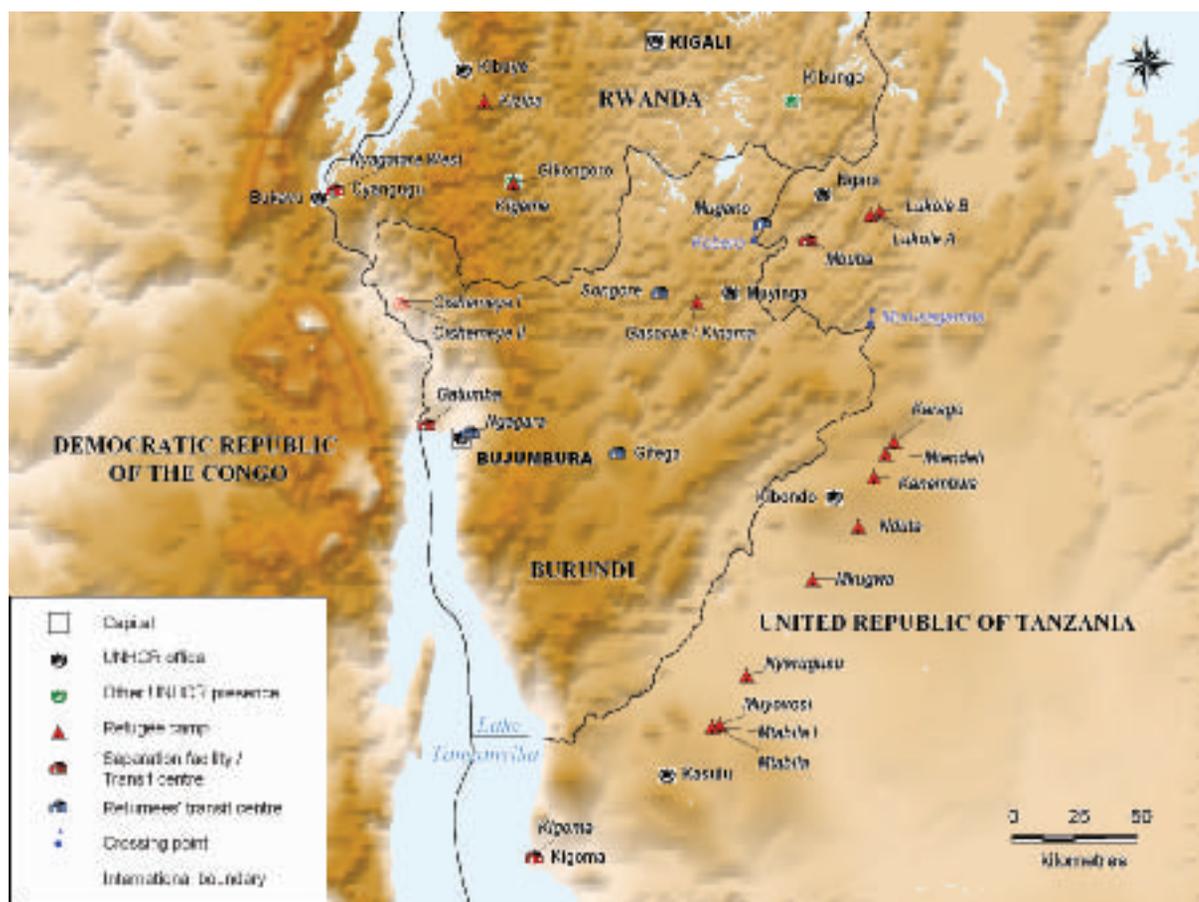


Burundi



Main objectives

Support the Government of Burundi in the adoption of national refugee legislation to ensure that asylum-seekers are protected and receive material assistance; promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and the local communities that host them; facilitate the voluntary repatriation of the Burundian refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the Republic of the Congo (RoC) and other asylum countries, and work towards voluntary repatriation of refugees in Burundi; help the Government of Burundi in the provision of assistance to the spontaneous returnees in the east and south of the country and those returning from other neighbouring countries; contribute to the improvement of the lives of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable refugees in the areas of mass return, in order to maintain peaceful coexistence between the returnees, the IDPs and the local communities.

Impact

- Of the 82,366 Burundian returnees, mainly from Tanzania, some 37,000 repatriated through UNHCR-facilitated programmes and 45,000 returned spontaneously. Some 116 returns from other asylum countries were facilitated by UNHCR, among them 30 from DRC and 18 from RoC.
- Following recommendations by the *Commission tripartite*, a new entry point was opened at Gahumo (eastern province of Cankuzo) for facilitated voluntary repatriation. New transit centres were also erected at Giharo and Mugina (southern provinces of Rutana and Makamba respectively) for the reception and assistance of spontaneous returnees.
- A community-based approach was chosen for the bulk of the rehabilitation and reintegration projects. UNHCR proceeded with the rehabilitation of the public and social infrastructure, including primary schools and 107.9 kms of roads.

- During the year, 113 classrooms for an estimated 5,650 pupils were rehabilitated or constructed in 12 existing schools in the provinces of Kirundo in the north and Makamba in the south. UNHCR, UNICEF and other agencies also supported the Ministry of Education in the provision of additional elements to render these schools functional, such as desks, teachers' salaries and educational supplies.
- Furthermore, UNHCR started a housing renovation programme for returnees in the provinces of Makamba and Kirundo, where it distributed 1,472 housing kits. To facilitate the acceptance of returning refugees and reduce tensions within the communities of return, about 25 per cent of the housing kits were given to internally displaced persons who came back to the same areas as refugees and who faced the same difficulties. Another 52 houses were constructed for extremely vulnerable returnee families.
- UNHCR's local implementing partners conducted legal assistance activities, reconciliation initiatives and promoted peaceful coexistence through a series of workshops in the provinces of return in the north of the country, where access was easy for most of the year. In the province of Muyinga, income-generating activities for women were supported.
- As for the protection of refugees, UNHCR supported the drafting of the national refugee law, which reached the stage where comments are being solicited, before the formal submission to the Council of Ministers, for eventual consideration by the National Assembly. UNHCR supported the Ministry of the Interior, ensuring that refugees in Burundi were registered and received identity cards, which allowed them to have easier access to public services.
- Further to the influx of Congolese refugees in late December 2002 and in January 2003, the transit camp of Cishemeye in the northwest was extended to accommodate some 10,000 refugees.
- UNHCR helped to resettle 14 refugees to a third country. UNHCR provided basic care and maintenance for the residents of Cishemeye transit centre and Gasorwe refugee camp, as well as health care and income-generating activities for refugees in Bujumbura city.

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)	79,900	37,200	-	-
Various nationalities (refugees)	40,500	14,400	-	-
DRC (asylum-seekers)	8,000	7,000	-	-
Returnees (from DRC)	2,100	-	-	-

Income and expenditure (USD) Annual programme budget

Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
9,873,027	8,841,897	852,912	9,694,809	9,694,809

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked 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.



A refugee woman in Mugano Camp, Muyinga Province at a workshop organised by an NGO partner to teach skills in self-sufficiency. *UNHCR/A. Hollmann*

Working environment

The context

The ceasefire agreements signed at the end of 2002 between the Government of Burundi and the leaders of the rebellion were ostensibly reinforced by the

positive developments that followed a changeover of power on 1 May 2003. That generated greater hope of a possible resolution of the crisis.

On the other hand, non-compliance with the ceasefire agreements and various attacks on the capital, as well as the east and south of the country, made it difficult and sometimes impossible for



In October 2003, an agreement was reached between the Government and the main armed group, the *Forces de la défense démocratique* (FDD), which is the armed faction of the political party *Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie* (CNDD). This agreement acknowledged the validity of the 2000 Arusha Accords between the Government of Burundi and the majority of the rebel groups and recognized the framework for peace stipulated within the Accords. The October 2003 agreement swiftly brought peace to most of the country. For the first time since the start of hostilities in 1993, it is widely believed that lasting peace was within reach. This encouraged UNHCR to extend its programme of repatriation in the east of Burundi and make plans for a large-scale facilitated repatriation and reintegration programme for Burundian refugees in Tanzania and elsewhere. Subsequently, a considerable number of spontaneous returnees were registered throughout the country.

Constraints

The major constraint was the insecurity prevailing in almost the entire country for most of the year. As a result, UNHCR was not in a position to facilitate the return or the reintegration of refugees in those areas, as the minimum security criteria for their return in safety and dignity were not met. For the same reason, several western and southern provinces were under UN security phase IV and thus out of reach for most activities not of an emergency or humanitarian nature. Furthermore, the precarious security situation placed staffing restrictions on the UN system, which in turn created yet another impediment to programme delivery. As a result of these constraints, UNHCR was not able to implement the ambitious repatriation/rehabilitation/reintegration programme that was to be funded by a major donor.

Funding

Overall, the programme was well funded, enabling UNHCR to implement its repatriation and reintegration activities within the constraints described above.

UNHCR to carry out its programme. In July, the *Front national pour la libération* (FNL) attacked Bujumbura, and the UN Security Coordinator ordered the relocation of non-essential staff. It was against this backdrop that the *Commission tripartite* met twice to elaborate a framework for the return of refugees (in February in Dar Es Salaam, then in August in Bujumbura).

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

The *Commission consultative pour les étrangers* (CCE) sat 32 times during the year; 4,853 cases were approved and given refugee status, 17 were rejected. The CCE issued 2,028 refugee cards. In close collaboration with the Government, UNHCR carried out the screening and registration of 1,330 Congolese refugees. UNHCR organized four convoys to repatriate Rwandan refugees: a first convoy of 96 people in February, a second of 149 in March, a third of 70 people in September and a last convoy of 53 people in December. In total, 368 Rwandan refugees were repatriated.

Activities and assistance

Community services: In cooperation with an implementing partner, UNHCR documented and assisted a total of 1,251 unaccompanied and separated minors, who were subsequently reunited with their families. Eleven community-based protection committees were trained to promote child rights and protection. An adult literacy programme benefited 164 people in Gasorwe camp and another 50 in Cishemeye transit camp.

Domestic needs/Household support: In Gasorwe camp, the distribution of wood and soap took place once a month. Expectant mothers were provided with a birth kit comprising a blanket, wrapper, flannel and sanitary pads. Vulnerable and chronically sick people received blankets. Each refugee who was transferred from Cishemeye transit camp to Gasorwe received blankets, jerry cans, soap, kitchen sets and mats. In Cishemeye, there were special distributions of clothes (pullovers, T-shirts, trousers, shirts). Some 37,000 Burundian refugees who were helped to return from Tanzania received a returnee package comprising plastic sheeting, blankets, jerry cans, soap, kitchen sets, mats, hoes and clothes for women. From April 2003, condoms were added to the returnee package. In addition, 45,078 benefited from limited other assistance (non-food items).

Education: In Gasorwe camp, 196 children benefited from pre-school, 752 from primary school and 199 from secondary school activities. Gasorwe refugee camp received 264 children, transferred from Cishemeye transit camp. Teachers were evaluated and trained. Primary school manuals were

distributed to each pupil. In Cishemeye transit camp, pre-school pupils received oatmeal in the morning to increase their motivation. Children in primary school were provided with uniforms. In support of the reintegration programme, UNHCR rehabilitated or constructed 52 classrooms in four schools in Kirundo, equipped them with 800 desks, and built 26 houses to accommodate the teachers. In Makamba, UNHCR rehabilitated or constructed 61 classrooms in eight schools, equipped them with 1,525 desks, and built 26 houses for teachers.

Food: WFP provided three months' food rations to all 37,000 facilitated returnees. Either one-month or 15-day food rations were provided to 45,078 spontaneous returnees. Mills were set up at Gasorwe refugee camp and Cishemeye transit camp to grind the maize that was distributed to the refugees.

Forestry: UNCHR facilitated the planting of 30,000 trees at the Mabanda transit centre, in the south of the country.

Health/Nutrition: UNHCR provided health care facilities to refugees residing in Gasorwe refugee camp and Cishemeye transit camp, as well as urban refugees in Bujumbura. The health centre of Muyinga province was given equipment and supplies, including laboratory facilities. It was thus enabled to provide a complete range of hospital services, including nutritional screening, vaccination, epidemiology, reproductive health, HIV screening and counselling. In Cishemeye, 72 mothers volunteered to talk to young women to equip them with an understanding of the dangers of sexual violence in and outside the camp. In Gasorwe refugee camp, 21 health care assistants were trained to monitor epidemic diseases. Vaccination campaigns were successful; 786 refugees were vaccinated in Gasorwe refugee camp. A nutrition survey uncovered no cases of malnutrition. Pregnant women received supplementary food assistance, including vegetables, cereals, fish, fruit, powdered milk, and sugar. Those who had reached term were transferred to the health centre in Muyinga province to avoid/reduce the risk of obstetric complications, then taken back to the camp after the birth (and after the baby's first vaccination). Medical assistance was also offered to returnees to the transit centres of Kobero (Muyinga), Gisuru (Ruyigi), Gahumo (Cankuzo), Giharo (Rutana) and Mugina (Makamba).

Income generation: In Gasorwe camp, seven new associations financed by the income-generating

programme brought together cultivators, soap-makers, bakers, mat-makers, embroiderers, photographers and stockbreeders. A grocery was opened to sell the products of these associations. Refugee women, together with women from the host community, continued to receive support from UNHCR for income-generating activities.

Legal assistance: Legal assistance was provided to returnees in the Muyinga, Kirundo, Ruyigi, and Bururi provinces through mobile clinics for counselling and orientation. Two tribunals were rehabilitated in Muyinga and Kirundo.

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

Sanitation: In Cishemeye transit camp, separate latrines for women were constructed. All rehabilitated or newly constructed buildings included latrines.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: UNHCR rehabilitated 319 houses, 38 kitchens, 8 classrooms, the school head office, the library, 1 bathroom block, and 2 latrine blocks in Gasorwe refugee camp.

In order to carry out the repatriation operation from Tanzania, Gahumo transit centre in Cankuzo and Giharo transit centre in Rutana were extended. In addition, 35 temporary sites were constructed in the main towns of the communes of Makamba, Ruyigi, Muyinga, Rutana, Muramvya and Gitega, to be used in the case of mass return movements. As a part of the reintegration process, UNHCR started a housing programme in the main areas of return. Housing kits were distributed to returnees and IDPs, including iron sheets, nails, wooden doors and windows. The beneficiaries were responsible for making the bricks and building their houses. To this effect, 700 house kits were distributed in Kirundo and 686 in Makamba. In Bujumbura province, 186 households received iron sheets from UNHCR. UNHCR had 52 houses built for extremely vulnerable people in Muyinga. Roads near the Tanzanian border were repaired if they were to be needed for the repatriation operation: 19.7 km of road in Makamba (Mabanda-Mugina), 36.7 km in Ruyigi (Rusengo-Gisuru) and 51.5 km in Muyinga (Muyinga Cankuzo).

Transport/Logistics: An international implementing partner maintained UNHCR's fleet of trucks and light vehicles for the transportation of refugees and returnees, as well as the distribution of assistance material. The same partner was in charge of the storage of non-food items.

Water: UNHCR repaired the water system in Gasorwe camp. It installed water bladders in Cishemeye to provide 100,000 litres of water daily. Water bladders were also installed in the transit centres of Gahumo (Cankuzo) and Giharo (Rutana). In the dry areas of Muyinga, 123 rainwater collection systems were put in place to provide potable water throughout the year.

Organization and implementation

Management

In 2003, UNHCR had two offices in Burundi: the main office in Bujumbura and a field office in Muyinga. The total number of staff was 47 (6 international staff, 36 national staff and 5 UNVs).

Working with others

UNHCR worked with 16 implementing partners including five local NGOs and two government ministries. The Office also worked closely with other UN agencies, particularly WFP, for the provision and delivery of food to refugees and returnees. UNICEF collaborated on care and maintenance for Congolese refugee children and provided support for their education. UNICEF also supplied water bladders for Cishemeye transit camp. UNHCR, UNDP and the World Bank worked together within the *Cellule de coordination inter-agence pour la réinsertion* (CIR). UNHCR collaborated with all UN agencies and NGOs in the management of the massive displacement of people in July 2003 in the south of Bujumbura, constructing shelters for the IDPs. UNHCR participated in the consolidated appeals process, and in the common country assessment (CCA) as part of the UNDAF process. Furthermore, the Office regularly contributed to OCHA's Contact Group for the humanitarian community of Burundi. UNHCR also worked with WFP, UNICEF, WHO, FAO,

UNESCO in consolidating an operational plan for the repatriation and reintegration of Burundian refugees living in Tanzania and participated in sector-based groups set up to coordinate reintegration activities. UNHCR took part in the *Groupe technique de suivi* (GTS) meetings for the protection of IDPs.

Overall assessment

The focus was overwhelmingly on return. Although recurring insecurity interrupted the process, 82,366 Burundians arrived from neighbouring countries. Remarkable progress in the peace processes prompted the opening of the Gahumo entry point for facilitated voluntary repatriation and more entry points for spontaneous returns.

Camp-based and urban Congolese refugees, who constitute the vast majority of the refugee communities, received protection and basic humanitarian assistance. UNHCR supported and encouraged activities aiming at peaceful cohabitation, whether initiated by the refugees or the local population.

In contrast, UNHCR's objective to close down Cishemeye transit camp, located near the border with the DRC, could not be met. This is because Gasorwe refugee camp could not be enlarged sufficiently to accommodate all of the 10,000 remaining Congolese refugees. Pending the complete closure of the transit centre in 2004, it will be necessary to begin the transfer of refugees to Gasorwe refugee camp.

Offices

Bujumbura

Muyinga

Partners

Government agencies

Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique

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

Ministère de l'action sociale

NGOs

Action humanitaire africaine

Alliance burundaise pour la coopération et le développement

Austrian Relief Programme

International Law Group

Ligue Iteka

International Rescue Committee

CADI

CRID

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

FAO

UNDP

UNESCO

UNHCHR

UNICEF

WFP

WHO

World Bank

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects		Prior years' projects	
	Annual programme budget	notes	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	895,099		0	
Community Services	100,781		59,924	
Crop Production	0		(3,783)	
Domestic Needs/Household Support	342,367		337,621	
Education	421,395		304,355	
Food	10,132		2,805	
Forestry	2,001		0	
Health/Nutrition	236,068		61,119	
Income Generation	96,876		16,349	
Legal Assistance	616,055		185,671	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	598,479		(7,683)	
Sanitation	33,360		33,016	
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	879,015		471,684	
Transport/Logistics	1,945,672		394,423	
Water (non-agricultural)	89,499		20,509	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	1,218,113		(658,353)	
Sub - total Operational	7,484,912		1,217,657	
Programme Support	1,353,094		486	
Sub - total Disbursements / Deliveries	8,838,006	(3)	1,218,143	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	856,803	(3)	0	(5)
Total	9,694,809	(1) (3)	1,218,143	
Instalments with Implementing Partners				
Payments Made	4,499,515		1,110,786	
Reporting Received	3,281,402		1,769,138	
Balance	1,218,113		(658,353)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		704,868	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		77,543	
Currency Adjustment	0		31,028	
Outstanding 31 December	1,218,113		0	
Unliquidated Obligations				
Outstanding 1st January	0		1,230,591	(5)
New Obligations	9,694,809	(1)	0	
Disbursements	8,838,006	(3)	1,218,143	(5)
Cancellations	0		12,448	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	856,803	(3)	0	(5)

Figures which can be cross-referenced to the Accounts:

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