the Congo, where they are dispersed along the river, at the border between the two countries. By the end of the year, there were more than 310,000 Congolese refugees in neighbouring countries. In addition to cross-border flight, the conflict resulted in the internal displacement of an estimated 1.8 million people. The ethnic conflict in the north-east between the Hema and Lendu groups alone caused the internal displacement of more than 100,000 people in the Ituri dis-

trict. Conversely, some 600 Congolese returned home with UNHCR's assistance.

Despite the ongoing conflict, the DRC continued to receive refugees and, by the end of the year, hosted some 332,465 refugees. UNHCR registered some 22,000 new Angolan arrivals in Bandundu, Bas-Congo and Katanga, bringing the total number of Angolan refugees in the country to some 175,400. UNHCR assisted some 108,800 of them to integrate locally. An estimated 20,000 Burundi refugees remained scattered in the forests of South Kivu. A group of 760 of them located in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental) was assisted by UNHCR to settle locally. Due to the improved security situation in the Republic of the Congo, most of the Congolese refugees repatriated voluntarily in 1999. UNHCR provided protection and assistance to 2,100 out of the 5,100 remaining Congolese refugees living in Luozi and Kimaza camps (Bas-Congo). An estimated 46,000 Rwandan refugees lived in various locations in the DRC, but remained inaccessible for security reasons. UNHCR assisted 1,500 of them living in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental) to integrate locally. During the year, some 3,500 new Sudanese refugees arrived in rebel-controlled Province Orientale. Following a registration exercise, the Sudanese refugees in the country totalled 73,000. UNHCR implemented a local settlement programme for about 34,000 of them in Aba, Dungu and Biringi to consolidate their local integration and self-sufficiency. The 13,000 Ugandan refugees living in Beni, Boga and Irumu (Province Orientale) remained inaccessible throughout the year.

Constraints

The operational environment was unrelentingly difficult. Military risks rendered humanitarian access extremely limited in certain areas. Most areas in the DRC were difficult to reach; transport was many times only possible by air or river, while road transport, where feasible, was lengthy, costly and dangerous. Poor roads and infrastructure deteriorated even further during the rainy season. UNHCR did not have the funds to address this huge problem. The inadequacy of the UNHCR transport fleet (only one plane for all operations in the DRC covering more than 15 destinations) and deteriorating assets (locally hired light vehicles and trucks) hampered UNHCR's interventions during the year. As a result, non-food items were often distributed late, and contingency stockpiles were depleted.

UNHCR's operations in the DRC were further constrained by the Government's financial regulations, which imposed an official exchange rate and led to escalating operational costs for all UN agencies. This

resulted in a general shortage of basic supplies, such as fuel and spare parts.

In addition, WFP could not provide a full food basket, i.e. ensure an uninterrupted supply of staples such as flour, pulses and oil.

Funding

The lack of adequate funding during 2000 affected the smooth and continued provision of assistance throughout the year, resulting in increased levels of vulnerability and insecurity for refugees and staff. The worst affected were the Angolan refugees. Most of these refugees arrived in a very poor nutritional state, but UNHCR could not procure supplementary food to augment WFP's reduced food rations. UNHCR was unable to establish new camps for them further away from the border (to improve protection and facilitate the delivery of assistance). Furthermore, UNHCR could not undertake vital road and bridge rehabilitation to facilitate access to the refugees. In Kinshasa, UNHCR could not cover all the assessed needs of urban refugees. Income-generating activities were curtailed and, with them, the refugees' potential to achieve self-sufficiency.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACT

Protection and Solutions

Ensuring admission and preventing *refoulement* were UNHCR's major protection challenges in the DRC in 2000. In the DRC, there is no national refugee status determination procedure and there is consequently no

national eligibility commission. In mid-1999, UNHCR was requested by representatives of the Ministry of the Interior to assist with the drafting of the Congolese refugee legislation in accordance with international refugee instruments signed and ratified by the DRC. The text proposed by the DRC officials was revised and amended by UNHCR. However, the military conflict made it difficult for the State apparatus to function efficiently and by the end of 2000 the document was still unfinished.

The incoming refugees rarely found security in the DRC. Access to them remained not only difficult, but also dangerous. Many refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) had to survive without assistance. The lack of an appropriate registration and documentation system severely restricted the refugees' freedom of movement, often resulting in harassment and arbitrary arrest. A matter of urgency for UNHCR is the registration of all refugees in government-controlled territory and, as far as possible, the issuance of identity documents. A working team comprised of UNHCR and government representatives was created in December in order to plan a registration exercise.

Conflicts in countries of origin prevented UNHCR from promoting the voluntary repatriation of refugees and reactivating or establishing tripartite agreements as planned. Repatriation from the DRC therefore remained limited to facilitated movements to Rwanda (23,340), Angola (7,175) and the Republic of the Congo (5,520).

The conflict in the DRC has widespread political and economic ramifications, which tend to negate any prospects of self-reliance, let alone local integration, for the refugees. Burundi and Rwandan refugees were, nevertheless, given their own settlement area in Kasai Oriental in 2000. The Angolan refugees in Kahemba (Bandundu) and the Sudanese and Ugandan refugees in Province Orientale needed to be relocated further away from the border; this, however, could not take place. The consequences were considerable risks for refugees and staff and the undermining of progress made in achieving self-reliance. Some progress was nevertheless made in discussions with government authorities on access to the border.



The presence of armed elements in the Sudanese refugee sites remained a matter of concern. There were reports of harassment, armed robbery, theft of livestock and extortion. Despite regular discussions with rebel authorities, as well as information sharing, awareness-raising and training, these incidents remained a problem.

Resettlement is increasingly becoming the only durable solution for refugees who are in a life-threatening situation. UNHCR facilitated the departure of five persons and another 27 were accepted for resettlement. The submission of eligible cases for resettlement was, however, hindered by the lack of protection staff. Some 144 cases were still pending by the end of the year. A request was made for the deployment of a resettlement expert to be seconded to UNHCR for an initial period of three months.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: In the Kimpese area (Bas-Congo) and in Kisenge (Katanga), second-hand clothes and shoes (13 bales of clothes and 50 pairs of shoes) were distributed to vulnerable Angolan refugees. Some 6,370 persons benefited. Angolan refugees benefited from other activities, such as cultural and recreational workshops. Angolan refugee women were helped to set up their own bakeries. Ten bales of second-hand clothes were distributed to Burundi and Rwandan refugees in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental). Some 70 Burundi and Rwandan refugees were engaged in sewing, tailoring and embroidery workshops. Roughly 485 vulnerable Congolese persons were provided with social services assistance. About 145 Sudanese women were organised in agricultural co-operatives and assisted with income-generating projects covering sewing, embroidery, tree-planting, brickwork and soap-making using local products. Tracing and reunification of unaccompanied minors was carried out throughout the year. Some 120 Sudanese unaccompanied minors were identified, of whom 20 were reunited with their families. In addition, 75 Rwandan unaccompanied minors were assisted in Mbandaka (Equateur Province) while awaiting transfer to Kinshasa for eventual repatriation to Rwanda and reunification with their families.

Crop Production: Seeds and tools were distributed to more than 15,000 Angolan refugees and 1,500 local farmers in Katanga Province and Kahemba (Bandundu). Farming tools were purchased locally and distributed to Burundi and Rwandan refugees in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental). Seeds and tools were distributed to Congolese refugees in Mbanza Ngungu district and to Sudanese refugees in Province Orientale.

Domestic Needs/Household Support: More than 11,100 metric tons of wood were bought and distributed to about 19,000 Angolan refugees living in camps in Kimpese (Bas-Congo) and Kahemba (Bandundu) and to Burundi and Rwandan refugees in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental). Burundi and Rwandan refugees in Mbuji-Mayi also received 205 boxes of soap purchased locally. An additional 25 metric tons of wood were distributed to 100 local families and 345 vulnerable persons in the area. Non-food items were distributed to Congolese refugees in Kimaza camp (Bas-Congo) deemed to be vulnerable. Non-food items were also given to new arrivals from south Sudan and to vulnerable Sudanese refugees living in the sites in Province Orientale.

Education: With UNHCR's assistance, roughly 15,477 Angolan children (46 per cent girls and 54 per cent boys) attended primary schools, while 1,294 Angolan children (30 per cent girls and 70 per cent boys) attended secondary schools. Ten classrooms were constructed for the Angolan refugee children. The Office assisted 627 Congolese children to attend primary schools (46 per cent girls and 54 per cent boys). Some 3,755 Sudanese children also attended primary schools (42 per cent girls and 58 per cent boys) and 345 Sudanese children took secondary school courses. Seventeen classrooms were constructed, one classroom was rehabilitated, 120 desks were built and 90 rehabilitated for the Sudanese refugee children. In addition, university-level distance learning (in English) was offered for the first time. The Sudanese refugees taking these courses will gain an international certificate upon completion. Life skills courses, such as Education for Peace, were introduced in all refugee settlements. Among the urban refugees, 100 students (25 girls and 75 boys) were enrolled in higher education.

Fisheries: UNHCR assisted a group of Sudanese refugees with the preparation of 15 ponds, out of which eight were provided with fish.

Food: In Kahemba (Bandundu), 14 metric tons of maize and seven metric tons of peanuts were distributed to Angolan refugees. Some 6,280 kilos of vegetable oil, 28,130 kilos of maize, 430 kilos of beans and 900 kilos of salt were bought and distributed to Burundi and Rwandan refugees in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental) and in the Katshisungu area. WFP provided more than 330 tons of maize, 50 tons of beans, 21 tons of cooking oil and 3.3 tons of salt, which were distributed to Congolese refugees in Kimaza camp (Bas-Congo). UNHCR purchased food commodities locally to ensure continued supplies in view of the frequent disruption of the WFP food supply line and to provide 1,900 kcal per

day per person for the Angolan, Burundi, Rwandan and Congolese refugees. During 2000, no food was delivered to the Sudanese refugees.

Forestry: Despite limited funds, reforestation activities were implemented in refugee settlements and their surroundings to minimise the impact of deforestation. Congolese refugees received seedlings from an implementing partner for planting around their compounds in Kimaza camp (Bas-Congo). More than 157,000 forest trees and more than 3,600 fruit trees were germinated and distributed to Sudanese refugees in Province Orientale and the local population to combat deforestation.

Health/Nutrition: Six nutrition and feeding centres in Katanga and two in Bandundu were rehabilitated and equipped. This resulted in a decrease in malnutrition rates among the Angolan refugees. More than 17,000 children received treatment in a nutritional centre in Katanga and 286 in a therapeutic centre. Sick refugees were treated in existing medical centres installed in each camp. An existing dispensary in Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental) ensured primary health care for Burundi and Rwandan refugees. Complicated medical cases were referred to the hospital and costs covered accordingly. UNHCR employed a doctor to treat Congolese refugees in an existing dispensary in the Kimaza camp area (Bas-Congo); complicated medical cases were referred to Mbanza-Ngungu hospital. Four health posts were provided for Sudanese refugees in Aba and Dungu sites (Province Orientale); an existing health post was rehabilitated. Support was also given to Aba and Dungu hospitals. More than 3,600 Sudanese children were vaccinated against measles and all children were vaccinated against poliomyelitis. Medical assistance was provided to 500 returnees from Sudan who became displaced due to insecurity in their area of origin. Five general medical kits were distributed to public medical centres in the location of the displaced. Sanitary items and condoms were distributed. Baby care kits were also distributed.

Income Generation: Among Sudanese refugees, income-generating activity funds benefited some 130 women's co-operatives and provided 25 refugee women with sewing skills and 56 women with soap-making skills using local products.

Legal Assistance: UNHCR staff carried out regular monitoring and provided assistance when refugees were involved in judicial matters. UNHCR assisted the local authorities in the issuing of birth, marriage and death certificates to the refugees.

Livestock: With UNHCR's support, a group of Sudanese refugees started poultry breeding with 242 chickens.

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: Some 251 latrines were constructed in the camps and in the area hosting the displaced Sudanese. Existing latrines were renewed.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: Two camps accommodating new Angolan arrivals (Kilueka and N'Kondo in Bas Congo) were rehabilitated and equipped, using materials bought locally. Three bridges were rehabilitated in the Kisenge area (Katanga). Sites accommodating the Burundi and Rwandan refugees were maintained to a satisfactory standard. Kimaza camp (Bas-Congo), where the Congolese refugees live, was rehabilitated and equipped. The site was enlarged with the construction of 50 houses, including 465 rooms for the Congolese refugees transferred from Luozi camp. UNHCR rehabilitated a transit centre in Kinshasa to host the 500 returnees from Sudan who became displaced due to insecurity prevailing in their place of origin.

Transport/Logistics: More than six warehouses were rented for the storage of food and non-food items to be distributed to Angolan refugees. Warehouses were also rented in Mbuji-Mayi and Mwene-Nditu (Kasai Oriental) for the storage of food and non-food items for Burundi and Rwandan refugees. Trucks and trains were rented to transport Congolese refugees, as well as 80 metric tons of food and 15 metric tons of non-food items, from Mbuji-Mayi to the Katshisungu area. Eight bicycles and two motorcycles were bought for monitoring activities. Twenty km of road from Mbanza-Ngungu to Kimaza camp (Bas-Congo) were rehabilitated, including a bridge. UNHCR assisted its implementing partner with the logistics of distributing food and non-food items to Congolese refugees in Kimaza camp. Some 302 km of roads and six bridges were rehabilitated to facilitate access to Aba and Dungu sites (Province Orientale) where the Sudanese refugees are accommodated.

Water: Six water sources were developed in Kahemba (Bandundu) and two water systems were installed in N'Kondo and Kilueka refugee camps (Bas-Congo) hosting Angolan refugees. An implementing partner trucked 604 metric tons of water to Mbuji-Mayi (Kasai Oriental) for the Burundi and Rwandan refugees. Eight water tanks were purchased and installed in three transit centres. UNHCR provided three boreholes with

manual water pumps and one water truck to ensure a supply of 20 litres per person per day to Congolese refugees in Kimaza camp (Bas-Congo). Eight water sources were developed, 12 boreholes drilled or rehabilitated and four manual pumps installed in the Sudanese refugee sites in Province Orientale. Twelve committees were formed by the refugees and the local population for the management of these water structures.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

In addition to its main office in Kinshasa, UNHCR maintained 13 offices in the DRC. The Luozi and Mbandaka offices were closed in April. A total of 31 international and 162 national staff, including one JPO and seven UNVs, were working in the DRC in 2000.

Working with Others

In 2000, UNHCR worked with six international and 12 national partners. In Kinshasa and in the Kivu provinces, UNHCR maintained close linkages with other UN agencies within the framework of the humanitarian co-ordination process. In particular, UNHCR worked closely with WFP for the delivery of food, with FAO for the provision of seeds and tools, and with UNICEF for the provision of baby care kits to pregnant refugee women. At the central and local levels, UNHCR organised assessment missions with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and local authorities in charge of refugee matters.

OVERALL ASSESSMENT

UNHCR's operations in the DRC were hampered by the ongoing war, the country's division into four areas (one government-controlled and three rebel-controlled areas) and the lack of progress in the peace process. Nevertheless, the Office managed to improve refugee protection, to assist refugees in the satisfaction of their basic needs and to prevent major conflicts with the local population.

A transition from UNHCR's programme to rehabilitation and development programmes remained difficult or impossible in the DRC. The presence of other agencies in refugee-hosting areas is minimal and those agencies that are there are limited in their capacity to implement activities complementary to UNHCR's. Infrastructure in refugee-hosting areas is invariably unable to absorb the additional burden of refugees and therefore requires considerable support.

Offices

Kinshasa

Aba
Aru
Biringi
Bukavu
Dungu
Goma
Kahemba
Kimpese
Kisenge
Lubumbashi
Luozi (closed in April)
Matadi
Mbandaka (closed in April)
Mbanza Ngungu
Mbuji-Mayi

Partners

NGOs

Actions et interventions pour le développement et l'encadrement social
Association pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement
Atlas
Caritas (DRC)
Croix Rouge (DRC)
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 (Canada)
World Vision International

Other

Diocèse de Boga
Diocèse de Boma
Diocèse de Mahagi
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Gouvernorat du Nord Kivu

Financial Report (USD)				
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects		Prior Years' Projects	
		notes		notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	5,933,017		0	
Community Services	414,652		513,414	
Crop Production	295,204		661,383	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	351,914		254,082	
Education	354,271		734,299	
Fisheries	5,049		48,706	
Food	135,678		310,448	
Forestry	85,034		175,331	
Health / Nutrition	1,093,211		1,731,119	
Income Generation	86,853		282,850	
Legal Assistance	131,801		80,868	
Livestock	8,246		31,170	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	962,319		830,841	
Sanitation	111,815		143,494	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	427,191		430,315	
Transport / Logistics	2,574,966		4,396,607	
Water	204,965		1,541,220	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	2,916,440		(10,426,889)	
Sub-total Operational	16,092,626		1,739,258	
Programme Support	3,747,562		268,447	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	19,840,188	(3)	2,007,705	(6)
Unliquidated Obligations	613,574	(3)	0	
Total	20,453,762	(1) (3)	2,007,705	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	8,885,223		4,359,768	
Reporting Received	5,968,783		14,786,657	
Balance	2,916,440		(10,426,889)	
Outstanding 1 January	0		16,682,848	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		255,962	
Currency Adjustment	0		(1,777)	
Outstanding 31 December	2,916,440		5,998,220	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1 January	0		2,645,288	(6)
New Obligations	20,453,762	(1)	0	
Disbursements	19,840,188	(3)	2,007,705	(6)
Cancellations	0		637,583	(6)
Outstanding 31 December	613,574	(3)	0	(6)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

(1) Annex to Statement 1

(3) Schedule 3

(6) Schedule 6