

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

Angolan Refugees

- Maintain assistance programmes geared towards self-sufficiency for Angolan refugees in Bandundu, Bas-Congo and Katanga Provinces, pending durable solutions.

Burundi Refugees

- Reactivate the April 1998 Tripartite Agreement that defines assistance and modalities for a lasting solution for Burundi refugees throughout the country.
- Provide assistance and protection to Burundi refugees in South Kivu and, security permitting, facilitate voluntary repatriation.

Congolese Refugees

- Provide protection and assistance to Congolese refugees in Bas-Congo and, subject to adequate security conditions in the country of origin, facilitate voluntary repatriation.

Rwandan Refugees

- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees in the Kivu region and find alternative durable solutions for those for whom voluntary repatriation is not an option.

Sudanese Refugees

- Pending durable solutions, provide assistance, aimed at self-sufficiency, to Sudanese refugees in Province Orientale.

Ugandan Refugees

- Gain access to and assist Ugandan refugees in Province Orientale.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRESS ACHIEVED AND CONSTRAINTS

Angolan Refugees

Despite the on-going conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the influx of Angolans into the Bandundu, Bas-Congo

and Katanga Provinces continued throughout the first six months of the year. Some 7,800 new arrivals were accommodated in the refugee sites in Bandundu, 6,000 in Bas-Congo and 3,000 in Katanga. Access to these areas was often restricted for security reasons. As at 30 June, there were some 166,500 Angolan refugees in the DRC, of whom UNHCR is assisting some 101,900 to integrate locally. Due to the unsatisfactory nutritional status of the refugees, UNHCR implemented a supplementary therapeutic feeding programme. In addition, as most of the refugees were women and children, UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF, implemented a reproductive health programme, which provided pregnant women with health kits for their babies. This very popular programme reduced by more than half the percentage of women giving birth at home. Moreover, families received agricultural inputs to increase their food self-sufficiency. With UNHCR's assistance, children attended primary school and enrolled in secondary education. Meanwhile, UNHCR helped 320 vulnerable refugees through community-based development activities. Furthermore, UNHCR provided basic assistance to some 3,230 urban refugees living in Kinshasa, in particular to vulnerable persons. Among the urban refugees, 66 men and 23 women are registered for university. Despite the civil war in Angola, some 60 refugees repatriated with UNHCR's assistance and another 100 refugees repatriated specifically to the Cabinda enclave in Angola.

Burundi Refugees

Some 20,000 Burundi refugees remained scattered in the forests of South Kivu. The UNHCR office in Uvira remained closed and assistance could not be delivered to them during the first six months of the year. Pending signature of the peace agreement for Burundi (expected in August), no repatriation to Burundi took place. An agreement to reactivate the existing Tripartite Agreement, which permits access for the purpose of providing assistance and facilitating repatriation, has yet to be reached. Another 350 Burundi refugees were

located in the Mbuji-Mayi site in Kasai Province, which is a Government-controlled area. UNHCR continued to provide basic food and non-food assistance and services, including primary and secondary education, to these refugees during the first part of the year. Preparations are underway to transfer the refugees to a safer and more accessible location, where they will be helped to attain self-sufficiency. The Government has already identified land for this purpose.

Congolese Refugees

The improved security situation in the Republic of the Congo encouraged many Congolese refugees to repatriate. Since April 1999, some 43,980 Congolese refugees have repatriated from the Bas-Congo area of the DRC, of whom some 2,800 repatriated during the first six months of the year. The Luozi camp, which was opened in early 1999 to accommodate the Congolese refugees, was closed in April. Some 2,500 were transferred to Kimaza camp, while an estimated 3,000 remained scattered in villages along the border. With UNHCR's assistance, 470 refugees in Kimaza camp attended public schools near Mbanza Ngungu city. Some 220 children are receiving informal education at Kimaza camp, while waiting for the next academic year to attend public schools.

Rwandan Refugees

During the first part of 2000, UNHCR had limited access to an estimated 60,000 Rwandan refugees (mostly of Hutu origin) living in the Kivu region. Many of these refugees are still hesitant to repatriate to Rwanda. Some have also been subjected to pressure to return. Nonetheless, some 12,000 Rwandans from both North and South Kivu requested UNHCR's assistance to return to Rwanda. UNHCR set up collection points and is providing transportation assistance along the key axis of return in Goma and Bukavu to Rwanda. There were also some 1,050 Rwandan refugees located in the Mbuji-Mayi site with the Burundi refugees. UNHCR provided the same assistance to the two groups. With UNHCR's assistance, some 125 boys and 157 girls are attending primary schools, while eight

boys and 15 girls are attending secondary schools.

Sudanese Refugees

Following the dispersal of the Sudanese refugees in the Province Orientale by the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in September 1998 and the closure of UNHCR's office in Aru until April 1999, many of the 71,000 Sudanese refugees present in the DRC returned to the same area when the situation became relatively stable. Some 36,000 refugees arrived at the Dungu sites close to the Sudanese border and are again being assisted by UNHCR. Another estimated 35,000 refugees were still dispersed in villages along the border. Given limited prospects for repatriation, UNHCR's assistance is geared towards self-sufficiency. It includes the re-establishment of local infrastructure and basic services, which also benefits the local communities. During the first six months of 2000, UNHCR rehabilitated and maintained roads and bridges, as well as Dungu Hospital. The Office funded 63 income-generation activities for small-scale trade. Some 135 women were organised in associations and co-operatives, which undertook community-based development activities, including basket-making, weaving, sewing, embroidery, tree-planting, brick work and management of one mill. Due to the high incidence of measles, UNHCR is planning to carry out a vaccination campaign.

Ugandan Refugees

The 2,800 Ugandan refugees in Boga were not accessible due to prevailing insecurity in the north-eastern part of Province Orientale. This area lacks the presence of government authorities and humanitarian agencies other than UNHCR.

REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY - DECEMBER

The initial objectives remain valid for the rest of the year. Due to continuing violations of the Lusaka cease-fire agreement, prospects for a return to stability in the coming months remain bleak. UNHCR will therefore continue to pro-

vide protection and assistance to the refugees, giving priority to the following:

- Reactivate existing Tripartite Agreements when possible (Burundi, Republic of the Congo, the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda) and establish further tripartite mechanisms where feasible (Angola, Sudan and Zambia), defining the responsi-

bilities of the respective signatories for safe and orderly return to and from the DRC.

- Update contingency planning and ensure adequate supplies of non-food items.
- In co-operation with other organisations, ensure that assistance activities benefit IDPs when and where possible.

FINANCIAL DATA (USD)

	Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available*	Total Funds Obligated
AB and TF	24,720,036	23,870,043	11,204,100	11,204,100

*Includes income from unrestricted contributions, income from contributions restricted to the region/country, opening balance and adjustments.

