

## Working environment

which provides asylum for some 59,000 people from surrounding countries.

## The context

The social and political climate in Rwanda remains stable. The national assembly has been dissolved and a new Parliament was elected in September 2008. UNHCR works closely with the Government of Rwanda,

Notable recent developments include Rwanda's accession to membership in the East African Community (EAC). As the EAC's policy on freedom of movement and labour will have an impact on refugees in Rwanda from within the bloc, UNHCR and the EAC are discussing measures to safeguard asylum rights. Rwanda is also set to become a member of the Commonwealth of

## Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2009		Dec 2009	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Burundi	2,770	2,770	2,710	2,710
	DRC	55,620	55,620	60,980	60,980
	Various	20	20	10	10
Asylum-seekers	Burundi	30	30	20	20
	DRC	580	580	620	620
	Various	20	20	40	40
Returnees (refugees)		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>69,040</b>	<b>69,040</b>	<b>74,380</b>	<b>74,380</b>

Nations in 2009. It remains to be seen how this will affect persons of concern to the Office.

In June 2008, UNHCR and the Government conducted a verification and profiling exercise for camp-based and urban Burundian refugees. The results will be used to develop a comprehensive durable solutions strategy for all these Burundians.

In July 2008, a Tripartite Technical Working Group comprised of UNHCR and the Governments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, started discussions to reach agreement on the repatriation of nationals of both countries.

UNHCR is relocating refugees who have remained for extended periods in transit centres to camp sites provided by the Government.

## The needs

Participatory assessments in 2007 showed that all refugee children were enrolled in primary schools, but only 20 per cent of girls managed to reach the secondary level. The lack of opportunities for income-generating activities and education, and the sale of food rations by refugees to cater for other basic needs, present further challenges. Moreover, standards for shelter, water and sanitation have not been met.

## Main objectives

- Protect and assist refugees from the DRC and Burundi and asylum-seekers from other countries.
- Improve shelter, water supplies, sanitation and educational facilities in three camps hosting some 50,000 DRC refugees.
- Facilitate the voluntary return of refugees to the DRC.
- Help the Government to pursue the promotion of the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees and create income-generating activities for them.
- Strengthen the national authorities' refugee status determination (RSD) capacity.

## Strategy and activities

Rwanda hosts some 59,000 refugees and asylum-seekers. Of that number 56,200 are from the DRC and 2,770 from Burundi. Approximately 55,000 refugees are sheltered in the three camps. Plans for voluntary repatriation or local integration of Burundian refugees in Kigeme camp were postponed in 2008 due

## Key targets

- The capacity of the National Refugee Council to conduct RSD is increased and the backlog of asylum claims cleared.
- A countrywide verification and profiling exercise is completed.
- All refugees are given identity cards.
- Some 59,000 refugees and asylum-seekers are protected and assisted.
- Living conditions in the camps are improved; standards for the water, sanitation, health and shelter sectors are met.
- Some 10,000 Rwandan refugees are repatriated and receive enhanced returnee packages; returnees with specific needs receive assistance to reintegrate socially and economically.

to security concerns in the DRC and Burundi, as well as problems with the land allocation process.

Some of the 327 Burundian refugees who fled to Rwanda in 1972 with protection, medical or security concerns will be assessed for resettlement, as their prospects for local integration are limited by the scarcity of land and lack of economic opportunities.

Protection will be provided to all refugees. Camp-based and urban refugees with specific needs will be assisted. The Government will issue identity cards for refugees using data from the profiling and verification exercise. UNHCR will support the National Refugee Council by providing equipment and staff training in RSD to help clear the backlog of asylum claims.

UNHCR will continue to support the discussions which began in 2008 between the Governments of Rwanda and of the DRC on the voluntary repatriation of refugees from each country, and pursue the search for durable solutions for those unable or unwilling to repatriate.

More than 70,000 Rwandan refugees remain in exile. Their reluctance to return is mainly due to the ongoing *Gacaca* process and difficulties in socio-economic reintegration. In 2009, UNHCR expects to support the return of up to 10,000 returnees. All returnees will be medically screened and receive returnee packages before being transported to their districts of origin.

Despite having withdrawn from direct involvement in reintegration activities since 1999, UNHCR will promote close cooperation between UN agencies and other development actors on reintegration activities, especially for those returning to urban areas. Furthermore, the Office will monitor the socio-economic reintegration of

these returnees and work with its partners to resolve conflicts in their districts of origin, particularly over land.

## Constraints

UNHCR had planned to repatriate all Burundians in 2008 and close the camp in Kigeme, facilitating voluntary returns to eastern DRC. However, the peace agreements, signed by the Government and rebel groups at the Goma Conference in January 2008, as well as a ceasefire accord, have not been implemented. Repatriation is being hindered by insecure conditions in both the DRC and Burundi, and difficulties with socio-economic reintegration in the latter.

## Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence	
Number of offices	5
Total staff	55
International	7
National	34
JPOs	2
UNVs	11
Others	1

## Coordination

In line with the UN's Delivering as One initiative, UNHCR will pursue strategic partnerships with agencies such as UNICEF, WFP and UNIFEM. It will also participate in the UN Inter-Agency Task force in areas that are relevant to its mandate, such as child protection, sexual and gender-based violence, and HIV and AIDS.

UNHCR will reinforce its partnership with the national authorities, other UN agencies, its implementing partners and donors in order to mainstream refugee and returnee issues into national poverty reduction strategies.

Regular cross-border meetings will be held by UNHCR offices in the region to assess the progress of the organized voluntary repatriation of Rwandan, Burundian and DRC refugees to their respective countries.

## Financial information

The annual budget remained stable over the past five years with a slight increase due to the new arrival of DRC refugees in Rwanda's transit centers. The 2009 increase is due to the Global Needs Assessment initiative.



Burundian refugee children at Kigeme camp.

UNHCR/Alirex

## Partners

### Implementing partners

**Government agencies:** National Refugee Council (Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance and Community Development and Social Affairs)

**NGOs:** African Humanitarian Action, American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service, Forum for African Women Educationalists

**Others:** *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*

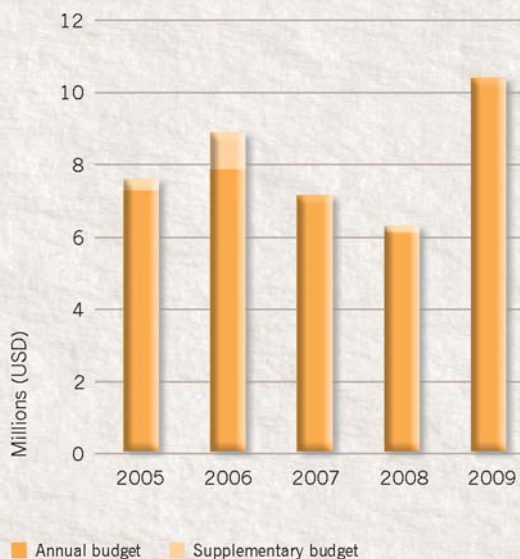
### Operational partners

**Government agencies:** National Refugee Council (Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance and Community Development and Social Affairs)

**NGOs:** American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Refugee Service

**Others:** UNDP, FAO, UNICEF, WFP, WHO

### UNHCR's budget 2005 - 2009



## Global Needs Assessment

In 2008, Rwanda was one of four African countries to pilot the Global Needs Assessment (GNA), UNHCR's initiative to map comprehensively the unmet needs of refugees and others of concern. The results for Rwanda confirm that UNHCR is currently unable to fully meet the essential needs of refugees and returnees due to budgetary constraints.

Without increased support in 2009, UNHCR will be unable to provide adequate water, health and sanitation services. Other challenges will include protecting women from violence and ensuring adequate education and protection for children.

New GNA targets to raise standards of protection beyond the minimum and foster peaceful cohabitation with host communities include:

- Strengthened government capacity to issue birth certificates to all newborns and ID cards to all refugees aged 18 years and above.
- A 70 per cent enrolment rate for primary and secondary school among refugee children from Burundi and the DRC; and a reduction in the number of those dropping out of school due to

early marriage, pregnancy, child labour or forced recruitment.

- Better health care in the three camps of Kiziba, Gihembe and Nyabiheke and more self-reliance opportunities for refugees.
- Strengthened measures to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence, including the provision of firewood to refugees in the three largest camps—thereby reducing assaults on women foraging for fuel—and more legal support for victims.
- A reduction in the environmental impact of refugee settlements through reforestation, better water and waste management, the construction of family kitchens and distribution of more energy-efficient cooking stoves.
- Greater understanding of refugee law among national and local authorities through intensive training.
- Accelerated reintegration of Rwandan returnees through the expansion of livelihood opportunities and better access to education and health services.

Budget (USD)				
Activities and services	2008			2009
	Annual budget	Supplementary budget <sup>1</sup>	Total	Annual budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,313,058	0	1,313,058	1,924,843
Community services	67,481	0	67,481	91,649
Domestic needs	306,556	0	306,556	376,121
Education	335,180	0	335,180	464,920
Forestry	46,450	0	46,450	0
Health	572,787	41,000	613,787	798,453
Income generation	100,000	0	100,000	0
Legal assistance	133,001	0	133,001	91,908
Operational support (to agencies)	349,773	0	349,773	449,848
Sanitation	142,234	30,000	172,234	195,998
Shelter and infrastructure	146,650	0	146,650	144,942
Transport and logistics	664,832	0	664,832	856,022
Water	135,057	70,000	205,057	183,140
Global Needs Assessment	0	0	0	3,384,708
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>4,313,058</b>	<b>141,000</b>	<b>4,454,058</b>	<b>8,962,552</b>
Programme support	1,137,257	0	1,137,257	1,427,190
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,450,315</b>	<b>141,000</b>	<b>5,591,315</b>	<b>10,389,742</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes supplementary programmes for anaemia control and prevention (USD 41,000) and water and sanitation activities (USD 100,000).  
Note: Supplementary programme budgets exclude 7 per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.