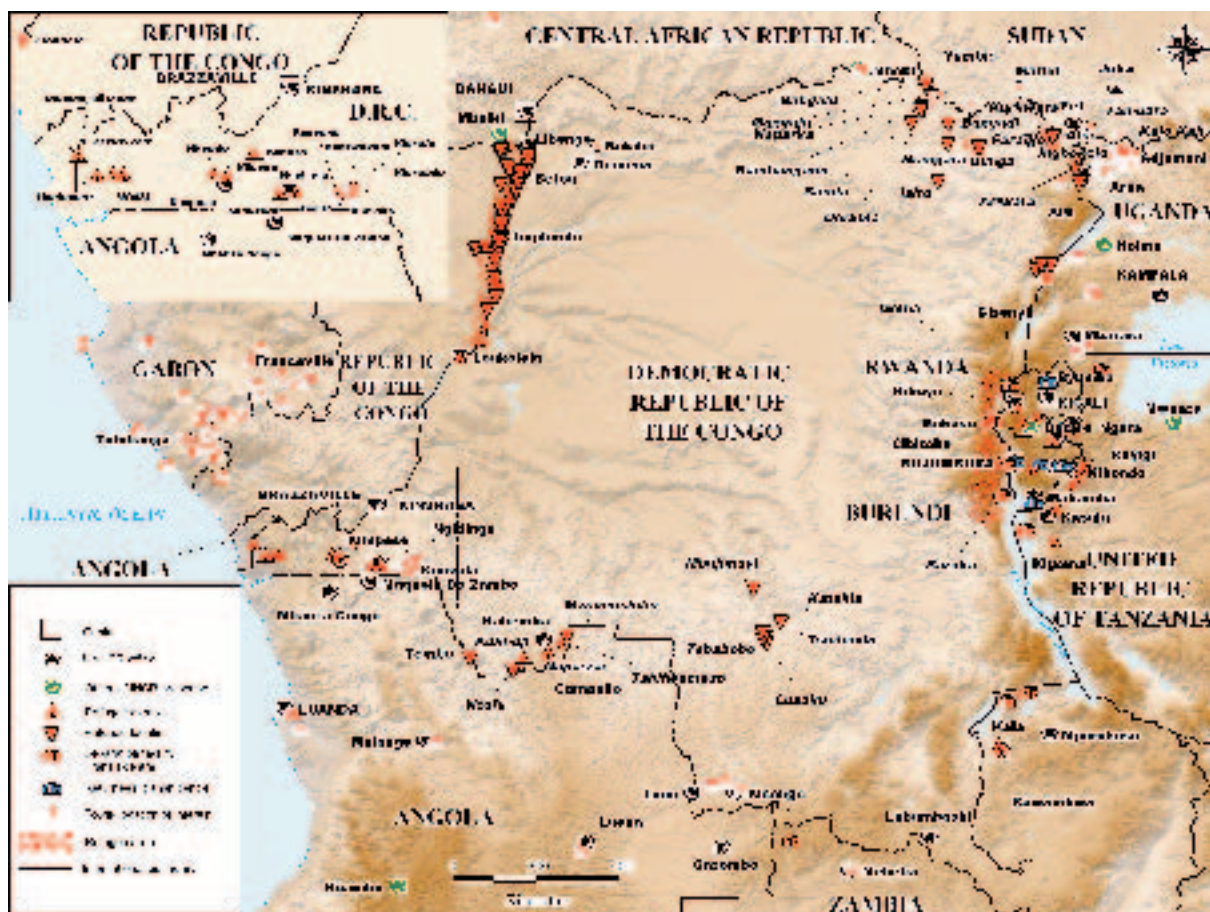


Democratic Republic of the Congo



Main objectives

Assist local authorities to improve the national system of asylum; help to increase awareness of refugees' rights within the Government and civil society; promote and facilitate the repatriation in safety and dignity of Rwandan and Burundian refugees respectively, as well as the voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees; prepare and organize the repatriation of Sudanese and Congolese refugees when conditions in their home countries have improved sufficiently; ensure that all refugees who wish to remain in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) enjoy international protection; provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to residual groups and urban refugees to help them to become self-reliant; support initiatives for Demobilization, Disarmament, Repatriation

Reintegration and Resettlement (DDRRR) and the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (MDRP) in cooperation with UNDP, the UN Observer Mission in DRC (MONUC) and the World Bank.

Impact

- UNHCR signed tripartite agreements for the repatriation of DRC refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) and the Republic of the Congo (RoC). Some 2,000 DRC refugees (20 per cent of the refugee population) returned home from CAR. Nearly 350 RoC refugees (representing some five per cent of the refugee population) were repatriated.

- In total, UNHCR in DRC assisted some 28,000 people to return home (over 20,000 of them Angolans). From eastern DRC, the Office repatriated more than 8,000 Rwandans who were scattered in the provinces of North and South Kivu.
- UNHCR actively promoted self-reliance and, where feasible, local integration of refugees. By the end of the year, 80 per cent of the Angolan and Sudanese refugees were able to feed their families from food that they produced.
- The National Commission for Refugees (CNR) was established by presidential decree in 2003 and became operational in 2004 with UNHCR's assistance. To broaden knowledge of protection and refugee rights (especially within the CNR) UNHCR trained staff, parliamentarians and college students, as well as some members of civic and professional organizations.

Working environment

The context

The 2002 Sun City Agreement led to the establishment in July 2003 of an all-inclusive transitional Government in DRC, raising hopes of a durable political solution to the country's long years of war and crisis. The first six months of the Government's two-year mandate saw the official reunification of the country and the progressive consolidation of the powers of the central Government. These positive signals were however overshadowed by persistent volatility in the eastern provinces, where opposition groups and militias were still in control. As a result, the Government was unable to proceed with the implementation of crucial elements of the Sun City Agreement such as the creation of integrated national security services, or the promulgation of the constitution and the electoral law.

Persons of concern

Main origin/Type of population	Total	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Angola (refugees)	98,400	18,200	54	61
Sudan (refugees)	45,200	12,000	50	50
Burundi (refugees)	19,400	800	42	44
Uganda (refugees)	19,000	-	55	55
Rwanda (refugees)	11,800	400	47	39
RoC (refugees)	5,300	900	36	45
CAR (returnees)	2,000	2,000	-	-

Income and expenditure (USD) Annual and supplementary programme budgets

	Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	25,083,312	9,413,217	15,673,298	25,086,515	25,073,147
SB³	3,265,151	0	651,346	651,346	651,346
Total	28,348,463	9,413,217	16,324,644	25,737,861	25,724,493

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

³ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for the Return and Reintegration of Sudanese refugees in Southern Sudan and for the Supplementary Appeal for the Return and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.



Democratic Republic of the Congo: The location is the Mugunga refugee camp near Goma. This area is now inhabited by people who have been relocated there by the Government after their village was destroyed by the eruption of the Nyiragongo Volcano in 1996. UNHCR/B. Heger

The ultimate success of the transitional Government was thrown into doubt by an extremely slow programme of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, as well as almost uninterrupted violence in the east. Two failed attempted coups d'état, in March and June 2004, served only to further underline the risk of widespread and intractable insecurity.

Heightened insecurity throughout the year had far-reaching consequences for UNHCR's operations, as some of its staff had to be evacuated, interrupting project implementation. Five years of war, civil strife and insecurity had taken a heavy toll on every conceivable aspect of life in DRC. Humanitarian and development work could not escape the effects of high inflation, unemployment and severely dislocated social infrastructure.



continue to undertake prime responsibility for refugees and returnees with very limited input from the host government due to its preoccupations with the more pressing issues of security and salvaging the nation State.

Prolonged instability in southern Sudan and northern Uganda hampered progress towards finding lasting solutions for the refugees from these countries. Severe budget cuts, delays in the approval of funds, logistical challenges and inadequate staffing levels slowed down more effective project implementation. Limited absorption capacity in countries of origin such as Angola, and DRC itself, also prevented UNHCR from meeting its repatriation objectives fully.

Funding

Late allocation of resources necessitated adjustments to work schedules and the postponement of implementation of some activities. For instance, the repatriation programme for Congolese refugees from neighbouring countries such as CAR only started in October 2004. Similarly, offices could not be established in the receiving provinces where refugees were coming to sufficiently early to make adequate preparations.

The budgets allocated were inadequate to cover all the needs of the refugees and returnees, including non-food items, local integration and reintegration activities. In some cases, budgets were increased, but far too late in the year for meaningful implementation to take place. This meant that at the end of the year, some of the activities would have to be carried into the coming year.

Achievement and impact

Protection and solutions

Assistance strategies were developed to meet some of the universal standards and indicators, as well as the UN Millennium Development Goals. However, activities and assistance – often sadly under-resourced – must unfortunately be viewed in the context of a difficult working environment and logistical limitations.

Constraints

Increasingly, assistance for persons of concern in DRC had to be scaled back on account of insecurity. Plans to commence large-scale repatriation activities for more than 406,000 DRC refugees (of whom UNHCR assists well over 350,000) were interrupted. Other activities suffered indefinite postponements due to the evacuation of some staff. UNHCR had to

Activities and assistance

Community services: UNHCR placed particular emphasis on the sensitization of refugee and residual populations to issues of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). It supported activities conducive to self-sufficiency in order to eliminate extreme poverty and hunger among women and children. In Bandundu, at least 75 per cent of the staff in charge of food and non-food distribution at all refugee sites were women. Some 250 Angolan refugees at risk (160 of them were females) received special assistance in three sites in Bandundu. An estimated 65 per cent of women refugees benefited from training on sex education, SGBV prevention and response methods.

Crop production: Crop production in refugee sites was encouraged; various types of seeds were distributed to Angolan, Sudanese and RoC Congolese refugees. Overall, the refugees in sites successfully yielded more than 70 per cent of expected crop production.

Domestic needs/Household support: All returnee families from CAR to the Equateur Province received domestic items as initial reintegration assistance. In the refugee sites hosting Angolan refugees, distribution of domestic items amounted to 75 per cent of planned quantities in Katanga and Bas Congo Provinces, compared to 90 per cent in Bandundu. This assistance was aimed in particular at women and children and the elderly.

Education: Infrastructure was rehabilitated and educational materials supplied. Overall, more than 8,600 children in Angolan sites received support (school attendance among refugee girls exceeded 80 per cent). Nearly 600 returnees to Equateur Province (and an equivalent number of local resident children) benefited from UNHCR's assistance. More than 2,600 Sudanese children, more than 1,800 local children and over 300 urban refugees attended primary or secondary education with UNHCR's support. Girls' non-attendance rate among the targeted groups decreased from 13 per cent to five per cent. Overall, 90 per cent of refugee children were enrolled at school (nearly 80 per cent of them were girls).

Food: WFP supplied food for regular distribution to the most vulnerable Angolan refugees located in Bas-Congo and Katanga Provinces. Food was also delivered to returnee transit centres in these

provinces, including Equateur, where repatriation activities had started and in North and South Kivu, where spontaneous returns had generally increased in scale.

Forestry: In most areas hosting refugees, committees for the protection of the environment were established. UNHCR trained refugees in environmental management and new varieties of trees were introduced.

Health/Nutrition: Refugees received curative and preventive health care in all sites and transit centres. Coverage for Katanga Province was a remarkable 100 per cent, while that of Bundundu was lower, at 45 per cent, due to late availability of medical supplies owing to logistical constraints. Mortality and morbidity rates remained comparably low, at 2.9 per thousand persons, thanks to timely and adequate medical supplies to health centres. Over 80 per cent of sexually active refugees and some of the local population received condoms. HIV/AIDS information was successfully disseminated to refugees.

Supplementary feeding (for both refugees and local children) reduced malnutrition rates among the targeted groups from 7-10 per cent in 2003 to 1.3-4.5 per cent.

Income generation: Due to the difficult socio-economic situation, the main income-generating activities remained within the area of agricultural production. Operations in this sector specifically targeted families at risk. In Bandundu, over 290 refugee families participated in income-generating projects. Almost 60 per cent of the families were headed by a single female refugee. Activities involved: sewing, production of firewood, baking, forging, shoemaking, trading, repairing, rearing, and fishing.

Legal assistance: UNHCR staff visited busy border-crossing posts and informed border authorities on the implementation of tripartite agreements, the right to voluntary repatriation and the documentation of returnees. Physical safety of refugee camps was ensured by local security forces supported by the Office. It also held seminars on protection, SGBV, peace education and mine awareness in Kinshasa and/or field locations. Refugee communities were assisted in establishing and sustaining committees of elders in order to mediate the cases of disputes.

Operational support (to agencies): Substantial support was provided to 12 partners including funds for their administration as well as transport and communication equipment.

Sanitation: Hygiene education and vector control prevented serious outbreaks of disease in refugee sites. However, malaria continued to present a major challenge.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: UNHCR provided shelter for some 200 refugees at risk in Bandundu. In Bas Congo, some 120 new homes were built for vulnerable Angolan families. Kits comprising machetes, hoes and nails were distributed to refugees who opted to integrate locally. An estimated 100 vulnerable groups (amounting to five per cent of returnees from CAR to Equateur Province) also benefited from shelter assistance.

Transport/Logistics: UNHCR rehabilitated some roads, bridges and airstrips to enable access to refugee sites as well as to satisfy minimum logistical criteria for convoy movements to countries of origin.

Water: The supply of water improved in refugee-hosting sites. Most refugees received 25 litres per person per day and water points were made available no further than 2 km from residents. Improved water quality drastically reduced the incidence of water-borne diseases.

Organization and implementation

Management

In DRC, UNHCR maintained a branch office in Kinshasa and five suboffices and eight field offices. The operation in DRC was run by 51 international staff, including 194 national staff and 16 UNVs.

Working with others

UNHCR worked with seven international and five national partners in planning and implementing activities. It contributed to the UNDAF and CAP, as well as to the Resident Coordinator's Report. In 2004, UNHCR continued to collaborate closely with WFP on the delivery and distribution of food. Cooperation with ICRC focused on tracing unaccompanied minors.

Overall assessment

In a volatile security environment, UNHCR was confronted with difficult and complex situations forcing the Office to scale back some of its activities. However, the Office provided effective international protection and assistance and pursued its search for durable solutions for persons of concern. The start of the return movements to the Equateur province followed positive developments towards an improved security situation in western DRC.

The Office successfully encouraged self-reliance and, where possible, local integration despite very difficult socio-economic conditions. A majority of Angolan and Sudanese refugees were able to sustain themselves. Further positive developments were marked by the CNR becoming fully operational as a partner for UNHCR.

Offices

Kinshasa

Aru
Bukavu
Gemena
Goma
Kahemba
Kimpese
Kimvula
Kisenge
Libenge
Lubumbashi
Ngidinga
Uvira
Zongo

Partners

Government agencies

National Commission for Refugees

NGOs

Actions et interventions pour le développement et l'encadrement social

African Humanitarian Action

Association pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement

Atlas Logistique

Caritas

Catholic Relief Services

International Rescue Committee

OXFAM (Canada)

Regroupement des institutions du système de financement décentralisé du Congo

Vision Mondiale Canada

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	7,725,265	322,056	8,047,321	0
Community services	692,447	0	692,447	188,399
Crop production	131,863	0	131,863	70,330
Domestic needs / household support	327,249	0	327,249	50,270
Education	783,269	0	783,269	334,607
Food	22,136	0	22,136	2,720
Forestry	28,442	0	28,442	31,123
Health and nutrition	927,543	0	927,543	353,543
Income generation	52,010	0	52,010	45,077
Legal assistance	571,750	0	571,750	56,726
Operational support (to agencies)	1,821,945	160	1,822,106	613,918
Sanitation	6,138	0	6,138	27,909
Shelter and infrastructure	168,089	0	168,089	85,870
Transport and logistics	3,983,501	314,299	4,297,800	1,031,072
Water	73,363	0	73,363	68,014
Instalments with implementing partners	2,792,346	14,830	2,807,176	(2,959,580)
Sub-total operational activities	20,107,356	651,346	20,758,702	0
Programme support	4,965,791	0	4,965,791	0
Total disbursements	25,073,147	651,346	25,724,493	0
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	8,994,729	22,000	9,016,729	
Reporting received	(6,202,383)	(7,168)	(6,209,551)	
Balance	2,792,346	14,832	2,807,178	
Prior years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1 January				3,318,089
Reporting received				(2,959,580)
Refunded to UNHCR				(160,567)
Balance				197,942
Unliquidated obligations				
Outstanding 1 January				688,427
Disbursements				(473,958)
Cancellations				(214,469)
Outstanding 31 December				0