

Sudan

Operational highlights

- UNHCR helped the Government to improve its refugee status determination (RSD) procedures. As a result, the quality and quantity of asylum decisions improved, as well as the coordination between local authorities and UNHCR.
- New operational procedures for the identification and referral of resettlement cases helped UNHCR to increase resettlement by 35 per cent.
- Nearly 45,000 refugees, mainly Eritrean, benefited from awareness-raising and peer training on the prevention of HIV and AIDS, sexual and gender-based violence and female genital mutilation.
- The Office improved the self-reliance of Eritrean refugees and their host communities through the Sustainable Options for Livelihood Security in Eastern Sudan (SOLSES) initiative. Community-based forestry and environmental projects promoted active community participation in the management of natural resources.



Working environment

For the last four decades, eastern Sudan has hosted large refugee populations from Eritrea and Ethiopia. Chronic instability and conflicts in the region, as well as the political situation in their countries of origin, have contributed to the refugees' protracted stay in Sudan. Furthermore, a deteriorating human rights situation in Eritrea has resulted in a steady increase in new arrivals since 2004.

The signing of the peace agreement between the Government of Sudan and a coalition of eastern rebel movements in October 2006 brought increased stability to eastern Sudan. However, throughout 2006, travel restrictions were imposed on the humanitarian agencies working in eastern Sudan, hindering access to the refugee camps in Kassala State. Furthermore, the arrival of 8,000 new asylum-seekers, mainly Eritreans, to

eastern Sudan in 2006 resulted in worsened conditions in some camps due to the ageing infrastructure and overburdened services.

UNHCR, with its partners, conducted extensive participatory assessments among both camp-based and urban refugee populations. The assessments highlighted the serious problems urban refugees have in gaining access to governmental protection, health care, education, employment and livelihood opportunities. Furthermore, assessments revealed high malnutrition rates, inadequate water supplies, lack of access to secondary education and inadequate housing in some of the camps. Protection problems included unclear legal status and difficulties in obtaining or renewing refugee identification cards. Prospects for self-reliance were limited due to the restrictions on freedom of movement and employment.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

In 2006, UNHCR's objectives were to promote self-reliance, particularly for women, older people and adolescents, among the Eritrean refugees living in camps in eastern Sudan; advocate a local integration policy for Eritrean refugees who opt to stay in eastern Sudan; resettle those who cannot integrate locally; and facilitate and promote the voluntary repatriation of refugees of various other nationalities, conditions permitting. The Office also aimed to pursue the establishment of a national asylum system in Sudan conforming to international standards and to rehabilitate selected refugee-hosting areas.

Protection and solutions

As the repatriation of Eritrean refugees seems unlikely in the foreseeable future, the Office devised a durable solutions strategy to address their protracted situation by means of local integration and resettlement. Efforts to promote this strategy with the Government, local

authorities and other partners will have to be intensified in 2007.

UNHCR continued to facilitate and promote the voluntary repatriation of mainly Congolese and Ethiopian refugees from urban areas.

In order to strengthen the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers, UNHCR actively engaged in expanding working relations with all relevant government partners. As a result, an inter-ministerial committee was set up to revise the 1974 Asylum Act and other domestic legislation referring to refugees.

Activities and assistance

Community services: The involvement of women in decision-making at camp level improved as women constituted 40 per cent of all camp committees, compared to 30 per cent last year. Nearly 45,000 urban and camp-based refugees benefited from training on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, female genital mutilation and HIV and AIDS. In Khartoum, some 4,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities received counselling.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	Eritrea	150,700	107,600	50	40
	Chad	25,000	20,000	50	-
	Ethiopia	20,100	6,400	50	-
	DRC	2,700	2,300	50	-
	Various	3,200	1,900	40	-
Asylum-seekers	Ethiopia	300	300	50	-
	Eritrea	100	100	50	-
	Various	6,300	-	50	-
Returnees (refugees)	From Chad	20,000	10,000	-	-
	From Central African Republic	12,100	5,100	-	-
	From DRC	6,700	6,400	-	-
	From Ethiopia	5,900	5,900	-	-
	From Uganda	5,800	5,800	-	-
	From Kenya	2,200	2,200	-	-
	From Egypt	900	900	-	-
IDPs		1,325,000	1,325,000	50	-
Returnees (IDPs)		31,700	31,700	50	-
Others of concern	War-affected beneficiaries in West Darfur of concern to UNHCR	42,100	42,100	50	-
Total		1,654,100	1,573,300		



UNHCR/A. Rehr

Malaria patients in a health centre in Kilo 26 refugee camp.

Domestic needs and household support: The Office continued to provide non-food items to refugees with specific needs and newly arrived asylum-seekers. Some 12,000 women refugees received sanitary napkins in camps.

Education: UNHCR supported 24 primary schools and emphasized the enrolment of girls. Twenty-five girls and 11 boys in the camps received secondary school scholarships and 65 students in Khartoum benefited from the German-sponsored DAFI scholarships. The establishment of parents' associations in five camps will hopefully increase the school enrolment of all children.

Food: Some 85,000 refugees, mainly Eritreans, in 12 camps received food assistance from WFP. However, the programme was affected by funding shortfalls and restrictions on the entry of humanitarian actors into some of the camps. These circumstances, combined with poor harvests, worsened the nutritional status of refugees, particularly children.

Forestry: The Office helped the local authorities, host communities and refugees to improve agro-forestry practices, plant trees and use alternative fuels to save natural resources. Over 900 hectares of forest plantations and nearly 180 hectares of agro-forestry farms were established. Nearly 190,000 fruit seedlings were grown and some 1,800 families were trained in energy-saving methods.

Health and nutrition: UNHCR and its partners provided primary health services and medicines in all refugee camps. Over 100 medical staff, including 45 midwives, received training, which improved health services for

women, and raised immunization coverage in the camps. Furthermore, some 16,000 mosquito nets were distributed to prevent malaria.

Income generation: UNHCR assisted nearly 800 refugees to set up small agro-businesses through training and the provision of tools and seeds. The livelihood opportunities of urban refugees were improved through vocational training.

Legal assistance: UNHCR provided legal counselling to both urban and camp-based refugees and asylum-seekers. The Office's capacity-building and training efforts with the authorities helped to improve RSD, accelerate the renewal of more than 8,000 refugees' identity cards and obtain the release of nearly 300 asylum-seekers from detention.

Operational support (to agencies): UNHCR provided technical and financial support to all implementing partners.

Sanitation: At the end of 2006, 50 per cent of camp-based refugees had access to family latrines.

Shelter and other infrastructure: The Office facilitated the construction of a school, community centre and legal counselling centre and repaired the electrical wiring of a hospital in Wad Sharife camp. In Kilo 26 camp, 20 new shelters were built to accommodate new arrivals.

Transport and logistics: Due to the age and poor condition of UNHCR's fleet of vehicles, repair and maintenance costs were high throughout the year.

The procurement of ten new vehicles enabled UNHCR and its partners to deliver relief items to camps more efficiently.

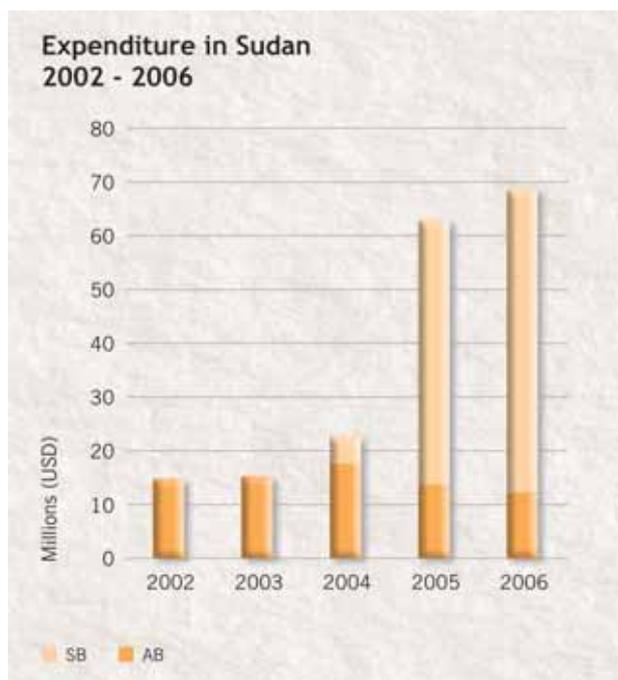
Water: Despite limited investments to improve the water supply in the camps, water quality remained below standards. The current water supply in the camps needs to be replaced by economically sustainable systems in the future.

Constraints

The refugee assistance programme in eastern Sudan was hurt by a prolonged period of restricted access to the camps in the State of Kassala. The restriction was imposed by the local authorities on security grounds. It constrained UNHCR's monitoring and delayed the application of measures to improve the situation in the camps. During the year, the Office intensified talks with State authorities and the restrictions were lifted in the last quarter of 2006.

Financial information

UNHCR's annual budget for the assistance of Eritrean refugees in eastern Sudan has decreased since 2004. In 2006, funding for the assistance programme was 1.5 million USD below its 2005 level. The decrease in funds led to a deterioration of living conditions in the camps. Thus, infrastructure is in poor condition, and basic services have seen a decline in quality as well as frequent disruptions.



Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR's operation in eastern Sudan and in Khartoum was managed by the country representation in Khartoum and a sub-office in Es Showak. UNHCR's presence in the town of Kassala was kept active to cope with the arrival of new asylum-seekers and the need to maintain close contact with the local state authorities. In 2006, there were 26 international and 111 local staff working at UNHCR offices in Khartoum, Es Showak and Kassala.

Working with others

In 2006, UNHCR expanded its collaboration with various line ministries in Khartoum and the local authorities in Kassala and Gedaref States. The Office continued to collaborate with other UN agencies and IOM.

Overall assessment

The Office did not manage to fully reach its objective with regards to the protracted refugee situation in Sudan. The slow progress was in part due to factors outside UNHCR's control, such as restricted access to the camps and a funding shortfall. At the same time, some operational management difficulties and partners' implementation arrangements hampered the programme's progress. The Office addressed these problems through a thorough review of its protection and assistance strategy, internal restructuring and reinforced coordination and cooperation with various stakeholders. Looking forward, UNHCR will continue to ensure that protection and assistance strategies are designed in coordination with partners and to advocate with donors to provide adequate resources.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: Commissioner for Refugees, Government of the State of Gedaref, National Forestry Corporation, Refugee Counselling Service.

NGOs: Global Health Foundation, Human Appeal International, Sudan Open Learning Organization, Sudanese Red Crescent.

Others: IUCN, IOM, UN Habitat, UNV.

Operational partners

Government agencies: Government of State of Kassala, Ministry of Justice.

Others: FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.

Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget ¹	Income from contributions ²	Other funds available ³	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	13,574,422	9,851,932	4,629,333	14,481,266	12,209,522
South Sudan SB ⁴	43,961,123	53,778,505	(7,195,164)	46,583,341	37,782,670
Darfur SB ⁵	18,044,401	22,126,193	(1,648,124)	20,478,069	17,567,021
IDP SB ⁶	2,500,000	2,879,018	(153,274)	2,725,744	586,831
DRC SB ⁷	185,000	0	425,019	425,019	425,019
Total	78,264,946	88,635,649	(4,968,830)	83,666,818	68,571,062

¹ The supplementary budgets do not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

² Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

³ Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

⁴ These SB figures apply to the Return and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees to Southern Sudan.

⁵ These SB figures apply to the Protection and Assistance to Refugees and IDPs in Darfur. The other funds available include USD 1,026,620, which was recorded under Chad.

⁶ These SB figures apply to the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Khartoum and Kasala States.

⁷ These SB figures apply to the Repatriation and Reintegration of Congolese Refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Previous years' projects
	AB	SB	Total	AB and SB
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,899,096	27,885,949	30,785,045	0
Community services	495,848	1,385,983	1,881,832	1,096,134
Crop production	0	0	0	11,438
Domestic needs and household support	39,262	2,064,529	2,103,791	24,485
Education	291,933	299,248	591,182	2,575,604
Food	4,459	8,406	12,865	1,505
Forestry	310,031	38,981	349,012	305,302
Health and nutrition	605,151	414,012	1,019,162	2,363,729
Income generation	107,219	23,825	131,044	184,346
Legal assistance	301,554	1,559,279	1,860,833	916,412
Operational support (to agencies)	700,080	4,729,371	5,429,451	1,203,260
Sanitation	42,204	43,409	85,613	119,370
Shelter and infrastructure	365,959	1,077,522	1,443,481	748,950
Transport and logistics	730,563	4,311,395	5,041,959	878,018
Water	206,882	142,709	349,592	453,531
Instalments with implementing partners	3,064,287	8,741,369	11,805,656	(10,882,084)
Sub-total operational activities	10,164,529	52,725,987	62,890,517	0
Programme support	2,044,993	3,635,553	5,680,546	0
Total expenditure	12,209,522	56,361,540	68,571,062	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(1,642,946)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	5,641,169	14,527,466	20,168,635	
Reporting received	(2,576,882)	(5,786,097)	(8,362,979)	
Balance	3,064,287	8,741,369	11,805,656	
Previous years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1st January				12,940,066
Reporting received				(10,882,084)
Refunded to UNHCR				(890,131)
Adjustments				(6)
Balance				1,167,845