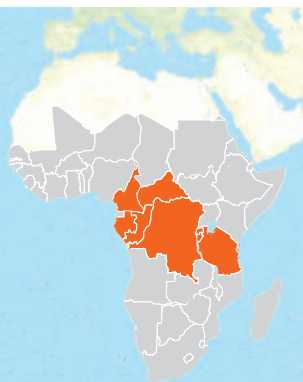


# CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES



UNHCR

2014 - 2015  
GLOBAL APPEAL

- Burundi
- Cameroon
- Central African Republic
- Congo (Republic of the)
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Gabon
- Rwanda
- United Republic of Tanzania



Refugees from the Central African Republic at a reception centre in Equateur Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo (March 2013)

UNHCR / S. LUBUKU



# Overview



## Working environment

The countries in the Central Africa and the Great Lakes subregion pursued their efforts towards socio-economic development and institutional stability in 2013. Some, notably the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR), were hampered by internal conflicts and widespread violence. Others, including Burundi, Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo (Congo), faced stagnant economies, high unemployment and inflation. In the United Republic of Tanzania, Gabon and Rwanda, more favourable economic conditions improved prospects for the future.

To date, regional and UN efforts to bring peace to eastern DRC have yielded few results. Recent developments that have pushed the M23 movement to lay down arms will be marked with optimism and prudence. The situation in the CAR remains volatile following the overthrow of the President in March 2013, which led to violence and violations of human rights. Nonetheless, the CAR and other countries

in the region have shown a positive attitude towards the institution of asylum and respect for refugee law and principles.

Conflicts and generalized insecurity, both within the subregion and in border areas such as in the east of the DRC, Darfur (Sudan), the CAR and the north-east of Nigeria, continue to fuel displacement. Displacement within the DRC has been accompanied by the flight of Congolese seeking asylum in Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. Similarly, in addition to the growing number of internally displaced people (IDPs) within the CAR, its citizens have fled to Cameroon, Chad, the DRC and the Congo. Sudanese refugees from Darfur (Sudan) have sought asylum in the CAR, while Nigerian refugees have fled to Cameroon and Niger.

At the end of June 2013, the total number of displaced people within the subregion, including refugees, asylum-seekers and IDPs, stood at over 6.3 million. Of that number, 1.1 million were assisted by UNHCR.

UNHCR was able to make considerable progress in the search for durable solutions for refugees from the DRC in the Congo, with more than 41,000 assisted to repatriate during the first half of 2013. At the beginning of September 2013, the number of those who had returned from the Congo to their home in the DRC since the start of the repatriation operation in April 2012 reached 100,000, making it likely that the operation would be completed by the end of 2013 or beginning of 2014.

In 2014-2015, UNHCR will pursue comprehensive durable solutions strategies for Angolan and Rwandan refugees. Achievements with regard to durable solutions for Rwandan refugees in the DRC and Burundi in 2013 included the repatriation of close to 4,000, mostly from the DRC. In 2012-2013, more than 100,000 Congolese refugees were assisted to return to the DRC. The 6,000 DRC refugees in Batalimo Camp in the CAR are expected to repatriate during the last quarter of 2013.

## Strategies

- UNHCR's work to protect refugees in the subregion will include programmes in child protection and efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and exploitation. It will also meet refugees' basic needs in the area of health care; provide sanitary materials for women; offer basic education for children; develop livelihood and self-reliance opportunities for refugees (particularly as a first step towards local integration); and intensify efforts to search for durable solutions.
- In order to advance the reintegration of Congolese returnees in the DRC, UNHCR will continue to address their basic needs in terms of health, shelter and education, and promote peaceful cohabitation by conducting sensitization programmes in local communities.
- To seek durable solutions for former Angolan and Rwandan refugees and facilitate their voluntary repatriation or local integration, UNHCR will work with the concerned Governments through tripartite commissions.
- The regional resettlement policy for Congolese refugees from the DRC will be implemented, and resettlement will be offered to a limited number of other refugee groups.
- UNHCR will continue to lead the protection cluster for IDPs, focusing on life-saving activities, including protection monitoring and the prevention of SGBV. IDPs will be provided with basic assistance (particularly shelter) and helped with their return and reintegration.

## Challenges

The biggest challenges for UNHCR operations in the subregion arise from the lack of security. Conflict and violence in eastern DRC and northern Nigeria, as well as throughout the CAR, are driving internal and external displacement and creating serious obstacles to the achievement of durable solutions. The logistical constraints to reaching refugees from the DRC in the north of the Congo and the CAR; Nigerian refugees in the far north of Cameroon; and refugees from the CAR in the north of the DRC; are considerable. In addition to hampering access, security constraints and logistical challenges also increase the cost of operations.

Should these challenges not be adequately addressed, the consequences for people of concern would be significant. For example: voluntary repatriation from the Congo and the CAR would be stalled; refugees from the CAR in the north of the DRC would not receive adequate protection and assistance; and Angolan and Rwandan refugees – as well as the remaining refugees in Gabon – would not be able to benefit from durable solutions. Refugee status determination (RSD) processes would also decelerate, and the shelter and protection needs of the majority of IDPs in the DRC and the CAR would not be covered.

## Operations

Operations in **Burundi**, the **Central African Republic**, **Cameroon**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the **Republic of Congo**, **Rwanda** and the **United Republic of Tanzania** are described in separate country operation chapters.

UNHCR closed its office in **Gabon** in January 2013, but four national staff remain in the country under the oversight of the Regional Office in DRC. As of 30 June 2013, there

## | Implementation |

were 4,000 refugees and asylum-seekers in Gabon: some 1,600 refugees from Chad, the Congo, the DRC and other countries, as well as almost 2,400 asylum-seekers from the DRC, Chad, the CAR and elsewhere. In 2014 UNHCR aims to:

- collaborate with the Government to protect and assist the refugees and asylum-seekers who remain in the country, in particular by advocating for the restructuring of the *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* and the establishment of a fair and efficient RSD procedure;

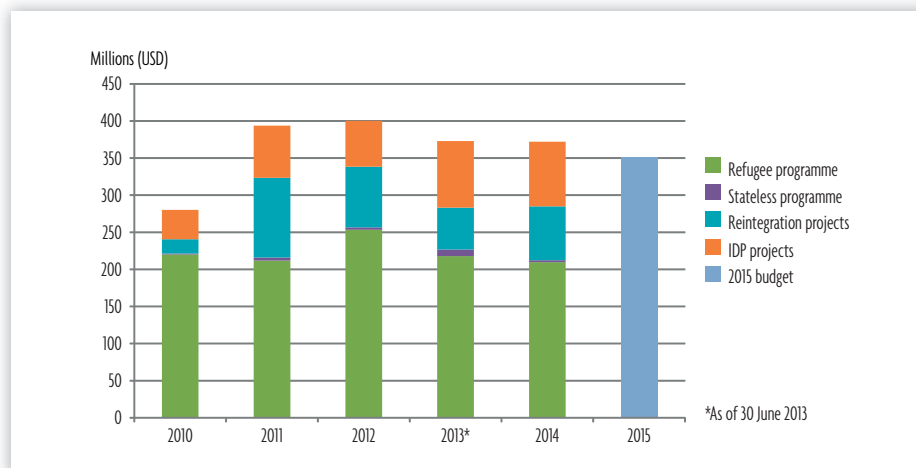
- pursue the search for durable solutions by implementing the comprehensive strategy for Angolans, Liberians and Rwandans; and

- make resettlement available for those who meet the criteria; and advocate for the local integration of refugees who cannot repatriate by improving their access to socio-economic rights, including medical care, as provided for by Gabonese law.

## Financial information

UNHCR is faced with a highly fluid situation in the Central Africa and Great Lakes subregion, where major repatriation operations and new refugee influxes are taking place simultaneously. While durable solutions have been achieved in the recent past for refugees from the DRC repatriating from the Congo or Burundian refugees returning from Tanzania, for example, UNHCR has had to launch two supplementary appeals in 2013 for new displacement emergencies in the CAR and the DRC. In 2014, the financial requirements for the subregion are set at USD 372 million, with more than half of the budget, USD 209.7 million, allocated to the refugee programme; USD 87.1 million for IDP protection and assistance; and USD 72.6 million for reintegration projects.

### Budgets for the Central Africa and the Great Lakes | 2010–2015



### Budgets for the Central Africa and the Great Lakes | USD

Operation	2013 REVISED BUDGET (as of 30 June 2013)	2014				TOTAL	2015
		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects		
Burundi	31,543,912	24,773,311	121,631	0	199,829	25,094,771	24,989,448
Cameroon	19,015,028	24,217,605	792,931	0	0	25,010,536	23,020,000
Central African Republic	23,619,665	12,859,228	0	0	11,495,913	24,355,141	30,355,141
Congo	29,586,000	29,948,467	0	0	0	29,948,467	20,619,611
Democratic Republic of the Congo Regional Office	183,197,418	52,757,703	1,647,481	47,129,091	75,435,705	176,969,980	176,969,980
Rwanda	46,351,441	49,188,547	0	2,628,451	0	51,816,998	42,100,000
United Republic of Tanzania	39,607,039	15,989,087	0	22,806,240	0	38,795,327	32,708,085
<b>Total</b>	<b>372,920,503</b>	<b>209,733,949</b>	<b>2,562,042</b>	<b>72,563,781</b>	<b>87,131,447</b>	<b>371,991,220</b>	<b>350,762,266</b>