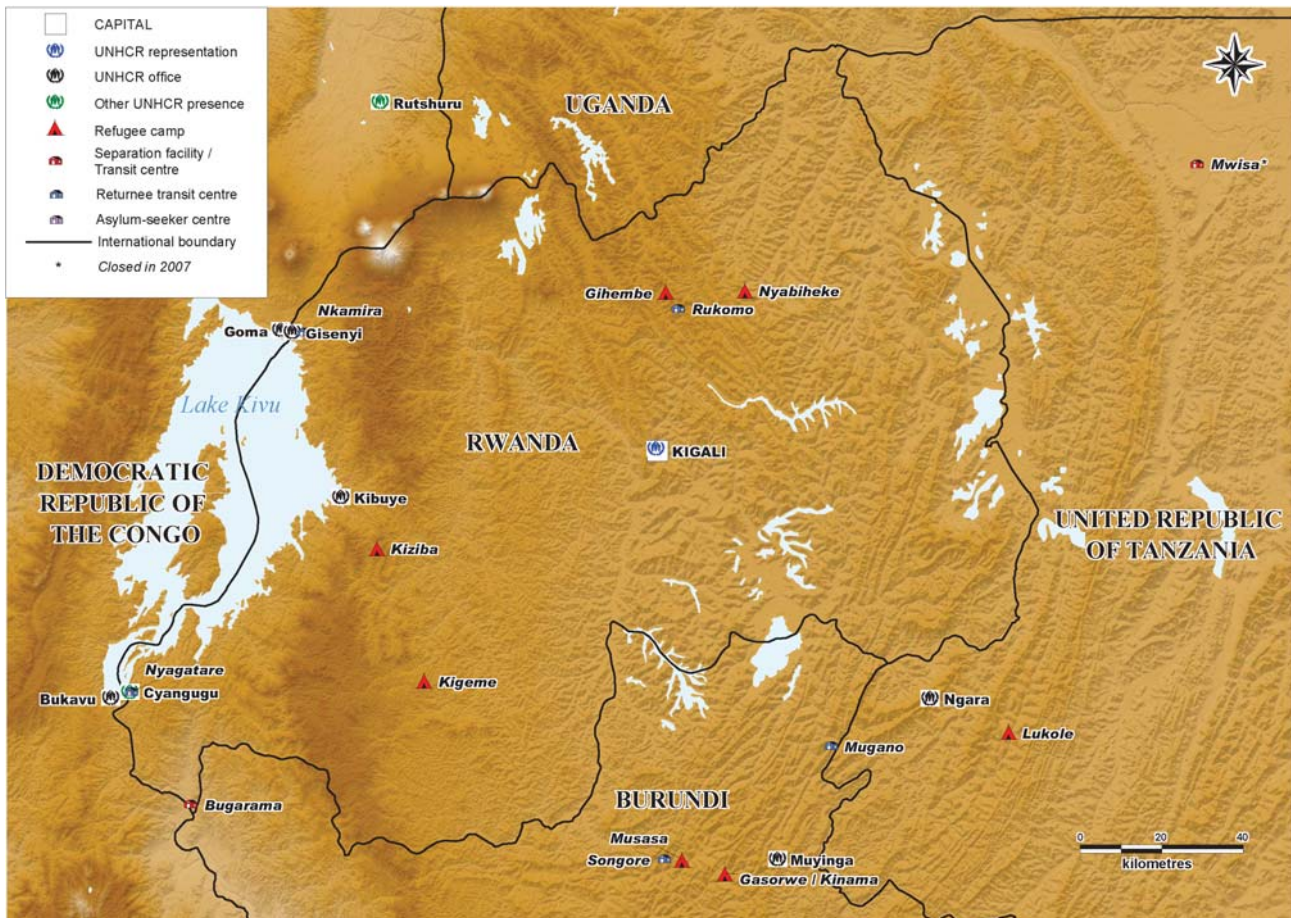


# Rwanda



## Operational highlights

- UNHCR protected and assisted a total of 51,600 refugees and asylum-seekers living in four camps and two transit centres. Most were from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi. Some 2,600 urban refugees in Kigali were also assisted.
- The Office helped a total of 9,400 Rwandan refugees return to their communities of origin.

## Working environment

The political and security situation in Rwanda remained calm throughout the year. The issues dominating domestic politics were the abolishment of the death penalty, the winding up of the *Gacaca* community justice courts in 2008, and initiatives to foster unity and reconciliation. In July 2007, Rwanda became a full member of the East African Community, strengthening

### Persons of concern

Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	50,700	50,700	55	63
	Burundi	2,800	2,800	51	56
	Various	30	30		
Asylum-seekers	DRC	600	600	53	57
	Burundi	130	130	50	51
Returnees (refugees)	From DRC	9,400	9,400	-	-
	Various	90	80		
<b>Total</b>		<b>63,750</b>	<b>63,740</b>		

its economic and political ties with the other States in the region. However, the country remained at risk of food shortages and malnutrition. Some 88 per cent of the population makes a living from agriculture, but harvests are unpredictable because the country's Western and Eastern provinces are prone to recurrent drought and floods.

## Achievements and impact

### Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives for 2007 were to promote the voluntary return of 77,000 Rwandans still in exile in neighbouring countries; to protect and assist camp-based and urban refugees and improve living conditions in the camps. Furthermore, the Office sought to intensify its efforts to strengthen the capacity of the Government's *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CNR). Other objectives were helping partners to strengthening their abilities in programme management, results-based management, and the use of standards and indicators.

### Protection and solutions

A survey conducted by UNHCR and its partners estimated that some 71 per cent of camp-based refugees were willing to return to their places of origin. However, in light of poor security in the eastern parts of the DRC, which would make it difficult for humanitarian agencies to monitor returnees in the region, UNHCR could not begin facilitating voluntary repatriation to the country in 2007. Resettlement remained the only option for some refugees with specific needs, such as security concerns (because of mixed marriages, for instance), chronic diseases or psychosocial problems due to sexual or gender-based violence.

As refugees have not been given identity cards to allow them to move within the country, they must use UNHCR ration cards for this purpose. The Government has reassured UNHCR that it will issue refugees with identity cards once it has completed the same task for Rwandans. There was a backlog of refugee status determination (RSD) claims. The CNR blamed lack of equipment and staff for the delays. The authorities did not share information on the status of RSD proceedings. There have been no hearings since October 2007, and refugees complain about the slow RSD process.

Child protection was a priority for UNHCR Rwanda in 2007. Since 2005, children have been recruited for military activities in the eastern DRC. Refugee mothers have told UNHCR of the abduction of their children from schools and camps. UNHCR staff and government

officials have conducted campaigns to make people aware of the issue, as well as briefed donors and diplomats. The Office worked closely with Save the Children (UK) and UNICEF on child protection.

Three Tripartite Commission meetings were held to discuss the voluntary repatriation of Rwandans with the Governments of Malawi, Uganda, and South Africa. The cessation clause was mentioned by Rwanda and backed by some countries of asylum. However, UNHCR informed the concerned Government representatives that refugees had raised valid reasons for not returning. The Office will investigate these concerns before invoking the cessation clause.

### Activities and assistance

#### Refugees

**Community services:** UNHCR conducted countrywide age, gender, and diversity assessments in 2007. The results have been used to reorient refugee protection and assistance in areas such as education, health, women's empowerment and income-generation. The Office collaborated with other UN agencies and partners on a strategy for the reduction of sexual and gender-based violence in all camps. An inter-agency task force met monthly to monitor the implementation of standard operational procedures to deal with the problem. UNHCR supported refugee camp management committees and ensured that about half their members were female. It also regularly organized awareness campaigns on sexual and gender-based violence and HIV and AIDS and trained implementing partners to prevent and respond to them.

**Domestic needs and household support:** Essential non-food items and firewood were distributed in all refugees camps and transit centres. However, the quantity of firewood distributed remained inadequate. Clothing for women and children was a challenge in most of the camps; particularly in Gihembe and Nyabiheke, where refugees are exposed to very low temperatures. All camp-based refugee women and girls received sanitary materials.

**Education:** Some 11,600 primary school-aged refugee children were enrolled in school within the camps. Children staying in transit centres could attend school in the surrounding communities. Success rates ranged between 40 and 45 per cent at the primary level. The drop-out rate for girls in secondary schools was about 20 per cent. In Kigali, some 590 urban refugee children assisted by UNHCR have completed the 2006-2007 school year.

**Health and nutrition:** Camp-based refugees and urban refugees in Kigali received basic health care.



UNHCR/T. Maurer

Rwanda. Congolese (DRC) refugee children at Kiziba refugee camp.

UNICEF helped provide drugs and medicines in the transit centres. More than 7,300 camp-based refugees benefited from counselling and testing services for HIV and AIDS. Some 260 refugees, of whom 65 per cent were female, received anti-retroviral treatment.

**Legal assistance:** Registration data on camp-based refugees was updated regularly. The CNR completed the registration of most urban refugees. The Office and the CNR were working to set up a mechanism that will enable them to share information and statistics in a systematic manner.

**Operational support:** In addition to providing technical and financial support to the CNR and its implementing or operational partners, UNHCR organized training sessions for these organizations' staff.

**Sanitation:** Most latrines were kept clean by means of a community programme that required household members to pay a worker to clean them twice a day. The American Refugee Committee arranged for the disinfection of the latrines in Gihembe, Kiziba and Nyabiheke.

**Shelter and infrastructure:** UNHCR rehabilitated 1,800 houses and helped construct 320 shelters and 1,000 new houses. The Office also maintained more than 6 kilometres of road to the camps and refurbished a market in Gihembe. Some 200 communal and individual kitchens were equipped with improved stoves.

**Transport and logistics:** The trucks used by UNHCR in Rwanda in 2007 were old and required frequent maintenance and repairs. Budget constraints meant that spare parts and tyres could not be procured. UNHCR used public transport to avoid any disruptions in the delivery of supplies to the camps and the transfer of new refugees from transit centres to Nyabiheke.

**Water:** UNHCR provided an average of 15 litres per refugee per day in the camps. This is below the standards and was due to cuts by the public utility and an inefficient distribution system.

## Returnees

**Domestic needs and household support:** UNHCR distributed domestic items to some 9,400 returnees. Donated used clothes were included in the returnee packages.

**Shelter and infrastructures:** All returnees were properly sheltered during their stay in the transit centres. More than 20 hangars, 26 new blocks of latrines and 15 showers were built to accommodate returnees and new refugees passing through the centres.

**Sanitation:** Cleaning and maintenance was carried out daily.

**Health and nutrition:** Returnees were medically screened upon their arrival at the transit centres and received basic health assistance. Individuals with serious medical problems were referred to hospitals. Thanks to UNICEF's support, health posts received emergency kits and a social worker and a nurse could be hired.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR organized Tripartite Commission meetings with Malawi, South Africa and Uganda in order to discuss the return of Rwandan refugees in these countries. However, monitoring revealed that there were not enough reintegration projects to make returns sustainable.

**Transport and logistics:** UNHCR trucks transported some 9,400 Rwandan refugees returning from the DRC. The trucks were also used to transport returnee packages.

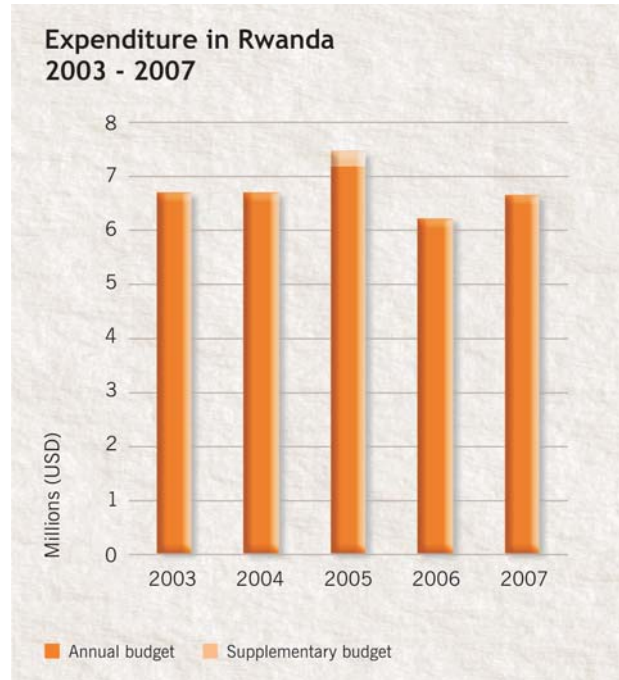
**Water:** Returnees in the transit centres had a regular supply of water. More water had to be provided to meet the needs arising from the ongoing influx of Congolese refugees.

## Constraints

Given the unstable situation in the eastern DRC and in Burundi, many refugees who planned to return home were not repatriated. On the other hand, the number of refugees increased with the influx of Congolese refugees throughout the year. As land is scarce in Rwanda, local integration and self-reliance are not viable options for refugees. At the same time, the fear of the ongoing *Gacaca* process and concerns about reintegration possibilities kept many Rwandan refugees from returning home.

## Financial information

The Rwandan operation was fully funded in 2007. However, the budget for refugee programmes was not enough to meet more than the most critical needs of the group. It was also difficult to provide an attractive returnee package for Rwandans returning home.



Since 2003, UNHCR's expenditure has been relatively stable under the annual programme. In 2005, expenditure was higher due to a supplementary budget for return and reintegration of refugees from Burundi, which was established in 2004 and again mainstreamed to the annual programme in 2006. In 2007, the expenditure increased because of more activities for returning Rwandans.

## Organization and implementation

### Management

In 2007, UNHCR maintained a Representation Office in Kigali, initially with two field offices in Kibuye and Butare and two field units in Gisenyi and Cyangugu. The Butare field office was closed in June 2007. The operation employed seven international professional staff, 45 national staff, 11 UNVs (4 national and 7 international), two local consultants and one international resettlement expert.

### Working with others

In 2007, Rwanda was selected as one of the pilot countries for the UN's "Delivering as One" initiative. UNHCR was actively engaged in the preparation of the Common Operations Document and the Consolidated Annual Work Plan in the four areas of social protection, health, HIV and AIDS, and education. On behalf of the

UN country team, the Office and the Government of Rwanda co-chaired the Disaster Management Task Force.

## Overall assessment

Due to the ongoing insecurity in the eastern DRC, repatriation of Congolese refugees was not possible in 2007. In spite of new refugee influxes into Rwanda, UNHCR managed to provide basic assistance to refugees in camps and vulnerable urban refugees and strengthen protection. The Kigali office benefited from its partnerships with sister UN Agencies and NGOs.

Partners
<b>Implementing partners</b>
<b>Government agencies:</b> Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs, <i>Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés</i> (CNR)
<b>NGOs:</b> African Humanitarian Action, American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Relief Services, Save the Children (UK), Forum for African Women Educationists
<b>Others:</b> <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
<b>Operational partners</b>
<b>NGOs:</b> American Refugee Committee, Save the Children (UK)
<b>Others:</b> <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i> , UNICEF, WHO, UNFPA

## Budget, income and expenditure (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	7,163,347	2,691,808	4,190,824	6,882,632	6,660,819

Note: Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

## Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects	Previous years' projects
	Annual budget	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,159,172	0
Community services	67,707	11,129
Domestic needs and household support	416,114	57,151
Education	282,510	55,077
Forestry	735	19,841
Health and nutrition	891,317	262,793
Legal assistance	44,935	5,496
Operational support (to agencies)	307,476	125,788
Sanitation	229,853	73,692
Shelter and infrastructure	377,991	81,282
Transport and logistics	1,056,006	91,603
Water	205,960	12,261
Instalments with implementing partners	653,296	(796,114)
<b>Sub-total operational activities</b>	<b>5,693,072</b>	<b>0</b>
Programme support	967,747	0
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>6,660,819</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Cancellation on previous years' expenditure</b>		<b>(8,954)</b>
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Payments made	3,352,217	
Reporting received	(2,698,921)	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>653,296</b>	
<b>Previous years' report</b>		
<b>Instalments with implementing partners</b>		
Outstanding 1st January		887,506
Reporting received		(796,114)
Refunded to UNHCR		(4,159.54)
Adjustments		(46,034)
<b>Balance</b>		<b>41,199</b>