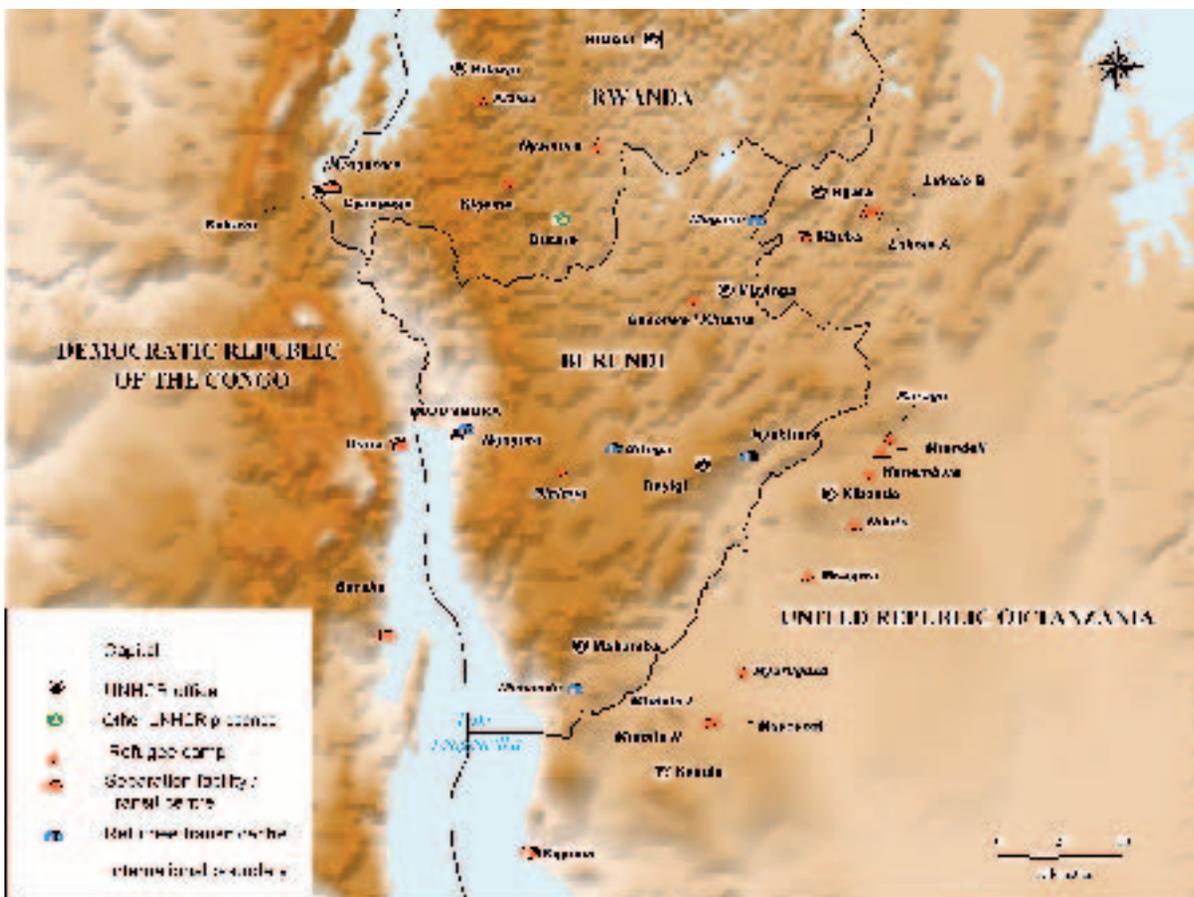


Burundi



Main objectives

Ensure that the repatriation of Burundian refugees takes place in conditions of safety and dignity; assist Burundian returnees to reintegrate into their home communities; continue to provide protection and basic assistance to Congolese refugees, until their return becomes feasible; assist the remaining Rwandan refugees who wish to repatriate; support the Government in the adoption of a refugee law and in the strengthening of national structures responsible for refugee and returnee affairs; promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and their host communities.

Impact

- During the year, more than 90,000 Burundian refugees returned, mainly from the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania), either spontaneously

(nearly 6,500) or facilitated by UNHCR (more than 83,500).

- Reintegration assistance was provided to over 83,000 returnees, including the reconstruction or rehabilitation of some 5,200 houses, 90 classrooms and one health centre. In an effort to promote peaceful coexistence, 10 per cent of reintegration assistance was also made available to vulnerable members of the host communities, and internally displaced persons.
- Approximately 20,000 Congolese refugees arrived in Burundi in June 2004 and received emergency assistance. Of these, an estimated 2,500 were still in the country at the end of the year, mainly in the newly opened camp in Gihinga and in Gasorwe camp.
- 1,799 Congolese refugees from the June 2004 influx were safely relocated to the camp in Gihinga. They were joined later by survivors of the Gatumba massacre of August 2004.
- Under the "4Rs" framework (Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction), two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and two

tripartite agreements were signed with key UN partners including WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and FAO to further strengthen the supply of humanitarian and reintegration assistance to returnees.

- Two new offices (Ruyigi and Makamba), two transit centres (Mabanda and Nyabitare) and two new border entry points became operational (Mabamba in Ruyigi province and Manyovu in Makamba province).

Working environment

The context

Following the agreement reached in October 2003 between the Government of Burundi and the main armed rebel group, the *Forces de défense de la démocratie - Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie* (FDD-CNDD), the year 2004 was expected to be the year of transition to peace. However, delays in the political transition gave rise to fears among the local population, retarding the repatriation process. Of the expected 150,000 returnees, only some 90,000 repatriated during the course of the year.

Overall, security has improved, notwithstanding the armed resistance of the last remaining rebel group

to oppose the peace process, the *Front national de libération* (FNL-Palipehutu).

The demobilization of an estimated 70,000 combatants or ex-combatants, scheduled to be launched in early 2004, finally started in December. By the end of the year, approximately 2,000 ex-combatants had been demobilized.

The Bukavu crisis in May/June 2004 caused a major influx of Congolese refugees into Burundi. Though the majority returned to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in September and October, some 2,500 of this group have remained and settled in the two refugee camps across Burundi.

Constraints

Prevailing insecurity in several provinces, inadequate infrastructure, shortages of raw materials and staff deployment problems were major constraints which severely limited access and assistance to beneficiaries. Harvests were affected by a protracted drought, hampering reintegration and the sustainability of returns in the northern provinces. The combination of drought and security threats caused some Burundians to leave the country and become asylum-seekers in Rwanda or Tanzania.

Persons of concern				
Main origin/Type of population	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Tanzania (returnees)	89,000	83,300	-	-
DRC (refugees)	48,400	17,000	54	57
DRC (asylum-seekers)	11,900	5,700	-	-
DRC (returnees)	900	300	-	-

Income and expenditure (USD) Annual and supplementary programme budgets					
	Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	18,736,081	11,183,692	7,470,486	18,654,178	18,654,178
SB³	15,926,350	7,803,815	2,533,682	10,337,497	10,337,496
Total	34,662,431	18,987,507	10,004,168	28,991,675	28,991,674

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.

³ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for the Return and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

The overall socio-economic situation, which remains highly fragile, particularly in rural areas, threatens to hamper the peace/demobilization process.

Funding

Most of the activities started in the latter part of the year, partly after receiving funding in response to the Supplementary Appeal launched in July 2004. As a result of this and other constraints, by the end of the year, construction or rehabilitation of houses, schools, and health centres had not been carried out to the extent planned.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

Overall, returnees did not face any protection problems arising from their status (e.g. no arbitrary arrest or detention). Upon arrival, returnees were registered by the *Commission nationale de réinsertion des sinistrés* (CNRS) and were issued an "attestation of return", a certificate which in theory allowed them three months of free access to medical care and education. With the sponsorship of UNHCR, the Ministry of the Interior issued national identity cards to returnees of over 16 years of age. Vulnerable returnees were identified and assisted by implementing partners. In the course of the year, almost 800 unaccompanied minors were documented and reunited with their families.

Regrettably, human rights and protection monitoring activities yielded widespread evidence that, despite various official agreements on the treatment of returnees, access to education and health care was limited, food assistance insufficient and most returnees had no adequate shelter upon arrival. Access to land remained the major problem faced by the returnees. Local implementing partners successfully mediated in a number of land disputes (unfortunately still only a relatively small proportion of the numerous cases), while unresolved cases were referred to the Land Commission, which is responsible for identifying and allocating available land but has yet to remedy the land crisis as a whole.

The security of refugees and returnees remained a serious challenge, although overall security had improved by the end of the year. Difficulties arose in June 2004, with the influx of approximately 20,000 Congolese refugees. The suspected, and subsequently confirmed, presence of combatants among the population of asylum-seekers has threatened the principle of maintaining the civilian character of the camps and the refugees' security. These circumstances and the massacre of Gatumba on 13 August 2004, which cost over 150 lives, led to a reinforcement of security measures, with the cooperation of the Government of Burundi and the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB). Approximately 100 survivors of Gatumba were safely relocated to the newly opened camp at Gihinga.

Increased activities were introduced in the camps to protect women at risk, unaccompanied minors, physically and mentally disabled persons and HIV-positive patients. Training on sexual and gender-based violence (SGVB) was provided to ONUB military personnel responsible for the security of the perimeter of refugee camps and surrounding areas.

The draft of the National Law on Asylum was validated by the authorities responsible for refugee matters. It is difficult to predict when the draft law will be adopted, as it remains subject to political developments.

Activities and assistance

Refugees

Community services: Individual assistance was provided to extremely vulnerable refugees including used clothes, and baby clothing was distributed to new mothers. HIV/AIDS sensitization projects were carried out to fight against the disease.

Domestic needs/Household support: In Gasorwe and Mwaro, non-food items (blankets, clothing material, soap, jerry cans, kitchen sets, mats and mosquito nets) were distributed to refugees relocated from the borders in Karurama, Rugombo, Cisheme, Ngagara and Gatumba transit centre.

Education: Over 1,400 students attended primary school in the Congolese refugee camps, adult literacy programmes were implemented and school supplies were provided.



Burundi: Congolese refugees at Cibitoke, Rugumbo Province benefited from the distribution of food. *UNHCR*

Food: WFP provided sufficient food in the camps. In total (for refugees and returnees) more than 4,700 tons of food were distributed.

Forestry: Reforestation activities on an area of 10 hectares were initiated in the vicinity of transit centres and refugee camps, with the participation of refugees.

Health/Nutrition: Some 800 urban refugees and Congolese camp-based refugees benefited from medical services. A regional HIV/AIDS project was launched to establish a counselling network and reinforce local capacities. Vaccination campaigns against diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus were undertaken in four provinces.

Income generation: Various micro-projects were initiated during 2004, including soap and crop production, tailoring and bakery. UNHCR also began income-generating activities targeting women. In the Congolese refugee camps, 54 associations received financial support.

Shelter /Other infrastructure: In the Congolese refugee camps, Gasorwe and Gihinga, 1,400 shelters were built.

Water: Water was provided in the Congolese refugee camps, as per minimum standards of 20 litres per person per day. Thirty-five water points were maintained throughout the Gasorwe camp. Sanitation facilities in all refugee and transit camps were maintained with the help of the refugees. Standards of one latrine per 20 persons and one shower per 40 persons were met.

Returnees

Community services: UNHCR and its implementing partners documented and assisted almost 800 unaccompanied and separated minors. Vulnerable returnees were provided with medical and reintegration assistance.

Crop production: Returnees received hoes within the return package and, under an MoU with FAO, seeds and manure were distributed.

Domestic needs/Household support: Some 26,000 return packages (containing blankets, clothing material, soap, jerry cans, hoes, kitchen sets, mats and mosquito nets) were distributed.

Education: UNHCR constructed 90 classrooms in eight returnee provinces.

Food: WFP provided three months of food rations to over 83,000 Burundians whose return had been facilitated by UNHCR. Mills to grind maize for refugees were maintained by UNHCR.

Forestry: Thirty-four tree nurseries were opened in several returnee provinces and 9,000 seedlings were planted in the south of the country. An agreement was signed with the Ministry of Environment on the reforestation of the surroundings of a closed transit centre.

Health/Nutrition: Returnees entitled to three months of free medical assistance, as per an MoU between UNICEF, WHO and UNHCR, were confronted with difficulties in accessing this assistance in many cases e.g., due to lack of health infrastructure and medicines. Some 25,000 returnees received basic medical care and UNHCR rehabilitated a health centre.

Income generation: In returnee provinces, several groups dedicated to soap making, sewing, carpentry and trade received cash grants. Operations in this sector were initiated with the assistance of women's associations in two returnee provinces and expanded to three others. Twenty-one groups of 25 female returnees benefited from activities in the agricultural and food sectors.

Legal assistance: Legal and mediation services were provided to returnees by legal clinics in four provinces. Most problems experienced by returnees were linked to land and house recovery. Human rights and protection monitoring continued in return areas. UNHCR provided support to the Ministry of the Interior for the issuance of more than 3,000 free ID cards to returnees.

Operational support (to agencies): Some of the administrative expenses of six implementing partners in areas such as construction were met by UNHCR.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: For the reintegration of returnees, over 5,700 houses were built, including a small number set aside for IDPs and other vulnerable members of the host community. Seven transit centres were operational, with the capacity to host 4,500 returnees; two were rehabilitated and extended.

Transport/Logistics: UNHCR maintained a fleet of 66 trucks and 136 light vehicles for the transportation of beneficiaries (refugees and returnees) and the delivery of assistance. Main roads near the Tanzanian border were repaired to facilitate the transportation of returnees. Seven warehouses were used for storage of food and non-food items.

Water: A water caption system was installed near Nyabitare transit centre (Ruyigi) for Burundian returnees.

Organization and implementation

Management

In 2004, UNHCR coordinated its operations from the main office in Bujumbura. In addition to the existing field office in Muyinga, the Organization opened a suboffice in Ruyigi and a field office in Makamba. UNHCR's operation was run by 140 national and 47 international staff members as well as 19 other internationals including 11 UNVs, four consultants and four engineers from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Working with others

In 2004, UNHCR worked with 16 NGOs and three Burundian government partners. The Office cooperated with other agencies within the inter-agency Consolidated Appeals Process which was closely monitored as Burundi was a pilot country for the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative, lead by the UK. Two MoUs and two tripartite agreements were signed to formalize collaboration in areas of health, food, agriculture, education, HIV/AIDS and reintegration. In accordance with the "4Rs" process a reinforced inter-agency reintegration unit, the *Cellule inter-agence de réinsertion* (CIR) focused on the coordination of activities, comprising ONUB, other UN

agencies, international NGOs, and government counterparts.

Overall assessment

Although an improvement in the overall security situation permitted the opening of two new offices and border entry points, delays in the process of political transition nonetheless adversely affected the rate of returns.

Many activities within the Supplementary Appeal started in the latter part of the year – partly after having received additional funding for the repatriation operation. This affected the provision of reintegration assistance, threatening the sustainability of new returns and perhaps reducing the overall rate of return. The rate of returns was adversely affected by post-war economic conditions, a food crisis in northern Burundi and the largely rural, destitute character of the population.

The returnee package provided upon return is frequently inadequate. Many returnees are either forced to sell or share parts of it to meet other essential needs.

Following the Gatumba massacre in August 2004, donors, partners, the Government of Burundi and UNHCR responded in a rapid and effective way, minimizing future security risks for refugees and strengthening partnerships.

By the end of the year, most international staffing needs were met, relieving some critical gaps in human resources. However, further recruitment of national staff will be necessary in 2005 to enable UNHCR to face the challenge of sustainable return and reintegration.

Offices

Bujumbura

Makamba

Muyinga

Ruyigi

Partners

Government agencies

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

Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique / Police de l'air, des frontières et des étrangers

Ministère de la réinsertion et de la réinstallation des rapatriés et des déplacés / Commission nationale de réhabilitation des sinistrés

NGOs

African Humanitarian Action

African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes

African Community Resource Center

Association des femmes juristes

Austrian Relief Programme

Caritas

Catholic Relief Services

Centre pour l'autosuffisance et le développement intégré

Comunità Impegno Servizio Volontariato

International Medical Corps

International Rescue Committee

Jesuit Refugee Services

Ligue Iteka

Norwegian Refugee Council

World Outreach Initiative

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,682,331	1,884,449	5,566,780	0
Community services	569,580	117,566	687,146	50,957
Crop production	0	66,752	66,752	0
Domestic needs / household support	1,845,201	695,198	2,540,399	52,768
Education	574,097	525,408	1,099,505	155,289
Food	14,163	0	14,163	16,470
Forestry	4,499	0	4,499	148
Health and nutrition	320,748	185,338	506,086	214,011
Income generation	178,802	97,290	276,092	30,096
Legal assistance	540,097	198,457	738,554	176,297
Operational support (to agencies)	764,006	190,295	954,301	176,014
Sanitation	0	0	0	34,433
Shelter and infrastructure	1,869,059	1,063,339	2,932,398	28,561
Transport and logistics	4,359,015	1,588,809	5,947,825	233,123
Water	21,466	10,919	32,385	26,813
Instalments with implementing partners	1,371,324	2,964,126	4,335,449	(1,194,981)
Sub-total operational activities	16,114,388	9,587,945	25,702,333	0
Programme support	2,539,790	749,551	3,289,341	0
Total disbursements	18,654,178	10,337,496	28,991,674	0
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	4,778,028	4,958,050	9,736,078	
Reporting received	(3,406,704)	(1,993,924)	(5,400,628)	
Balance	1,371,324	2,964,126	4,335,450	
Prior years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1 January				1,218,113
Payments made				47,684
Reporting received				(1,194,981)
Refunded to UNHCR				(72,634)
Currency adjustment				1,818
Balance				0
Unliquidated obligations				
Outstanding 1 January				856,803
Disbursements				(757,048)
Cancellations				(99,755)
Outstanding 31 December				0