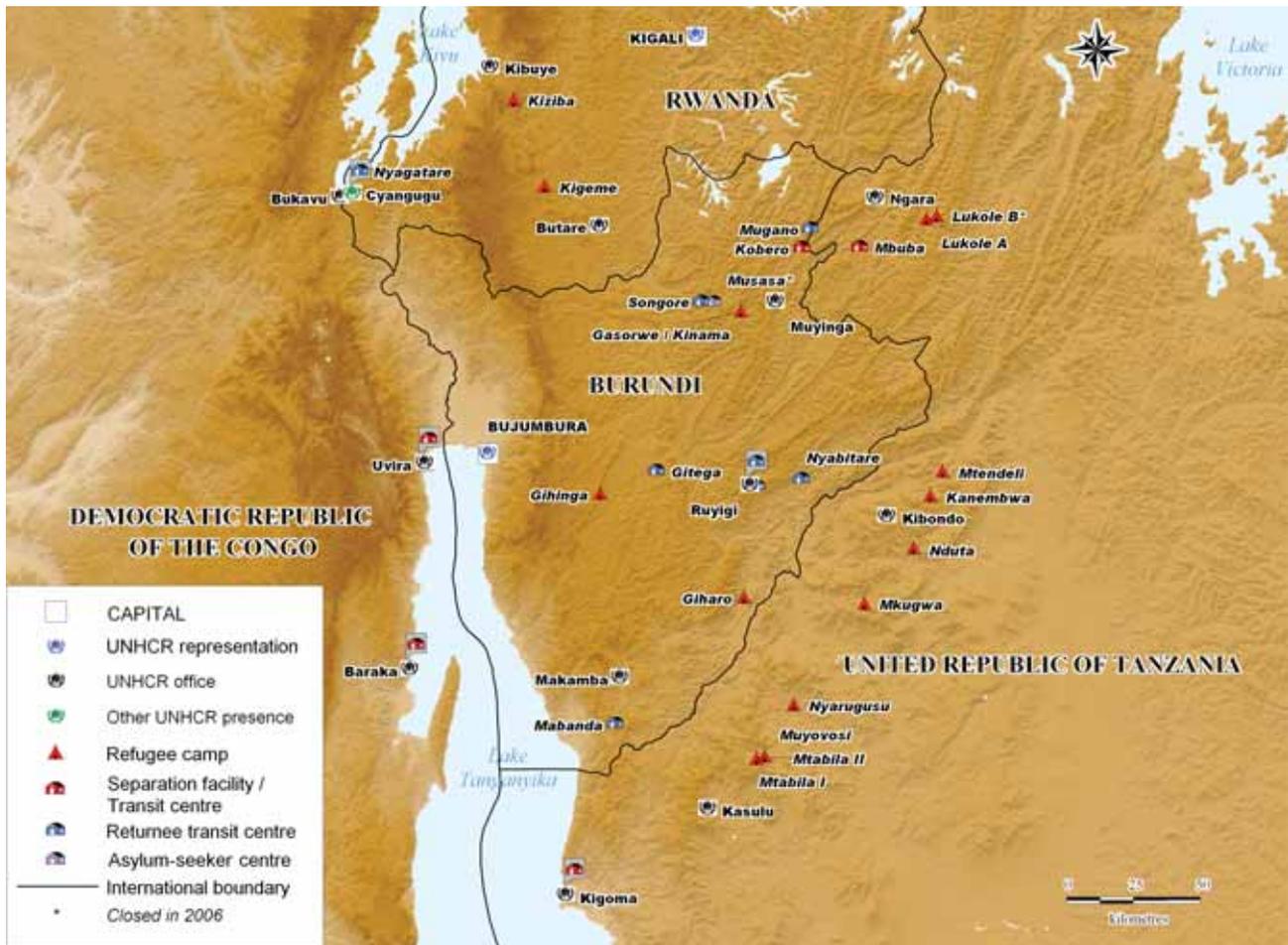


# Burundi



## Operational highlights

- UNHCR helped 44,300 Burundian refugees return home, and some 600 more returned on their own.
- The Office also helped 1,100 refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to return to their country.
- Returnees received identity cards, construction kits, roofing materials and legal assistance, and were offered mediation in land disputes.
- UNHCR helped Burundian officials to process the asylum claims of over 8,000 Rwandan asylum-seekers, 200 of whom were granted refugee status.
- The rehabilitation of the Gasorwe and Gihinga camps improved living conditions for refugees.
- The United States accepted to resettle 550 Congolese survivors of the 2004 Gatumba massacre.

## Working environment

The August 2005 investiture of President Pierre Nkurunziza instilled an atmosphere of optimism. In April 2006, the UN Operation in Burundi (ONUB) was replaced by the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB), mandated to support the Government in governance, security sector reform and the promotion of human rights and justice. BINUB was also tasked with assisting in the demobilization and reintegration of former combatants. In May 2006, the *Commission nationale des terres et autres biens*, or National Land and Property Commission, was created to help all victims of Burundi's civil war recover their property and resolve land conflicts.

Security in Burundi improved in 2006. In June, following a tripartite meeting between UNHCR and the Governments of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania, the Office took a more proactive stance on returns and moved from helping those refugees who wished to return home to actively promoting voluntary repatriation. Hopes for stability and peace were boosted by a ceasefire agreement between the Government and the country's last active rebel group, the *Front National de Libération* (FNL), on 7 September 2006.

## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives for 2006 were to facilitate the repatriation of 150,000 (later revised to 55,000) refugees from neighbouring countries, improve living conditions in areas of return and facilitate the reintegration of returnees by providing economic, social and psychological support. For camp-based DRC refugees, the aim was to provide protection and basic assistance until they could repatriate voluntarily. Indeed, UNHCR aimed to facilitate the voluntary and sustainable return of 10,000 DRC refugees. Furthermore, the Office sought to help the Government strengthen the national bodies responsible for refugee and returnee matters and adopt a draft refugee law.

### Protection and solutions

A refugee law drafted with UNHCR's support in 2005 was not discussed by Parliament, but the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers were generally respected. However, there were some allegations of arbitrary arrest and detention.

UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of some 1,100 refugees from the DRC in the last quarter of 2006. The group resettlement process for survivors of the 2004 Gatumba massacre was completed in 2006, with some 550 Congolese accepted for resettlement in the United States.

With UNHCR's assistance, the Burundian Government completed the refugee status determination of 40 per

cent of the 20,000 Rwandan asylum-seekers in the country. Of these, only 206 were granted refugee status. UNHCR provided transport to Rwanda for 18,700 rejected asylum-seekers or those who dropped their claims. WFP provided these returnees with food for a month.

### Activities and assistance

#### Refugees

All camp-based refugees were registered and refugee statistics were regularly updated. However, only 3 per cent of registered refugees received identity cards from the Government.

**Community services:** Some 20 per cent of refugees received training on how to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. They were encouraged to report cases of sexual violence and to benefit from the medical, legal and psychosocial support offered by UNHCR.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Basic non-food items were distributed to all camp-based refugees. Women and girls above 12 years of age received two six-month supplies of sanitary materials.

**Education:** During the academic year 2005-2006, about 75 per cent of refugee children were registered in primary schools and 48 per cent in secondary institutions; of these 47 and 37 per cent, respectively, passed their exams. The quality of education suffered from poor teacher training and student absenteeism. UNHCR will improve teacher training in 2007.

Persons of concern					
Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	12,600	12,600	51	62
	Rwanda	600	200	53	53
Asylum-seekers	DRC	7,100	7,100	51	57
Returnees (refugees)	From the United Republic of Tanzania	42,800	42,200	-	-
	From DRC	1,300	1,300	-	-
	From Rwanda	600	600	-	-
	Various	200	200	-	-
IDPs		13,900	13,900	51	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>78,900</b>	<b>78,100</b>		



UNHCR/C.-L. Grayson

When Juma Misigaro returned to Burundi with his grandchildren after 30 years of exile, he found his house and land occupied. Property restitution is one of the complex issues UNHCR has to deal with in repatriation operations.

**Food:** Some 5,900 Burundians who were expelled from Tanzania received warm meals and food packages at the Kinazi Transit Centre.

**Health and nutrition:** The main health indicators were within acceptable standards. All refugees who needed antiretroviral treatment for HIV and AIDS had access to it. UNHCR reviewed its medical assistance policy and referral system; changes in these led to a 50 per cent decrease in medical expenditures. Moreover, UNHCR rehabilitated the two health centres in Gasorwe and Gihinga camps and added a maternity ward to each.

**Operational support (to agencies):** UNHCR provided material and financial support to its 19 implementing and operational partners. A new round of participatory evaluations for age, gender and diversity mainstreaming was launched and will be followed by a workshop in 2007.

**Sanitation:** UNHCR constructed new latrines and showers in the camps and met sanitation standards. However, refugees were reluctant to maintain hygiene without compensation, and had to be continuously made aware of the need to do so.

**Shelter and other infrastructure:** Shelter standards were met in the refugee camps. However, this was not possible in the Giharo transit centre, to which Rwandan asylum-seekers were transferred, due to a lack of land to extend the site.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR used a fleet of 63 trucks to transfer new arrivals and urban Congolese refugees from Bujumbura to the camps and to deliver food and non-food items to them.

**Water:** During the reporting period, between 16 to 19 litres of water were provided per person per day. The bad state of the road leading to the water source for Gihinga camp limited the amount of water that could be trucked to it daily.

### Returnees

**Community services:** All unaccompanied minors received schooling and medical assistance; UNHCR also helped to reunite families.

**Crop production:** Sixty hectares of marshland were rehabilitated in the province of Karuzi. Some 4,600 people (850 households) were aided by this project. About 32 per cent of the beneficiaries were returnee families.

**Domestic needs and household support:** All returnees received a return package of non-food items. From June onwards, school materials and seeds provided by UNICEF and FAO were included in the return package.

**Education:** UNHCR provided funds to organize the Grade 6 state examination in refugee camps in Tanzania for some 3,500 Burundian refugee students, of whom

222 passed the exam. The results were very positive, as the camp schools obtained the highest scores in the 2005-2006 academic year. The success rate was 46 per cent for primary students and 19 per cent for those at secondary level.

**Forestry:** More than 2 million tree seedlings, including 43,000 for fruit trees that would directly benefit returnee families, were planted to compensate for the wood used in the construction of 16,000 shelters and for cooking purposes.

**Fisheries:** UNHCR provided advice and a pick-up truck to returnee associations which had been given fishery kits in 2005. The truck helped the returnees to transport their fish to market and earn a higher income. A survey revealed that this support improved the nutritional status of association members and created 300 jobs.

**Health and nutrition:** UNHCR undertook the medical screening of 44.5 per cent of returnees, and identified some 1,700 returnees with special needs. Another 143 cases with serious medical problems were referred for further care.

**Income generation:** A partnership between UNHCR, UNDP and the Federation of Cooperatives of Burundi provided credit to returnees through local cooperatives in the ten major communes of return. In the pilot phase, which was supervised by an ILO/UNDP expert, a first credit tranche of about USD 100,000 benefited more than 1,800 people.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR provided returnees with legal assistance and mediated in land and other disputes. Legal clinics established by UNHCR dealt with more than 5,400 conflicts, and solved some 1,200 cases. Moreover, the Office helped the Government to provide over 33,500 national identity cards to returnees aged 16 and above.

**Sanitation:** UNHCR constructed 13 latrine blocks in the transit centres. Moreover, it provided training and cleaning kits to school hygiene clubs so they could maintain school sanitation facilities.

**Shelter and infrastructure:** Of the 16,000 shelters constructed by returnees, more than 10,000 were roofed with corrugated iron sheets provided by UNHCR. The rest were covered with plastic sheeting.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR transported more than 44,000 of the nearly 45,000 Burundians who repatriated in 2006.

**Water:** UNHCR rehabilitated community water systems and trained members of local water point management committees on their maintenance. However, 20 to 30

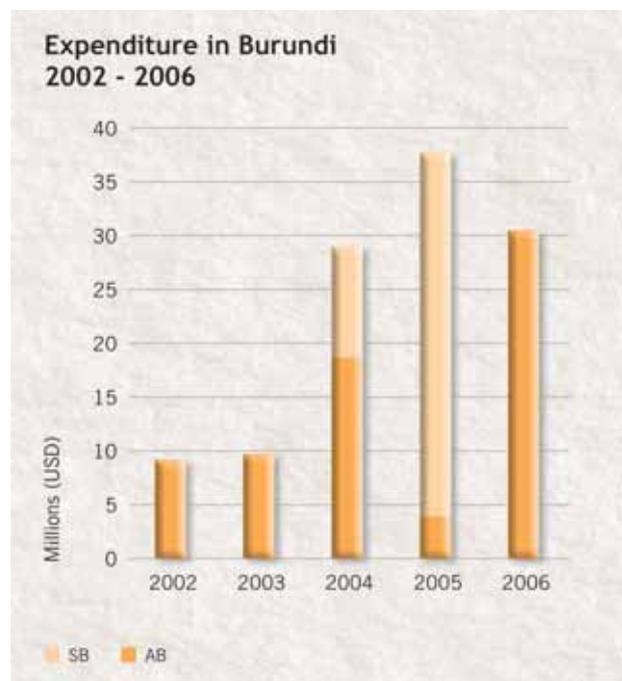
per cent of the water points were not operational, mostly because communities did not maintain them properly or lacked resources to pay their water bills.

## Constraints

The reportedly harsh military response to rebel attacks at the beginning of the year, continuing political uncertainty, drought and floods slowed returns to Burundi. This was compounded by the sluggish pace of rehabilitation and development in return areas due to the poor condition of roads, schools and health facilities. There were delays as well in adopting a strategic poverty reduction and development framework for Burundi and in addressing the reintegration needs of returnees and ex-combatants.

## Financial information

Due to the low level of returns and UNHCR's 2006 austerity measures, the operational budget and the number of staff were reduced. While UNHCR's assistance programme for the DRC refugees and asylum-seekers was fully funded, reintegration activities were not. As a consequence, some 5,800 houses that had been constructed by returnees had to be covered with plastic sheeting instead of iron sheets.



In 2004, UNHCR's annual programme expenditures increased significantly due to a new influx of 40,000 refugees from the DRC and more return and reintegration activities for Burundian returnees. In July 2004, a supplementary programme was established for 18 months. Annual programme expenditures were

reduced in 2005, as most of the new arrivals from the previous year had returned home. In 2006, the supplementary budget was incorporated in the annual budget, and overall expenditure decreased due to a lower number of returns.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

In 2006, UNHCR had a representation office in Bujumbura, a sub-office in Ruyigi and field offices in Muyinga and Makamba. The Office had a total of 189 staff, including 133 local and 56 international staff (40 professional, one JPO, two consultants and 13 United Nations Volunteers). UNHCR Burundi coordinated its assistance and repatriation activities with the UNHCR offices in Tanzania, Rwanda and the DRC.

### Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with the national authorities, implementing and operational partners, donors and sister UN agencies to facilitate the return and reintegration of Burundian refugees, and to aid refugees and asylum seekers in Burundi. All of UNHCR 2006 operations were included in the Consolidated Appeal for Burundi.

## Overall assessment

UNHCR had to revise its initial repatriation goals but achieved 81 per cent of its revised target, with over 44,900 Burundian refugees returning home during the year. Moreover, all returnees received reintegration assistance, though some cuts had to be made in the shelter sector. Overall, UNHCR's refugee care and maintenance programme was a success, as living conditions in camps were improved and standards met in all sectors.

Partners	
<b>Implementing partners</b>	
<b>Government agencies:</b> <i>Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique (Police de l'air, des frontières et des étrangers, Cartes nationales d'identité), Ministère de la solidarité nationale, des droits de la personne humaine et du genre (Projet d'Appui au Rapatriement et à la Réintégration des Sinistrés).</i>	
<b>NGOs:</b> <i>Action Contre la Faim (France), African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, African Humanitarian Action, Association des femmes juristes, Comunità Impegno Servizio Volontariato, Conseil pour l'éducation et le développement, Croix Rouge Burundaise, Fédération Nationale des Coopératives d'Épargne et de Crédit du Burundi, International Rescue Committee, Jesuit Refugee Services, Ligue Iteka, Association pour la Paix et le Développement, Norwegian Refugee Council, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization - Health Net International, World Outreach Initiatives.</i>	
<b>Others:</b> <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit.</i>	
<b>Operational partners</b>	
<b>Others:</b> Norwegian Refugee Council.	

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)					
	Final budget	Income from contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other funds available <sup>2</sup>	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	39,904,539	26,176,237	4,522,317	30,698,554	30,509,101
SB <sup>3</sup>	536,646	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40,441,185</b>	<b>26,176,237</b>	<b>4,522,317</b>	<b>30,698,554</b>	<b>30,509,101</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

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

<sup>3</sup> The SB figures apply to the Repatriation and Reintegration of Congolese Refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

## Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	AB	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	7,715,588	0
Community services	523,772	124,117
Crop production	80,872	139,651
Domestic needs and household support	278,223	61,784
Education	293,725	1,354,987
Food	80,820	2,723
Fisheries	17,999	15,780
Forestry	229,673	83,227
Health and nutrition	1,292,853	510,689
Income generation	56,611	104,670
Legal assistance	1,240,281	252,873
Operational support (to agencies)	1,432,552	901,590
Sanitation	134,891	70,598
Shelter and infrastructure	7,031,437	1,695,224
Transport and logistics	4,108,255	682,261
Water	119,197	55,151
Instalments with implementing partners	1,501,899	(6,055,325)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>26,138,649</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	4,370,452	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>30,509,101</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>		<b>(471,640)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Payments made	12,159,652	
Reporting received	(10,657,753)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,501,899</b>	
<b>Previous years' report</b>		
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Outstanding 1st January		6,889,990
Reporting received		(6,055,325)
Refunded to UNHCR		(230,393)
Adjustments		(151,665)
<b>Balance</b>		<b>452,607</b>