

KENYA

KENYA IN SHORT



IN SHORT

Main Objectives

- Provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to those refugees who are unable to return home.
- Facilitate the lasting return of Somali refugees to relatively safe areas in Somalia.
- Assist other refugees who opt to repatriate to their countries of origin.
- Facilitate the local integration or resettlement of refugees, as appropriate.



Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Somali Refugees	139,230	142,992
Sudanese Refugees	60,355	60,355
Ethiopian Refugees	4,880	4,902
Ugandan Refugees	470	568
Other Refugees	1,065	1,105
Total	206,000	209,922
Total Requirements		
USD 22,987,560		



WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

In 1992, Kenya was home to some 420,000 refugees, mainly from Somalia, Ethiopia and Sudan. With the stabilisation of the situation in Ethiopia and some areas of Somalia, refugees from those countries began to return home in 1993. By 1998, the refugee population in Kenya had decreased to less than 200,000 as a result of voluntary repatriation, both spontaneous and organised, and resettlement. Hopes that this process would continue during 1999 were dashed by continuing instability in the region, with armed conflicts raging in Somalia and southern Sudan, and the border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. As expected, this has discouraged most of the refugees in Kenya from returning to their countries of origin.

Constraints

Both UNHCR and the Government of Kenya are concerned about the presence of large refugee camps close to border areas where armed bandits often operate with impunity. The proximity of these camps to countries engaged in civil strife has enabled criminals to acquire weapons that are used against refugees and Kenyan citizens alike. Refugee women, in particular, have been victims of sexual violence. It has unfortunately not been possible to move the settlements for lack of alternative suitable land.

Another problem affecting the remote settlements is the fragility of the semi-arid desert environment, which has been made worse by the presence of large numbers of refugees and local people who congregate near the camps in order to trade with the refugees. UNHCR and its partners are working closely with the local communities to reduce the environmental impact of the refugee camps. Continued sensitivity to the scarce natural resources remains necessary in order to alleviate sources of tension in and around the camps.



STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

To enhance refugee protection, UNHCR will help to strengthen the skills and resources of the relevant national institutions in order to help them put refugee law and principles into practice. UNHCR will assist in the drafting and adoption of

refugee legislation and in speeding up the procedures to determine refugee status. UNHCR will continue to support the Government's efforts to improve security in the camps.

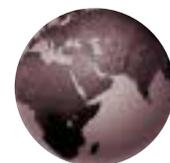
For Somali refugees, all avenues will be explored to encourage voluntary repatriation to areas of recovery. Repatriation to areas of transition or even areas of crisis within Somalia, although not actively encouraged, will be facilitated for those refugees who express the wish to return. Large-scale organised repatriation of Sudanese refugees is not envisaged for the time being, in view of the on-going conflict in Sudan. UNHCR will continue to seek appropriate solutions for this group, including resettlement when this is found to be the most suitable solution. For Ethiopian, Ugandan and urban refugees, the most appropriate durable solutions will be identified and pursued on an individual basis. In some cases, when the circumstances that caused a person to flee have ceased to exist, the application of the Cessation Clause will be considered. In view of the limited options currently open to most refugees in Kenya, UNHCR will need to continue to provide life-sustaining services and assistance to them.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to ensure that food and household goods are regularly provided for the refugees and that an appropriate level of nutrition is maintained in the refugee camps. Refugees will continue to have access to education, including adult literacy, and basic skills training. Vocational and peace education training programmes in the camps are well established and will be maintained. These programmes will give the refugees valuable skills that will later enable them to participate in the reconstruction of their home countries.

Efforts to change negative attitudes towards women through education will continue and refugee women will be encouraged to participate in community affairs and income-generating activities. Community workers in the camps will be trained in gender awareness to enable them to assess women's needs and to design programmes to address them. Further efforts will be made to combat sexual violence against women and girls in and around the refugee camps. UNHCR will support the Anti-Rape Committees and help the Kenyan police improve security. Information gathering, referral services and counselling for rape vic-





tims will continue. Harmful practices against women and girls will be actively discouraged.

Vocational training and educational programmes targeting unaccompanied minors in the Kakuma camps will try to address the specific problems faced by children and young men who fled war-torn Sudan to avoid forced conscription. Refugees will have access to adequate primary health care. Special attention will be given to physically disabled refugees. Evacuation arrangements will be maintained for those individuals who require specialised care available only in Nairobi.

The remote location of the camps presents certain difficulties with transport and logistics: for example, for more than four months in 1997 and 1998, the Dadaab camps were cut off by floods. Working closely with WFP, UNHCR established an air-bridge to ensure supplies of food, medicines and fuel. The fragile road link to the camps requires costly regular maintenance. This link is vital not only for refugees but also for the local Kenyan population. The local population also benefits from the construction of infrastructure such as boreholes, schools and health facilities. UNHCR will intensify its efforts to reduce environmental degradation around the refugee camps. Reforestation campaigns will continue in both the Dadaab and Kakuma camps. A participatory community approach will be encouraged. In collaboration

with UNESCO-PEER, environmental education will be incorporated into the school curriculum.

Since UNHCR considers voluntary repatriation the preferred solution for most refugees, repatriation assistance will continue to be provided for those who choose this option.

Offices

Nairobi
Dadaab
Kakuma

Partners

Government Agencies

Ministry of Home Affairs
National Refugee Secretariat

NGOs

Africa Refugee Education Program Foundation
CARE (Kenya)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Médecins Sans Frontières/Belgique
National Council of Churches of Kenya

Other

Refugee Studies Programme, Moi University

Desired Impact

The UNHCR programme in Kenya will provide the refugee population with an adequate level of life-sustaining services and other humanitarian assistance. UNHCR's advocacy and promotion activities will in general ensure a better and wider understanding of UNHCR's protection mandate and in particular encourage the Kenyan authorities to adhere to international refugee law principles. UNHCR's assistance to the relevant authorities should help to improve the overall safety and security of refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

The UNHCR programme in Kenya will be administered by 171 staff, including 46 international and 125 national staff, working in offices in Nairobi, Dadaab and Kakuma. In addition, four Junior Professional Officers will work in the country.

Coordination

UNHCR Kenya will continue to play an active role within the UNDAF, which harmonises the programmes of the various UN agencies involved in development activities. At the same time, UNHCR will maintain its close cooperation with WFP (food supply), UNICEF (construction of water supply systems), UNESCO (environmental education), UNFPA (reproductive health) and UNEP (environmental activities).

Budget (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	3,638,151
Community Services	553,727
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	849,781
Education	1,751,827
Food	235,235
Forestry	37,469
Health/Nutrition	2,682,620
Income Generation	3,306
Legal Assistance	302,712
Operational Support (to Agencies)	2,567,590
Sanitation	187,301
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	791,848
Transport/Logistics	2,092,443
Water (non-agricultural)	807,141
Total Operations	18,044,200
Programme Support	6,486,409
Total	22,987,560

