

BURUNDI



Operational highlights

- UNHCR assisted some 4,800 refugees, 3,600 from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and 1,000 from the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania), to return home. All returnees aged 16 and above were provided with national identity cards.
- Almost 30,000 refugees and some 12,000 asylum-seekers from the neighbouring DRC received UNHCR protection and assistance. Another 400 refugees and 500 asylum-seekers of other nationalities were also assisted.

- UNHCR played a leading role in reintegrating some 100,000 Burundian returnees who repatriated between 2008 and 2010. It also set up 12,000 shelters for the benefit of around 60,000 returnees.
- Around 6,700 refugee identity cards were distributed by Burundi's *Office National pour la Protection des Réfugiés et des Apatrides* (ONPRA), which also issued temporary stay permits to asylum-seekers.
- UNHCR helped the *Commission Nationale des Terres et Autres Biens* (CNTB) to resolve around 2,600 of 7,600 new land-dispute cases registered in the three main provinces of return.

Persons of concern

Type of Population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	29,000	29,000	51	58
	Various	410	410	53	53
Asylum-seekers	DRC	11,600	11,600	53	55
	Rwanda	460	460	48	47
	Various	40	40	45	39
IDPs	Burundi	157,200	1,100	-	-
Stateless	Omani (stateless persons)	1,100	-	48	50
Returnees (refugees) ¹	DRC	3,600	3,600	52	58
	Tanzania	1,000	1,000	52	58
	Various	100	100	52	58
Total		204,510	47,310		

¹ Demographic breakdown of returnees refers to the total 4,700 Burundian returning refugees.

- Almost 200 people were referred for resettlement in 2010 and some 130 departed to their new homes in Canada, Sweden, Norway and the United States.

| Working environment |

Burundi's election process met its first hurdle in May, when 13 opposition parties withdrew from the contest after rejecting the outcome of communal polls. The remainder of the campaign was dominated by the main party, led by the incumbent president. The post-electoral period has been characterized by clashes between the ruling and opposition parties and by recurrent rumours of the formation of a new rebel movement based in the neighbouring DRC. Human rights organizations and the media also report arbitrary arrests, torture and extra-judicial killings.

Threats of attacks by terrorist groups have added to Burundi's security concerns. However, neither refugees nor returnees have been violently targeted although land conflicts have at times presented a source of insecurity for some returnees. Measures taken by the Government to address these problems and to decentralize the administration of land have culminated in a draft land law which is currently before Parliament.

The economic situation continues to be extremely precarious, and steady price rises have led to civil unrest. With two-thirds of the population living below the poverty line, food insecurity is a major concern. Eleven of the country's 17 provinces have suffered from food shortages since the beginning of 2010.

| Achievements and impact |

• Main objectives and targets

UNHCR's main objectives for 2010 were to facilitate the reintegration of some 100,000 Burundian returnees who repatriated voluntarily between 2008 and 2010. It aimed to

do so by providing them with shelter and by supporting efforts to mediate and resolve land disputes. Other important objectives were to promote the voluntary return of Burundian refugees; to strengthen the capacity of the government bodies responsible for the protection of refugees, returnees and other persons of concern; and to provide refugees with material assistance while helping to enhance their self-reliance.

Favourable protection environment

- Supported by UNHCR, the Government created the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons (ONPRA). As this is a new structure, more technical expertise is needed in order to meet international protection standards.
- By the end of 2010, some 4,600 asylum-seekers had undergone RSD, which helped to regularize both new arrivals and cases stemming from the verification exercise conducted in April 2010. The number of new refugees and asylum-seekers rose by 15 per cent in 2010.
- The principle of *non-refoulement* was globally respected and asylum space was ensured in Burundi. Some 6,700 refugee identity cards were produced for delivery by the Government of Burundi through ONPRA.

Fair protection processes

- UNHCR supported the registration of all new Congolese refugees arriving from areas affected by conflict. These ongoing arrivals accounted for a 15 per cent increase in the refugee population in Burundi and created a backlog of cases. In the course of 2010, some 1,100 dossiers representing 5,200 asylum-seekers were processed and 26 appeals examined.
- Training provided for RSD officers included a course on asylum organized by the Belgian *Commissariat général aux réfugiés et apatrides*. A registration exercise conducted for

urban refugees and asylum-seekers showed increases of 56 and 90 per cent respectively. The registration was followed by the issuance of refugee identity documents, including for those refugees transferred to the camp from the urban area.

Security from violence and exploitation

- UNHCR established a partnership with the International Rescue Committee to initiate a programme to combat sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in all three refugee camps. The objectives of the project are to expand understanding of SGBV



Burundian returnees from DRC, arriving at Mutumbuzi transit centre in Bujumbura.

UNHCR / M. HOFER

among partners working in this domain; improve reporting; strengthen coordination between protection and community services; ensure systematic registration of cases in the database; and monitor action taken by the police against offenders. A drop-in centre has also been constructed in each of the three refugee camps.

Basic needs and services

- All refugee children living in camps were assured free primary education and almost 80 per cent of school-age children were enrolled in school. Fifty-nine DAFI scholarships were awarded. Kindergartens and primary and secondary schools were opened in the newly established refugee camp at Bwagiriza, with girls making up 47 per cent of the pupils. By allowing at least 10 per cent of pre-school admissions to be for Burundian children, UNHCR sought to reinforce co-existence between those in the camps and their hosts in the surrounding community. Almost 6,800 pupils were registered and all received school materials.
- All returnee children had access to free primary education and all secondary students were assisted for the first two years after return. Additional classrooms were constructed in three secondary schools in the main areas of return in the south of the country. Fifty-three of the 59 DAFI scholarships awarded for tertiary education in various disciplines in 2010 benefited returnee students (38 male and 15 female). Some 150 teachers were trained to teach French and Kirundi as foreign languages, which benefited 770 students, of whom 351 were girls. Some 860 urban refugees were enrolled at the primary and secondary levels, and two centres for professional and literacy training were supported.
- The construction of two integrated rural villages brought the total built since 2008 to eight. UNHCR provided 800 letters for householders to indicate their ownership of their homes, thereby enabling them to embark on the lengthy process of obtaining a land title.
- In the camps, some 650 houses were constructed and 370 latrines, 85 showers and 21 classrooms renovated. A drop-in centre for women was also constructed in each camp. In Gasorwe camp, the installation of a pump increased the availability of water to an average of 16 litres per person per day.
- Medical assistance was available for all persons of concern. A campaign on the prevention of HIV and AIDS was undertaken in collaboration with partners. Free testing for HIV and AIDS was provided and 30 health educators were trained. Some 250 pregnant women received the free tests and those found infected were given medical assistance.

Community participation and self-management

- In 2010, a participatory assessment was organized in all refugee camps and returnee areas in close collaboration with partners. The findings of the assessment were incorporated in the operational plan, and activities were carried out with the objective of mobilizing refugees and strengthening their participation in community affairs.

UNHCR assisted its government counterpart to organize elections to the refugee committees and sub-committees in all the refugee camps. The committees were trained to promote the participation of refugees in camp management.

Durable solutions

- Despite an intensive information campaign and an increase in cash grants, the planned return of 10,000 Burundian refugees from Tanzania did not materialize. At the end of 2010, only some 1,000 had opted to return home. A contingency plan was developed to ensure preparedness for any eventual return of the more than 37,000 Burundian refugees currently in Mtabila Camp in Tanzania.
- Some 3,640 Burundians returned from the DRC, while almost 1,100 Congolese refugees repatriated voluntarily to the DRC in 2010. Over 2,000 national identity cards were given to returnees aged 16 and above to facilitate their free movement and enjoyment of other rights.
- UNHCR resolved protection incidents and conflicts registered through returnee-monitoring exercises and gave legal assistance to some 570 people. Of the almost 60 returnees in detention, more than half were freed. The CNTB (land commission) decentralized and reinforced its field presence, registering some 7,550 new land conflicts (for a cumulative total of almost 13,600), of which it resolved nearly 2,600. Forty-four training sessions on conflict management and legal issues were organized for over 1,000 community leaders and communal administrators.

External Relations

- In 2010, the Office raised funds from ECHO, DFID and the Governments of Belgium, Germany and Japan, through its field-based activities. These contributions correspond to 60 per cent of UNHCR Burundi operational budget.

Logistics and operations support

- UNHCR assisted more than 4,600 returnees and provided transport for them and their belongings to their final destinations in Burundi.

| Constraints |

More than 37,000 Burundian refugees remaining in Tanzania's Mtabila Camp are still reluctant to return despite the incentives offered to them by UNHCR. The reluctance of the refugees to return affected planned activities, including the construction of peace villages. Out of the five villages planned, only two were completed.

Post-election violence contributed to the reluctance of Burundian refugees to return home. For those who did, the extremely precarious economic environment, continuing price hikes and civil unrest hindered smooth reintegration. Access to land continued to be a major obstacle to reintegration, particularly in the three main provinces of return in the southern part of the country.

Financial information

Enough funding was available to implement prioritized activities for persons of concern. Resource mobilization at the field level was successful and contributed to more than 60 per cent of the operations budget. However, some planned activities, notably the construction of integrated rural villages, could not be implemented due to administrative constraints. Of the five villages planned, only two were constructed due to delays in the allocation of suitable sites, leaving a significant amount of the budget unspent at the end of the year.

Organization and implementation

The operation in Burundi was managed by a branch office in Bujumbura which exercised overall country-level supervision, two sub-offices in Makamba and Muyinga and a field office in Ruyigi. Two field satellite offices in Bururi and Rutana operated under the responsibility of the sub-office in Makamba. The offices were staffed by 155 personnel, including 23 international and 115 national staff, 14 UNVs, one JPO and two consultants. The location of the offices allowed them to ensure proper coverage of refugees, monitor return locations, and coordinate and implement reintegration activities. New office premises in Bujumbura met security requirements and provided improved working conditions for staff.

UNHCR's presence in 2010

□ Number of offices	6
□ Total staff	155
International	23
National	115
JPOs	1
UNVs	14
Others	2

Working with others

UNHCR and other UN agencies in Burundi worked within a unified framework for the security, safety and well-being of all UN and partner staff. MOSS and MORSS compliance by agencies was regularly monitored by security officers who also worked together to update security/evacuation plans. UNHCR and the Human Rights Office of the UN Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB) jointly led the protection sector under the cluster approach.

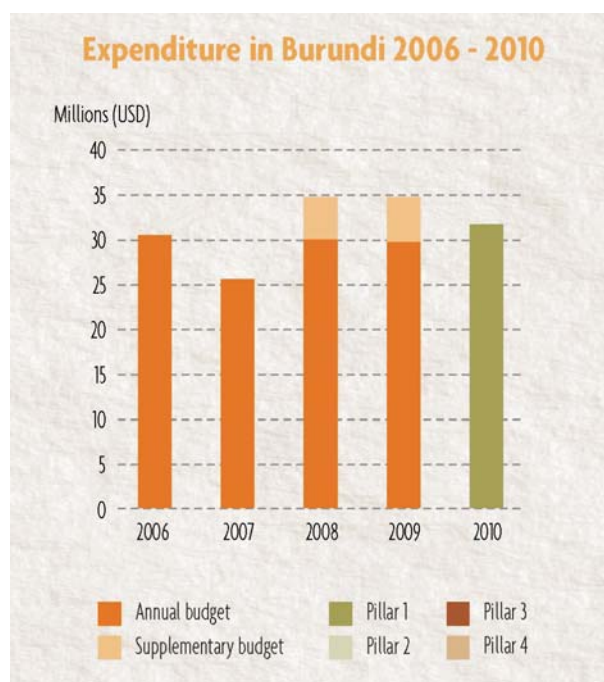
Overall assessment

Burundian refugees in Tanzania's Mtabila Camp are still reluctant to return despite incentives. The limited enthusiasm for return among Congolese refugees is also a concern, but in their case UNHCR is only facilitating voluntary repatriation, not promoting it. The repatriation of Burundian refugees in the DRC is proving more successful,

with a constant flow of candidates having presented themselves since the beginning of the operation in late 2010.

UNHCR met all its objectives as regards assistance during the return phase (legal documentation, return packages, shelter, etc.). However, reintegration projects were not fully implemented owing to land conflicts, the inaccessibility of some tracts, lack of access to education and health facilities and a dearth of opportunities for income-generating activities. The provision of basic assistance to refugees in camps was satisfactory, but problems such as dependency on assistance, insufficient and unstable incomes, as well as sexual and gender-based violence need to be addressed.

Partners	
Implementing partners	
<p>Government: <i>Ministère de l'Intérieur (Office National pour la Protection des Réfugiés et des Apatrides, Centre National d'Identification), Ministère de la Solidarité Nationale, des Droits de la Personne Humaine et du Genre (Projet d'Appui au Rapatriement et à la Réintégration des Sinistrés-PARESI), Commission Nationale des Terres et Autres Biens</i></p> <p>NGOs: African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), African Humanitarian Action, <i>Association des femmes juristes, Conseil pour l'Éducation et le Développement, Fédération Nationale des Coopératives d'Épargne et de Crédit du Burundi, Handicap International</i> (France), International Rescue Committee, <i>Ligue Iteka</i>, Norwegian Refugee Council, <i>Stop SIDA</i>, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization – Health Net International, World Outreach Initiatives</p> <p>Others: <i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i></p>	
Operational partners	
<p>NGOs: Norwegian Refugee Council, Refugee Education Trust, <i>Solidarités International</i></p> <p>Others: The Integrated UN Mission in Burundi (BINUB), FAO, WFP, UNICEF, WHO, ICRC</p>	



Budget, income and expenditure in Burundi | USD

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
FINAL BUDGET	33,980,004	74,933	940,014	44,652	35,039,603
Income from contributions ¹	17,881,047	0	0	0	17,881,047
Other funds available	13,765,963	31,727	0	39,792	13,837,482
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	31,647,010	31,727	0	39,792	31,718,529

EXPENDITURE BREAKDOWN

<i>Favourable protection environment</i>					
National legal framework	125,386	3,206	0	0	128,592
National administrative framework	168,019	3,206	0	7,437	178,661
National and regional migration policy	24,916	3,206	0	0	28,122
Prevention of statelessness	0	3,206	0	0	3,206
Co-operation with partners	181,314	0	0	7,437	188,750
Public attitudes towards persons of concern	86,714	0	0	0	86,714
<i>Non-refoulement</i>	79,341	0	0	0	79,341
Environmental protection	429,768	0	0	0	429,768
Subtotal	1,095,457	12,825	0	14,873	1,123,155
<i>Fair protection processes and documentation</i>					
Reception conditions	160,723	0	0	0	160,723
Registration and profiling	814,200	0	0	12,460	826,660
Access to asylum procedures	26,842	0	0	0	26,842
Fair and efficient status determination	191,082	0	0	0	191,082
Family reunification	114,777	0	0	0	114,777
Individual documentation	418,739	0	0	0	418,739
Civil status documentation	83,523	0	0	0	83,523
Subtotal	1,809,886	0	0	12,460	1,822,346
<i>Security from violence and exploitation</i>					
Law enforcement	129,294	0	0	0	129,294
Community security management system	73,920	0	0	0	73,920
Gender-based violence	340,264	0	0	0	340,264
Protection of children	379,874	0	0	0	379,874
Freedom of movement	54,191	0	0	0	54,191
Non-arbitrary detention	121,592	0	0	0	121,592
Access to legal remedies	298,234	0	0	0	298,234
Subtotal	1,397,369	0	0	0	1,397,369
<i>Basic needs and essential services</i>					
Food security	138,264	0	0	0	138,264
Nutrition	112,060	0	0	0	112,060
Water	306,812	0	0	0	306,812
Shelter and other infrastructure	6,219,680	0	0	0	6,219,680
Basic domestic and hygiene items	550,759	0	0	0	550,759
Primary health care	1,370,984	0	0	0	1,370,984
HIV and AIDS	275,067	0	0	0	275,067
Education	1,094,259	0	0	0	1,094,259
Sanitation services	139,299	0	0	0	139,299
Services for groups with specific needs	619,652	0	0	0	619,652
Subtotal	10,826,835	0	0	0	10,826,835

	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
<i>Community participation and self-management</i>					
Participatory assessment and community mobilisation	130,461	0	0	0	130,461
Community self-management and equal representation	102,799	0	0	0	102,799
Camp management and coordination	542,690	0	0	0	542,690
Self-reliance and livelihoods	365,511	0	0	0	365,511
Subtotal	1,141,461	0	0	0	1,141,461
<i>Durable solutions</i>					
Durable solutions strategy	0	0	0	12,460	12,460
Voluntary return	1,586,520	0	0	0	1,586,520
Rehabilitation and reintegration support	1,601,569	0	0	0	1,601,569
Resettlement	300,980	7,314	0	0	308,294
Local integration support	0	4,275	0	0	4,275
Reduction of statelessness	0	7,314	0	0	7,314
Subtotal	3,489,068	18,902	0	12,460	3,520,430
<i>External relations</i>					
Donor relations	127,992	0	0	0	127,992
Resource mobilisation	153,531	0	0	0	153,531
Public information	168,433	0	0	0	168,433
Subtotal	449,957	0	0	0	449,957
<i>Logistics and operations support</i>					
Supply chain and logistics	4,507,302	0	0	0	4,507,302
Programme management, coordination and support	2,381,802	0	0	0	2,381,802
Subtotal	6,889,104	0	0	0	6,889,104
Instalments to implementing partners	4,547,624	0	0	0	4,547,624
Other objectives	249	0	0	0	249
Total	31,647,010	31,727	0	39,792	31,718,529

¹ Income from contributions includes indirect support costs that are recovered from contributions to Pillars 3 and 4, supplementary budgets and the "New or additional activities – mandate-related" (NAM) reserve. Contributions towards all pillars are included under Pillar 1.