

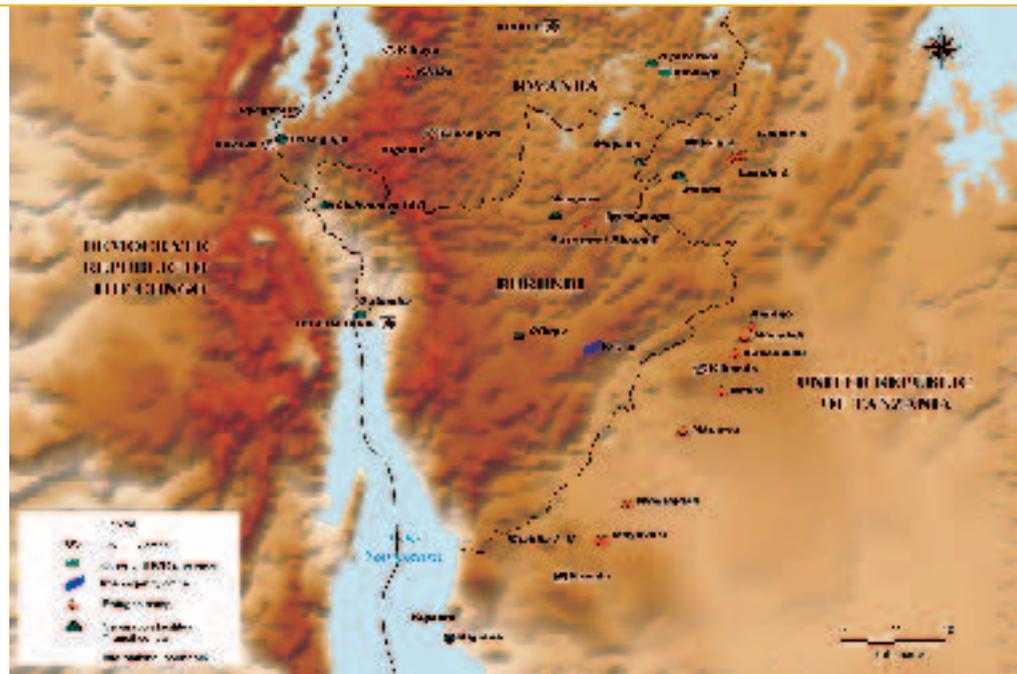
Burundi

Main objectives

Uphold the rights of asylum-seekers in Burundi, particularly those fleeing conflicts in neighbouring countries, and provide them with material assistance where security conditions permit; facilitate the return and reintegration of Burundian refugees returning from the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) and elsewhere, by providing them with material assistance, preparing the areas of return to increase their absorptive capacity and to ensure the sustainability of return; assist those returnees who have opted to return spontaneously, as well as IDPs in areas of return; identify durable solutions including voluntary repatriation and resettlement to third countries.

Impact

- In 2002, 53,283 refugees returned to Burundi, mainly from Tanzania. Of these, 31,152 repatriated through the UNHCR-facilitated programme and the rest, spontaneously. Monitoring of returnee households continued.
- UNHCR rehabilitated and constructed social and community infrastructure, i.e. housing, health centres, schools and roads. Legal coun-



selling services were provided, in order to reinforce national protection capacities and to assist in the resolution of conflict over land. UNHCR financed a survey of available land to ensure the sustainability of return.

- Financial and technical support was provided for the setting up of the CNRS *Commission nationale pour la réintégration des sinistrés* (CNRS), a government administrative body tasked with overseeing the repatriation and reintegration activities, pursuant to the Arusha Peace Accord.
- UNHCR's efforts to promote durable solutions for refugees in Burundi resulted in the facilitated voluntary repatriation of 455 Rwandans.
- Seven families (ten people in all) were reunited with their relatives in Belgium, Canada, New

Persons of Concern

Main Origin / Type of Population	Total In Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
IDPs	100,000	-	60	-
Returnees (from Tanzania)	50,900	45,100	52	-
DRC (Refugees)	39,800	14,400	55	58
Asylum-seekers	11,500	6,480	55	-
Returnees (from DRC)	2,140	20	51	-
Rwanda (Refugees)	770	-	54	57

Zealand, Sweden and Chad, while a refugee family of six was resettled in Sweden.

Working environment

The context

During the first half of 2002, intense fighting continued between the rebels and government forces, despite several attempts by countries in the region to restart the stalled peace process. Furthermore, continued hostilities throughout the year caused massive internal displacement and outflows of more than 28,000 Burundian refugees into Tanzania.

Nevertheless, the installation of additional transitional institutions such as the National Assembly and the Senate as well as the signature of several cease-fire agreements between the government authorities and some of the major rebel factions towards the end of the year raised some hopes of a return to peace. Against the background of these developments, a number of Burundians started returning to the northern provinces from Tanzania, prompting UNHCR to commence limited facilitated repatriation to those provinces

In DRC, fighting between the various forces in the Kivu provinces prompted thousands of refugees to flee into Cibitoke province in Burundi. Between October and December 2002, there was a large influx of more than 19,000 Congolese refugees. By the end of 2002, UNHCR was assisting a total of 14,435 camp-based refugees in Burundi.

Constraints

Insecurity resulting from the continuing civil war remained the main constraint hampering both

UNHCR's planning and implementation of its programmes. Access to the southern provinces, especially Ruyigi and Makamba, remained restricted. Social and economic conditions in Burundi continued to deteriorate as a result of the conflict, with massive unemployment and declining household purchasing power. In the past two years the Burundian currency has been devalued by 20 per cent. These factors undermined UNHCR's efforts to create sustainable conditions for the eventual return home of Burundian refugees from other countries in the region.

Funding

Overall, the programme was well funded, enabling UNHCR to implement its repatriation and reintegration operations as well as its assistance programme for Congolese refugees.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

UNHCR and the Government collaborated in addressing issues such as separating armed elements within the mass influx from DRC, the threat of *refoulement* (expulsion), camp security and the preservation of the humanitarian character of asylum. In close collaboration with the Government, UNHCR carried out the screening and registration of some 5,000 Congolese refugees. UNHCR encouraged the Government to set up an administrative body for the management of protection issues, and supported the Government in its efforts to institutionalise the provision of international protection. The eligibility committee that had been dormant since 1996, was reactivated with the support of UNHCR. The Office provided training on refugee law and international protection to 424 govern-

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget

Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
9,587,536	7,950,572	1,222,653	9,173,225	9,129,515

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.

ment administrative and security officials. Another 240 persons received training on peace and reconciliation. Furthermore, UNHCR actively provided support to several government co-ordination structures set up to oversee repatriation activities.

Activities and assistance

Community services: At Gasorwe camp, 10 women were trained in sewing, and another 25 received support in income-generating activities such as embroidery. Eight care givers were sensitised on HIV/AIDS prevention. Eight social assistants received skills training in project design and management. An adult literacy programme benefited 315 persons. Some 877 returning unaccompanied minors were registered and provided with special assistance; 383 of them were reunited with their families, and host families were identified for another 358.

Crop production: Crop production schemes continued to be integrated with income-generating activities, as the combination of the two activities had shown positive results.

Domestic needs/household support: Over 31,000 returnees who were assisted to return from Tanzania received a returnee package comprising plastic sheeting, blankets, jerry cans, soap, kitchen sets, mats, hoes and clothes for women. Seeds provided by FAO were included in the returnee package in October. In addition, some 13,000 spontaneous returnees also benefited from limited assistance in non-food items.

Education: The main school for Congolese refugees in Bujumbura was rehabilitated, and a total of 44 refugee pupils from Gasorwe camp were admitted. Pre-school and primary school activities in Gasorwe camp benefited 695 children. A new transit centre at Cishemeye for the Congolese influx was provided with six classrooms. At Gatumba, where 60 pupils received school materials, two classrooms were constructed and two teachers employed. A total of 3,262 Burundian refugee pupils in Lukole, Kanembwa, Muyovozi, and Mtabila camps in Tanzania were provided with the opportunity to take part in the Burundi National Examination. In support of the return and reintegration programme, UNHCR con-

structed twelve primary schools in Muyinga, Kirundo and Makamba provinces.

Food: WFP provided three months' food rations to all 31,421 facilitated returnees. Some 13,000 spontaneous returnees received food rations for either one month or three months. A total of 1,659,518 metric tons of food was distributed to returnees, whereas refugees received 2,640,882 metric tons of food commodities.

Health/nutrition: UNHCR provided health care facilities to refugees residing at Gasorwe camp and at the Ngagara, Rugombo and Gatumba transit centres, as well as urban refugees in Bujumbura. Medical assistance was also offered to returnees at the entry points of Muyinga, Ruyigi and Makamba and at the transit centres of Mugano, Songore, Nyabitare, Ruyigi and Mabanda. Nutrition surveys were conducted at refugee sites and cases of malnutrition treated and monitored. A health centre was constructed in the province of Muyinga.

Income generation: At Gasorwe refugee camp, UNHCR supported income-generating activities such as shoemaking, hairdressing, and small commerce, for example second-hand clothes sales. Other activities, such as carpentry, sewing, agriculture and animal husbandry also received support.

Legal assistance: Legal assistance was provided to returnees in Muyinga, Kirundo, Ruyigi and Bururi provinces. Two tribunals were rehabilitated at Gasorwe and at Gashoho in the Province of Muyinga.

Operational support (to agencies): The Office continued to cover the administrative expenses of a number of implementing partners, including office rental, communications equipment, accounting services and bank fees.

Sanitation: All returnee transit centres, as well as the refugee camp in Gasorwe, were equipped with appropriate sanitation facilities. Three latrine blocks were constructed in Gasorwe camp, in addition to 180 latrines and 110 bathrooms in the new transit centre in Cishemeye. In the new Rugombo and Gatumba reception centres, 72 latrine blocks and two bathroom blocks were constructed.



Burundi: With advances being made towards peace, some Burundis have returned home. Here, a returnee is cooking on a fuel-efficient stove provided by UNHCR. *UNHCR / A. Hollmann*

Shelter/other infrastructure: The new Gasorwe refugee camp was completed in May 2002, to accommodate some 3,400 refugees. A total of 604 individual and communal houses and 32 kitchens were constructed. The new camp allowed for streamlined assistance to be given to refugees from Rugombo and Ngagara transit centres, which had long been used as camps. To accommodate the new influx of Congolese, a transit centre for 2,850 refugees was constructed at Cishemeye. For the new transit centre, UNHCR constructed or rehabilitated 296 hangars, 32 kitchens, 22 landfill sites and one administrative block. Two additional temporary reception centres were set up in Bujumbura Rural and Cibitoke provinces to host 7,031 and 1,150 refugees, respectively. For these two centres, UNHCR constructed 72 shelters, eight kitchen blocks and six landfills. In addition, five transit centres for returnees were constructed or rehabilitated to support the repatriation operation. Administrative offices were rehabilitated at Muyinga and Makamba, and unsurfaced roads repaired in the provinces of Ruyigi, Makamba and Kirundo.

Transport/logistics: An international implementing partner regularly maintained UNHCR's fleet of trucks and light vehicles to be used for the transportation of refugees and returnees, as well as for the distribution of assistance materials.

Water: UNHCR repaired the water system at Kizi in Muyinga and connected up the water and electricity supply for the Rugombo reception centre. Three water bladders were installed and rain water collected. At Gatumba reception centre, 22,000 litres of water were provided daily.

Organisation and implementation

Management

UNHCR has two offices in Burundi, the main office in Bujumbura and a field office in Muyinga. The total number of staff was 48 (five international staff, three of whom were on mission, 36 national staff, five UNVs and two consultants).

Working with others

UNHCR had 19 implementing partners, including four local NGOs and five government ministries. The Office also worked closely with other UN agencies, particularly WFP for the delivery of food to both refugees and returnees. UNICEF collaborated on care for Congolese refugee children and provided support for their education. This collaboration was

extended to Burundian refugee children in Tanzania and Burundian returnee children. OCHA supported UNHCR in the management of emergencies. OHCHR collaborated with UNHCR on returnee monitoring and the promotion of refugee rights. The Government's Supervisory Committee and Technical Selection Committee helped to organise the repatriation of Burundian refugees. At the UN Country Team level, UNHCR is a founding member of the Inter-Agency Reintegration Unit, to which it provided financial and other support.

Overall assessment

Despite the major constraint posed by the continued insecurity inside Burundi, UNHCR was able to deliver protection and basic assistance to refugees and returnees. Mechanisms were established to enhance the standards of protection provided to refugees and asylum seekers, and the Government's capacities to respond to refugee protection needs were strengthened. With the resumption of activities by the Consultative Commission for Foreigners, the backlog of asylum requests were addressed, and the provision of identity documents to refugees reduced the incidence of police harassment. With the new identity documents, refugees enjoyed more freedom of movement and could better exploit available economic opportunities. Furthermore, the identification by the Government of the Gasorwe site, and its consolidation as a permanent refugee camp allowed for a more comprehensive delivery of social services. Despite insecurity in many of the provinces, preparatory activities for the return and reintegration operation continued. Transit centres, access roads and social infrastructure, such as schools and health centres, were constructed or rehabilitated. The establishment of the Burundian reintegration bureau *Commission nationale pour la réintégration des sinistrés* (CNRS) and the UN Reintegration Unit also marked significant progress in the preparations for the return of refugees to Burundi. However, continued conflict also caused significant refugee outflows and internal displacement, and the number of refugees has not been as many as expected.

Offices

Bujumbura

Muyinga

Partners

Government Agencies

Ministère de la justice et garde des sceaux

Ministère de la réinsertion et de la réinstallation des déplacés et des rapatriés

Ministère de l'action sociale et de la promotion de la femme

Ministère de l'éducation (Bureau Projet éducation)

Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique

NGOs

Action humanitaire africaine

AFRICARE

Alliance burundaise pour la coopération et le développement

Association burundaise pour le bien-être familial

Association de coopération et de recherche pour le développement

Austrian Relief Programme

International Law Group

INTEREOS

Ligue ITEKA

Norwegian Refugee Council

Réseau des citoyens Network

Save the Children Fund

Shine Jesus Ministry "*Centre d'accueil Sangwe*"

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

OCHA

OHCHR

UNICEF

WFP

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Annual Programme Budget			
	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	941,063		162	
Community Services	107,479		116,690	
Crop Production	24,451		176,034	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	63,240		47,030	
Education	420,801		118,517	
Food	8,361		9	
Health / Nutrition	403,331		71,773	
Income Generation	64,150		10,468	
Legal Assistance	760,530		170,515	
Livestock	0		0	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	580,637		296,925	
Sanitation	8,937		1,486	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	501,001		153,198	
Transport / Logistics	1,962,419		550,009	
Water	13,845		6,793	
Transit Account	0		(54,160)	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	641,555		(954,128)	
Sub-total Operational	6,501,800		711,321	
Programme Support	1,397,124		9,200	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	7,898,924	(3)	720,521	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	1,230,591	(3)	0	
Total	9,129,515	(1) (3)	720,521	
Instalments with Implementing Partners				
Payments Made	4,953,436		5,212,524	
Reporting Received	4,311,881		6,166,652	
Balance	641,555		(954,128)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		1,112,662	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		32,425	
Currency Adjustment	0		(62,796)	
Outstanding 31 December	641,555		63,313	
Unliquidated Obligations				
Outstanding 1st January	0		729,073	(5)
New Obligations	9,129,515	(1)	0	
Disbursements	7,898,924	(3)	720,521	(5)
Cancellations	0		8,552	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	1,230,591	(3)	0	
Figures which cross-reference to Accounts: (1) Annex to Statement 1 (3) Schedule 3 (5) Schedule 5				