



East and Horn of Africa

Working environment

The region showed a mixed picture in 2007, with improvements in some areas and stagnation in others. In Uganda, the Government and the rebel Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) took new steps to end the country's 20-year civil war. A peace treaty, signed in Juba, Sudan in June addressed the vexed issue of accountability for war crimes during the conflict. A cessation of hostilities agreement in August 2006 allowed UNHCR to establish its presence in Gulu, Lira, Kitgum and Pader in northern Uganda. Furthermore, with better security in the north, the United Nations has reduced travel restrictions, allowing humanitarian staff to reach more internally displaced persons (IDPs). UNHCR plans to help some 500,000 IDPs in Uganda return to their places of origin.

In Somalia, a National Reconciliation Conference in Mogadishu in July and August 2007 was attended by civic leaders and elders from warring clans. However, it did not have the full participation of the Union of Islamic Courts (ICU) and its supporters, who held a parallel conference in Asmara, Eritrea. The ICU demanded the withdrawal of Ethiopian troops as a precondition for national reconciliation.

Fighting in the capital, Mogadishu, between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and insurgents has made it difficult for the UN and other international organizations to reach the approximately 300,000 IDPs in Somalia. The current African Union mission in

Djibouti

Eritrea

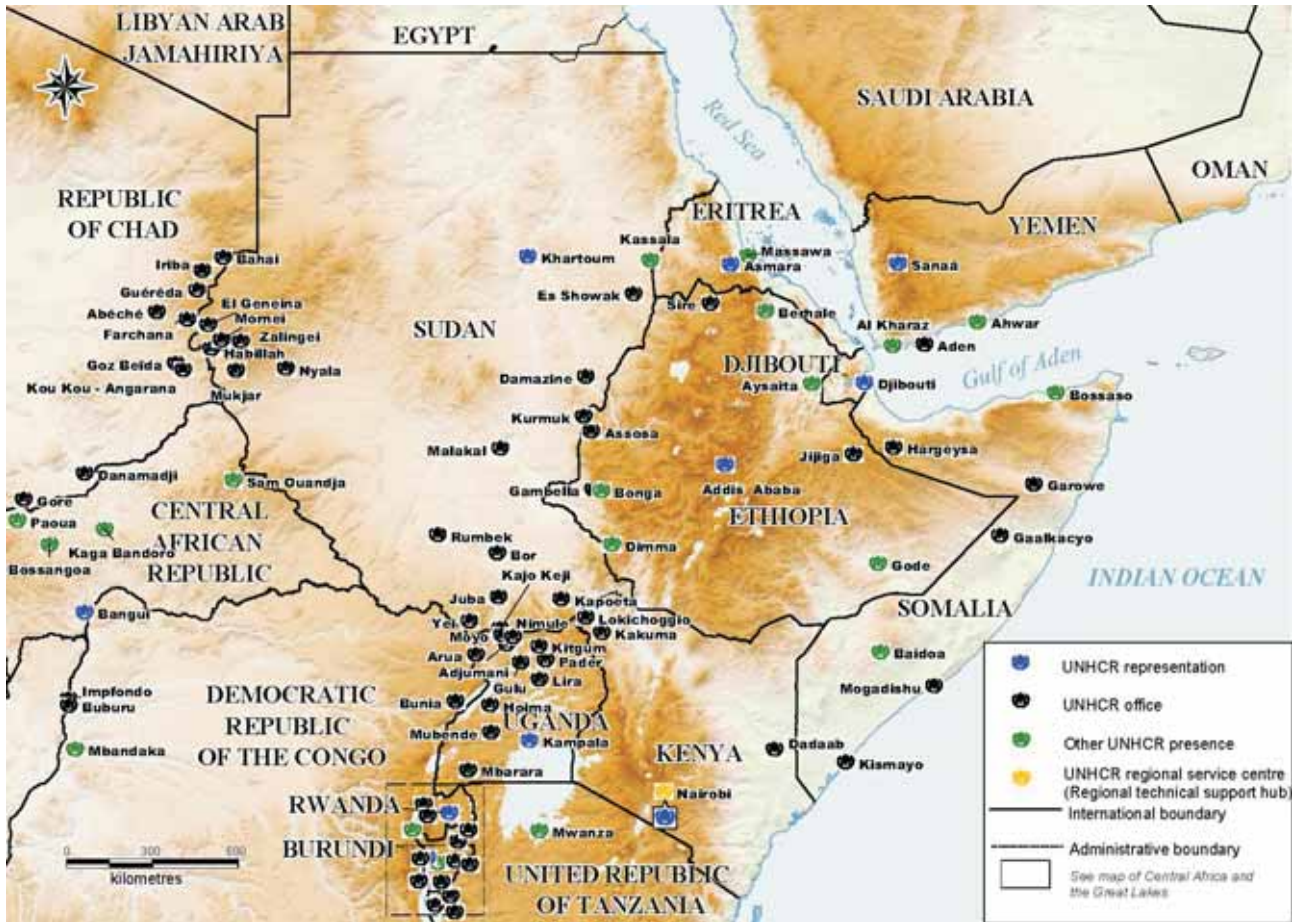
Ethiopia

Kenya

Somalia

Sudan (see under Chad/Sudan situation)

Uganda



Somalia (AMISOM) lacks resources and is severely understaffed; only about 1,600 of the promised 8,000 personnel have been deployed.

Ethiopia hosts a large number of displaced people, including Somali refugees. In mid-2007 UNHCR established a team in Gode, in the south-east of the country, to cope with a new influx of Somalis. But humanitarian access has been deterred in eastern Ethiopia by ongoing clashes between government forces and rebels of the Ogaden National Liberation Front (ONLF). Meanwhile, Ethiopia's relations with Eritrea remain strained by a border dispute, in spite of the demarcation of the national borders by the Eritrea-Ethiopia Border Commission in November 2007.

The overall humanitarian situation in the region has not improved, partly because drought and floods have hurt already precarious livelihoods. The combination of natural disasters and an uncertain political situation in the Horn of Africa has led to massive displacement and migratory movements, mainly towards the Gulf of Aden and Yemen. At the same time, refugees are repatriating to Southern Sudan. This movement is expected to peak in 2008 - 2009, at which time some refugee camps will be closed.

Despite the closure of the Kenya-Somalia border in January 2007, some 4,000 Somali refugees managed to cross into Dadaab between January and August 2007. This flow is likely to continue in 2008.

Strategy

UNHCR will seek durable solutions for refugees (Somali, Sudanese, Eritrean, Ethiopian and Rwandese) through voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement, as appropriate. It will improve coordination on conflict resolution and peacebuilding with other UN agencies, governments, NGO partners and donors, as well as regional institutions such as the African Union and the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development.

UNHCR will rehabilitate infrastructure and the environment in refugee-affected areas. It will also help build the capacity of government and non-governmental partners to protect refugees. Following the voluntary repatriation of refugees, camps will be closed and their facilities refurbished before being passed on to local communities.

UNHCR will monitor and protect IDPs in Uganda, Somalia and Ethiopia, in line with the UN Cluster approach.

Constraints

Without a broad political settlement in northern Uganda, IDPs will be reluctant to return to the area. In Kenya and Djibouti, political and national security concerns



UNHCR/Fred Noy UN photo

Eritrean refugees in Kilo 26 camp, Sudan.

have prompted a reluctance to receive and absorb additional Somali refugees.

In countries with protracted refugee situations, such as Kenya and Ethiopia, the search for durable solutions is complicated by the lack of opportunities for local integration or self-sufficiency and limited prospects for voluntary repatriation.

Security and public services in Southern Sudan must be improved to enhance voluntary repatriation to the region.

Operations

UNHCR operations in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda** are highlighted in separate chapters.

In **Eritrea**, UNHCR will assist some 4,000 Somali and Sudanese refugees in camps, as well as urban asylum-seekers and refugees. It will monitor protection and the application of refugee status determination procedures while searching for durable solutions. The Office increased support for education, sanitation and preventive measures against malnutrition and sexual and gender-based violence in 2007. That level of support will be maintained in 2008 - 2009.

UNHCR will pursue voluntary repatriation or resettlement as the main durable solutions for camp-based refugees and some urban refugees in

Eritrea. It will provide advice and technical assistance to the Government to help build its refugee-management capacity and lobby for Eritrea's accession to international refugee and statelessness conventions. In addition, it will push for national legislation to address refugee and statelessness issues.

The Office will identify people with specific needs by analysing registration and profiling data. By monitoring protection and assistance standards and indicators, it will target interventions for maximum impact.

In **Djibouti**, UNHCR will work to facilitate the voluntary return of some 2,000 refugees to "Somaliland" in the context of the tripartite agreement signed between the Office, the Government of Djibouti and the Somaliland authorities in August 2007. Since the closure of the El Hol refugee camp in late 2006, UNHCR has been working to consolidate services in the Ali Addeh camp.

In 2008 and 2009, UNHCR Djibouti will:

- Accelerate voluntary repatriation to "Somaliland", home for the majority of refugees in Djibouti.
- Protect and rehabilitate the environment of refugee-impacted areas.
- Implement a multi-sectoral (water supply, primary health care and education) assistance programme for the remaining refugee population in Ali Addeh.

As Djibouti's refugee population grows smaller, the Office will ensure a smooth transition from humanitarian

assistance to development activities. Measures in this regard include developing an assistance database in each sector; building the skills of local UNHCR staff and their government counterparts; and coordinating activities with UN agencies, government bodies, NGOs and other stakeholders in the refugee-hosting district of Ali-Sabieh.

The Regional Support Hub in Nairobi supports 12 country programmes in the East and Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region. It promotes the implementation of global policy priorities in all country operations under its responsibility and offers expertise in durable solutions, registration, combating sexual and gender-based violence and female genital mutilation, geographical information systems, contingency planning and public information. In 2008, the Hub will have 26 international staff, 19 national employees, four experts and one consultant.

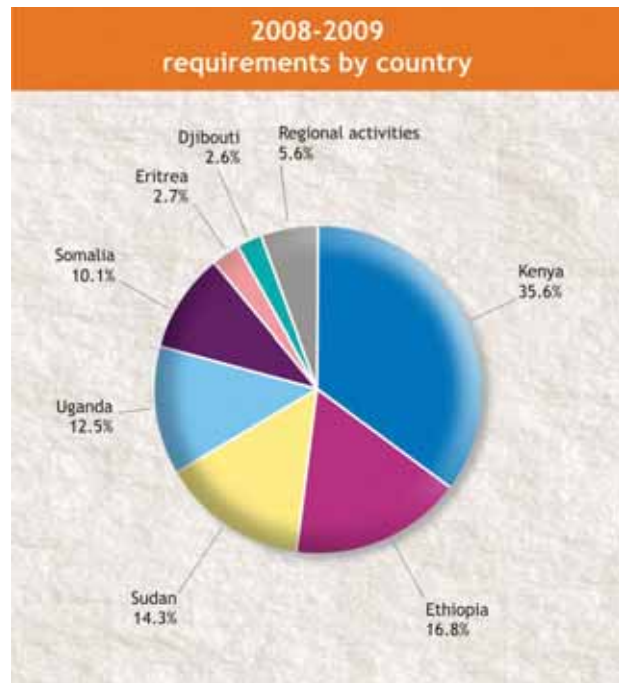
In January 2008 UNHCR will establish a Regional Office in Nairobi that will oversee the Regional Support Hub and operations in Kenya, Somalia, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Eritrea. The Regional Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, which deals with the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa, will continue reporting to the director of the Africa Bureau in Geneva.

The African Union Liaison Unit in Addis Ababa

The African Union is a key player on a range of issues including peace and security, governance, and regional integration. In the past few years UNHCR's Liaison Unit has worked closely with the African Union on policy and implementation. The Office helped the African Union develop its Convention on Internal Displacement and Guidelines on the Civilian and Humanitarian Character of Refugee Camps. It has also cooperated with the

African Union on access to post-primary education; joint initiatives to expand the donor base for refugee, returnee and IDP programmes; and protection and self-reliance in countries of asylum. An African Union Summit on Forced Displacement will consider these issues in 2008.

In the next two years, UNHCR will coordinate with the African Union and other regional bodies through four main areas: (i) preparation for the African Union Summit on Forced Displacement, and implementation of the African Union's strategic policy on Post Conflict Recovery and Development; (ii) development of the African Union legal Framework to enhance protection; (iii) advocacy, secretarial support and resource mobilization, including support for donor visits to refugee programmes; and (iv) collaboration with Inter-Governmental Authority on Development to address the root causes of forced displacement.



Budget (USD)							
Country	2007			2008			2009
	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget	Supp. Programme Budget	Total	Annual Programme Budget
Djibouti	2,565,751	350,000	2,915,751	3,141,379	375,000	3,516,379	3,270,011
Eritrea	4,357,237	0	4,357,237	3,952,118	0	3,952,118	3,198,861
Ethiopia	14,835,859	6,389,549	21,225,408	18,393,089	7,463,710	25,856,799	18,523,406
Kenya ¹	32,338,766	5,960,554	38,299,320	41,480,297	3,516,500	44,996,797	49,153,958
Somalia	6,103,812	10,934,895	17,038,707	6,948,071	10,293,331	17,241,402	9,448,071
Sudan	13,676,273	60,205,082	73,881,355	18,618,769	0	18,618,769	19,094,919
Uganda	17,949,014	13,519,962	31,468,976	16,851,084	0	16,851,084	16,147,083
Regional activities ²	6,008,000	0	6,008,000	2,350,000	0	2,350,000	12,400,000
Total	97,834,712	97,360,042	195,194,754	111,734,807	21,648,541	133,383,348	131,236,309

¹ Includes the Regional Support Hub in Nairobi.

² Includes activities for individual voluntary repatriation, malnutrition and malaria.

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget excludes a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.