UNHCR has gone full speed ahead with the roll out of the Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming in Africa

Thanks to the support of many colleagues across the board, the roll out of the Age, Gender, and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) has been completed in all countries covered by the Africa Bureau. Only in the Darfur operation in Sudan, the program could not take place as conditions have not permitted carrying it out. The Africa Bureau and the Community Development, Gender Equality and Children Section (CDGEC) worked closely together to roll out the AGDM program in Africa-based operations, applying AGDM methodology which brings a more systematic approach to identifying protection risks from an age, gender, and diversity perspective and to addressing these risks through a rights and community-based approach.

UNHCR developed the AGDM strategy in response to three critical evaluations, which highlighted a lack of accountability towards refugees, diminishing contacts of UNHCR staff with refugees, inadequate field presence, lack of capacity of staff to engage refugees as partners in protection and solutions, and a lack of integration of specific protection risks of women, girls and boys into core protection activities. The AGDM program was designed to promote gender equality and respect for human

UNHCR mobilizing assistance for displaced Somalis affected by worsening humanitarian crisis

In a country where the protracted political and security turmoil caused the displacement of some 400,000 people within Somalia and over 300,000 refugees in the neighbouring countries, heavy floods and renewed fighting in the last quarter of 2006 have seriously aggravated the humanitarian conditions of hundreds of thousands of Somali people inside Somalia.

It is estimated that over 450,000 people were affected by the floods at the peak of the disaster, including 65,000 people among the original 400,000 estimated IDPs population. Damage of property, loss of livestock, crops, stored grain, disruption of their livelihood, increased threats of water-borne diseases and/or displacement are the main consequences of the floods. The provision of emergency assistance by the UN agencies and NGOs has taken place in extremely difficult conditions due to the lack of infrastructure and the prevailing insecurity in South and Central Somalia.

Clashes between the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and the emerging Islamic Courts Union (ICU) in the course of 2006 have triggered displacement within Somalia and towards Kenya. The ICU took over Mogadishu and Kismayo in June 2006 and progressively expanded its control in South and central parts of the country. As a result, the pace of new arrivals into Kenya significantly increased in October and November, to reach

A group of new arrivals receiving food in Hagadera camp, one of the three camps in Dadaab (eastern Kenya), at the peak of the influx in October 2006. By the end of the year, some 34,000 refugees had fled Somalia.
Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming

The AGDM strategy: a five-part process.

• UNHCR country teams form “multifunctional teams”, together with partners and government counterparts, to promote mainstreaming age, gender and diversity and facilitate participatory assessments with refugee women, girls, boys, and men.

• The multifunctional teams conduct participatory assessment with persons of concern. To ensure a representative participation, multifunctional teams meet with different groups of women, girls, boys, and men in many different contexts: urban, camp and return. Discussions are organized in separate age and sex subgroups according to the following categories: girls and boys aged 10 – 13; adolescent girls and boys aged 14 – 17; women and men aged 18 – 39; and women and men over 40. The multifunctional teams can also meet with groups according to other specificities: profession, marital status, family composition, ethnicity etc. During the participatory assessments, the multifunctional teams analyze with persons of concern their protection risks, the causes of those protection risks, their capacities to face those risks, and the solutions they propose to respond to those risks. Findings from the participatory assessment exercise are systematized by age, sex, and diversity so as to inform UNHCR programming.

• Multifunctional teams analyze the participatory assessment findings from women, girls, boys, and men so as to formulate protection strategies and programming objectives.

• To support the mainstreaming efforts of multifunctional teams, an on-line discussion forum, called Community Forum, was created to allow multifunctional teams across regions to dialog and share pertinent examples and good practices in promoting gender equality and rights for all people of concern.

• In 2008, an evaluation of the roll out will be undertaken to measure impact of the program on populations of concern.

Participatory assessments’ findings reveal a wide range of protection problems in all groups of refugees

Findings reported by multifunctional teams were markedly varied. Key issues that emerged included:

• Sexual Gender Based Violence such as sexual exploitation of girls by older men, forced and early marriages, violence against women, girls, and unaccompanied children and children in foster care;

• Concerns about potential child trafficking occurring in the country of asylum;

• Problems specific to older refugees;

• Lack of access to schooling due to linguistic barriers;

• Child labor;

• Juvenile delinquency, and Teenage pregnancy.

Assessments revealed that sexual and gender based violence remains one of the biggest protection challenges reported by refugees and other

(Continued from page 1)

rights by reaching many more people of concern of both sexes and different ages and backgrounds through a holistic, systematic approach in order to understand their situation from their perspective. AGDM helps offices explore protection risks with people of concern while also supporting women, girls, boys, and men of concern to apply their own capacities and propose their own solutions to their problems. According to the AGDM strategy, offices establish “multifunctional teams”, composed of UNHCR staff, partners and government counterparts, and engage in interactive dialogue with women, girls, boys, and men of concern. This systematic dialogue is called participatory assessment. During discussions with women, girls, boys, and men of concern, teams explore protection risks from their point of view, based on an age, gender, and diversity perspective, and elaborate with them potential solutions to their problems which mobilize their capacities to face the protection risks (see box on the AGDM strategy and the example on participatory assessments in Chad for more details on the methodology).

(Continued on page 3)
people of concern. Women and girls expressed frustration and anger about the generalized violence that they experience all too often, from domestic violence, verbal harassment from authorities, host communities, and the community at large, to sexual exploitation and to rape itself. Boys also brought up risks of violence, though in many cases they talked about physical violence in relation to girls in the community. In Botswana, children in Dukwi camp identified alcohol abuse among adults and minors as a serious risk factor in cases of sexual and gender-based violence.

Discrimination is another major protection risk identified during participatory assessments. Some boys and men reported discrimination by authorities. Girls, boys, women, and men highlighted lack of food and income as protection risks across the board, as well as exposure and lack of security. However, girls and women suffer to a larger extent than boys and men from isolation and marginalization as greater restrictions are placed on females’ movements. Additionally, risks of physical violence present a constant threat.

Regarding specific protection problems for children and adolescents, both boys and girls mentioned the constraints to access education, in particular long routes to school. Girls furthermore highlighted unwanted pregnancies, early marriage, and exposure to HIV/AIDS. Children and adolescents talked about ‘gendered’ child labor, especially after school: domestic, household work for girls and farming for boys. In both cases, they run the risk of not getting paid for their labor. Protection problems for specific groups of children were also reported, such as in Malawi, where sexual and gender-based violence against unaccompanied children and children in foster care emerged as a key issue.

A more precise understanding of the protection problems facing refugees and others of concern to UNHCR

While participatory approaches are not new to UNHCR, participatory assessment does offer multifunctional teams a more systematic approach to hearing from women and men of various ages and backgrounds. Participatory assessment also allows refugees and other people of concern to become agents of their own protection by ensuring refugee participation through a rights and community-based approach. In addition, participatory assessments permit refugees to establish priorities in light of compounded problems. Age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming provides the fora for shifting from individual, assistance-based protection to supporting women, men, adolescents, older persons, disabled of communities to take control over their future, thus rebuilding their own networks to helping each other enjoy their rights and realize gender equality. Through a rights and community-based approach, teams support women and men refugees to analyze their problems and take steps where possible towards addressing them with support as needed from UNHCR and partners.

For example, in Dadaab camps in Kenya, the multifunctional team found that many refugee women were suffering in silence from fistula, a serious health problem. These women were afraid to leave their homes and especially felt stigmatized. Upon discussing the problem with the women concerned, the multifunctional team supported the women to help each other by keeping channels of communication open with the team and with each other so as to reduce isolation and help each other through treatment.

While aware of the growing problem, multifunctional teams found that prostitution was more widespread than anticipated, such as in the Republic of Congo and Tanzania, where adolescent girls explained during participatory assessments that they resorted to selling their bodies to earn money for their secondary school fees. In Angola, the team discovered that “survival sex” had become widespread in a refugee settlement of Luanda. In Sierra Leone, some women and teenaged refugee boys living in an urban area revealed that they, too, resorted to “survival sex” in order to earn an income in an environment where economic opportunities were severely lacking. In Burkina Faso, the multifunctional team supported refugee and asylum-seeking women to create their own support groups to reduce the isolation of women and girls resort-
In Chad, participatory assessments were carried out in five out of the twelve camps (Toulom, Kounoungou, Gaga and Goz Amir). The multifunctional team organized the assessment over three days and used the three methods of participatory assessment at different intervals: separate focus group discussions with women, girls, boys, and men, semi-structured discussions on very specific topics, and participatory observation. Members of the multifunctional team, which included UNHCR, partners, and government counterparts, split into team pairs in order to meet with many diverse groups of people, and to organize the discussions into subgroups according to sex and age.

Additional tools were created to facilitate both discussions and the workshop, such as a check list outlining responsibilities and tasks to be completed during the AGDM roll-out and sample health questions, specific to health issues in eastern Chad. The sense of ownership by partners of the AGDM process was particularly high in Chad due to the level of their involvement throughout the process, as some of the multifunctional coordinators have been drawn from implementing partners.

During the participatory assessment, multifunctional team members also visited food distribution sites, tin-smith workshops, Koranic schools, water points, markets, and livestock markets and communicated regularly with each other in the different locations through satellite communication. Team members gathered at the end of every day to review the day’s work, fill the forms, share important observations, discuss lessons learnt and, where necessary, agree on modifications for the following day’s schedule. After the participatory assessment was completed at camp level, members of the multifunctional teams and refugees gathered in Abeche for the three day workshop to analyze the results of the participatory assessments and identify solutions.

In his closing remarks at the workshop, Yassin, a refugee participant at the AGDM workshop thanked UNHCR for the chance to participate, noting that it was the first time that refugees had been invited to such an important event. He expressed the sentiment that refugees felt valued as equal partners in the process and promised to hold a meeting with other refugees upon return to the camp to highlight the importance of participation of women, girls, boys, and men of all backgrounds and different ages using the ADGM strategy in camp activities. Yassin and the other refugee participants have since formed a group of 25 men to educate other refugees on the AGDM strategy. The participatory assessments were launched in the other camps afterwards. The involvement of refugees made a positive impact and greatly facilitated the application of AGDM on the ground.

**After the roll out in the camps in eastern Chad, Yassin (here making closing remarks at the AGDM workshop) and the other refugee participants have formed a group of 25 men to educate other refugees on the AGDM strategy.**

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**An example of Participatory Assessment in Eastern Chad (October 2005)**

The multifunctional team summarizing findings’ after a day’s work in camps during the participatory Assessment exercise. In total, the participatory assessment took three days in eastern Chad camps.
Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming

(Continued from page 3)

ing to such measures to procure an income and to find alternative solutions. By discussing the problem, refugees discover that they were not alone with their problems and could begin to organize themselves locally through collective action to find solutions.

The impact of the AGDM roll out

While time is needed to ascertain the long term impact of the AGDM program on the situation of people of concern, it has already produced some short term results. By working with the women suffering from fistula in Dadaab camps in Kenya, local NGOs, and international agencies, the multifunctional team was able to bring in once a month from Nairobi a local doctor for medical treatment for the women. Women awaiting the procedure were provided with extra supplies of sanitary materials to allow them greater freedom of movement. In neighbouring Uganda, where the provision of sanitary materials was very difficult in the camps due to funding constraints, the participatory assessment showed that the lack of the provision of sanitary materials kept refugee girls home away from school during menstrual periods. Since then, the multifunctional team has enhanced their support to research being carried out at the University of Makerere to develop low cost sanitary materials produced from local materials by refugees themselves to help keep girls in school. In Benin and Burkina Faso, refugee and asylum-seeking women asked during the participatory assessments for the creation of community centers so they could form their own support groups to help each other discuss personal problems. The regional office in Benin was able to engage with a psychiatrist in Benin to provide follow up support for critical cases of trauma and to provide training to refugee women associations to create support groups for the community. The Group in Benin, called «Cercle MANDELA » now gathers urban refugee women of various nationalities, who have put in place a solidarity fund to assist members in need. Refugee women in Sénégal also benefited from the AGDM roll out, where a project has been put in place in cooperation with the UNHCR’s partner OFADEC to train urban refugee women and provide them with the facilities to prepare food commodities for commercial sale in Dakar.

In Zambia, specific measures resulting from the AGDM program included the recruitment of a female police officer in Mayukwa-yuka camp, campaigns to encourage children to remain in school, the temporary restoration of food rations to previously self-sufficient refugees in drought-stricken areas and a boosting of income-generation activities. In Angola, in discussing with the youth group in Sungui refugee settlement, the youth proposed to volunteer inside their own community to train other youth in sport activities. The multifunctional team linked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) appeal for volunteer projects and assisted the youth community to present its proposal to UNDP for a small project for sport activities for girls and boys. Their proposal was recently approved by UNDP. In Namibia, where the rollout took place in September 2006, the impact of the participatory assessment was quickly noted especially in the area of education. Additional school uniforms have been purchased, and two water points and ten latrines have been constructed nearby school buildings. Jesuit Refugee Council (JRS), which is responsible for the education programme in Osire camp, took some disciplinary measures against school staff, following thorough investigations on allegations of improper behaviour and shared, again, a Code of Conduct for all employed staff to remind them about their duties.

The way forward

Now that the AGDM roll out has been completed, the Africa Bureau has begun moving forward its regional objectives set for 2007-2009, which include specific targets for age, gender, and diversity mainstreaming. Africa Regional Objectives stipulate that offices in Africa “ensure full participation of persons of concern through the utilization of AGDM Approach” (please see the Global Appeal 2007 for more information on the 2007 programmes in Africa). Throughout the years, participation of refugees and other persons of concern as an integral part of programme planning has proven difficult to fully realize. When organizing participatory assessments, teams explain that competing priorities and reduced budgets mean that not all proposed solutions can be implemented. Nevertheless, refugees and people of concern continue to demonstrate interest in discussing with multifunctional teams to identify possible protection solutions in the context of ever-shrinking resources. The goal is for women and men of concern of all ages and backgrounds to become full actors in decisions affecting their lives in order to enjoy their rights and realize gender equality.

Article prepared in collaboration with Julianne DiNenna, from CDGECs.

For more information on the AGDM strategy, please contact Julianne DiNenna, at the Community Development, Gender Equality and Children Section (CDGEC) at UNHCR Headquarters at dinenna@unhcr.org. You can also find the UNHCR Tool for Participatory Assessment on the UNHCR website at www.unhcr.org, under “Protecting refugees”.

Africa Newsletter ● No.4 5
Worsening humanitarian crisis in Somalia

(Continued from page 1)

34,000 people in total. In Somalia, in view of the rapid evolution of the military and political situation, there are constant revisions of the population movements. At time of writing, UNHCR and its population movement tracking partners estimate that, besides many temporary and short distance displacement, approximately 10,000 people have been displaced in Gaalkacyo in North-East Somalia known as Puntland and that several thousands have reportedly been stranded in Dhobley, close to the Kenya/Somalia border.

Preparedness & Response

In view of the deteriorating situation in Somalia and risks of large scale displacement, UNHCR reinforced its emergency preparedness in the sub-region through further mobilisation of staff from its emergency roster and additional resources.

The emergency response includes the pre-positioning of non food items (NFIs) initially for up to 100,000 beneficiaries in the sub-region as well as the coordination with partners under the Logistics Cluster for the NFI shipment and distribution. In Dubai, UNHCR has finalised the dispatch preparation of relief items initially for up to 50,000 Somali IDPs, 10,000 of which are ready to be airlifted to address the most urgent needs as soon as the airport opens in Kismayo and staff are allowed to be deployed, security permitting, to receive and coordinate the distribution of assistance. The remaining items for 40,000 IDPs are to be shipped to Kismayo. In addition, UNHCR pre-positioned relief items in Nairobi for another 50,000 people, which will be used to address the needs of affected people either in Somalia or in neighbouring countries. This stock is in additional to the emergency assistance already provided to those 34,000 refugees who fled to Dadaab camps in Kenya before December 2006.

During the first week of January, an emergency team was dispatched to Garowe (Puntland) to support the team to address the needs of the IDPs in Gaalkacyo. The team also plans to conduct missions to South and Central Somalia as soon as security permits UN’s direct re-engagement on the ground. Another emergency team has been sent to the Somali region in eastern Ethiopia to conduct assessment of reports of new arrivals from Somalia. Additional staff members are also on standby in Nairobi and other parts of the world to be deployed anytime when the need arises.

The prevailing insecurity and lack of access to South and Central Somalia remains a major constraint. Security permitting, UNHCR plans to deploy staff to Mogadishu and Kismayo, where the concentration of IDPs is estimated to be high. At time of writing, UNHCR is also assessing the feasibility of carrying out with other UN agencies and partners, a cross border operation from Kenya to provide humanitarian assistance inside Somalia.

Following the escalation of violence in Somalia, the UN Country Team in Kenya issued a six-month Inter-agency Flash Appeal in October 2006 for a total amount of 35 million USD, with UNHCR’s requirements amounting to USD 10,261,000. With the prompt response of the donors, UNHCR has been assisting the new arrivals at the border and in Dadaab refugee camps. In order to respond to the floods crisis in Somalia, an “Inter-Agency Somalia Floods Response Plan” was also launched in early December 2006 to cover the immediate requirements for 3 months, with the total amount of USD 28.6 million. For UNHCR’s part, USD 250,000 was appealed, focusing on the protection concerns of IDPs affected by the conflict and the flooding as part of the existing IDP protection and assistance programme. This request for funds has been met. Additional needs, such as the mobilization of non food items for up to 50,000 IDPs, is met for the time being with funds available from the supplementary programme for IDPs in Somalia.

In Brief...

Rwanda acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions: Rwanda acceded to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions on 4th October 2006 when instruments of accession were received by the treaty office of the United Nations in New York. Rwanda made neither reservations nor declarations when acceding to these instruments. Rwanda joins 11 African countries, which are party to one or both Statelessness conventions (see “Statelessness in Africa” in Africa Newsletter, Third Quarter 2006): Botswana (1954 Convention), Chad (1961 and 1954 Conventions), Guinea (1954), Lesotho (1961 and 1954), Liberia (1961 and 1954), Niger (1961), Sénégal (1961 and 1954), Swaziland (1961 and 1954), Uganda (1954), Zambia (1954) and Zimbabwe (1954). This accession brings the total number of States Parties to 61 for the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and 33 for the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. UNHCR will continue its efforts to increase the number of accessions to the two Conventions in Africa and looks forward to working with Rwanda in concretely implementing these two conventions to prevent and reduce statelessness and to protect stateless persons. More information on Statelessness is available at www.unhcr.org/statelessness. USERS: Note that other jurisdictions may have access restrictions on links. Use the links only within the same domain.
The Peace Building Commission: an opportunity to better ensure sustainable return for displaced populations in Africa

On the 12 and 13 October 2006, the first country-specific meeting of the UN Peace Building Commission (PBC) took place in New York and recommended that Burundi and Sierra Leone be the first countries to receive support from the newly established Peace Building Fund (PBF). As thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to both of these countries, UNHCR sees this as an opportunity to better ensure sustainable return and reintegration through an enhanced focus on the consolidation of peace.

Following this meeting, the Governments, in consultation with the international community within the respective countries began to develop Priority Plans and detailed project notes. UNHCR offices in Burundi and Sierra Leone are fully involved and have been advocating for issues related to refugee and IDP reintegration. In Burundi, return was specifically mentioned as one of the government's priorities and is seen as closely inter-linked with transitional justice, land reform and the broader socio-economic recovery. In Sierra Leone, government priorities include youth empowerment and employment, consolidating democracy and governance, justice and security sectors reform and capacity building. As agreed at the second round of Country Specific Meetings on 12 – 13 December 2006, around USD 25 million will be allocated to each country for 2007. In all likelihood, the final amount will be slightly higher, depending on the review of the Priority Plans. The starting date of the projects is planned for January 2007.

UNHCR stands ready to assist, in close coordination with the governments and partners, in the implementation of these plans, especially for projects where reintegration of refugees, land reform or local integration of residual groups of refugees could be promoted. A Memorandum of Understanding on the necessary administrative arrangements required for UNHCR to be eligible to receive funds from the PBF will soon be signed with UNDP, which is administering the PBF.

In addition to country level collaboration, the UNHCR Office in New York interacts with the PBC and Peace Building Support Office (PBSO). At the request of the Assistant Secretary-General heading the PBSO, Ms. Carolyn McAskie, UNHCR is seconding a staff member to the PBSO as Senior Strategic Planning Officer. UNHCR is also involved in two of the PBC Policy Committee Working Groups: the PBC Policy Committee Working Group on Economic and Social Elements of Peace Building including employment generation and reintegration and the PBC Policy Committee Working Group on Rule of Law and Justice.

As focal point on peace building issues, the Peace building, Livelihoods and Partnerships Section (PBLPS) in UNHCR headquarters provides support to the New York Office, in close cooperation with the Africa Bureau and country offices in Burundi and Sierra Leone.

In Brief...

Focus on Congolese displaced persons in “REFUGEES Magazine”

The main focus of UNHCR's REFUGEES Magazine Number 145 (January 2007), is the Democratic Republic of Congo, and includes a historical overview of displacement inside and outside the country, and its causes. Other articles feature Congolese refugees in South Africa and Switzerland, and the story of a Congolese rape victim, now living in Kenya, as well as a broader look at the issues involving women in the conflict-torn eastern DRC. UNHCR's REFUGEES Magazine is available on the UNHCR websites under “Publications” (www.unhcr.org/publ.html) and (www.unhcr.fr/cgi-bin/texis/vtx/publ).
UNHCR reinforces its presence in eastern Cameroon to provide protection and assistance to 20,000 refugees from the Central African Republic

On 1 January 2007, UNHCR opened a field office in Meiganga, some 700 km east of Yaoundé, the capital of Cameroon, in order to provide assistance and protection to Mbororo refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR). The influx began as a result of insecurity created by armed bandits, mercenaries and rebel groups - the so called “coupeurs de route” - in the northwest region of CAR. While the refugees were only a few thousand in late 2005 and mainly located in the Mbéré area, the influx increased in 2006 and now comprises some 20,000 people spread out over a large area in eastern Cameroon along a 500 km border zone with CAR.

The refugees are mainly Mbororo people, nomadic cattle herdsmen. The possession of cattle being a sign of wealth, they have been the main victims of the “coupeurs de route” and many kidnappings of Mbororo women and children have taken place for ransom purposes. In compliance with the national refugee law adopted in July 2005 and the 1969 OAU Convention, the Government of Cameroon has recognized this population as prima facie refugees and has carried out several joint assessment missions with UNHCR and WFP in the provinces of the East and Adamaoua bordering CAR.

Monitoring the situation and movements of this nomadic group has not been an easy task but assessment missions and regular monitoring have enabled UNHCR, its partners and the Government, to identify specific assistance and protection measures for this refugee group. Roughly, the assessment missions have shown that the needs of the refugees vary considerably, depending on whether they managed to flee CAR with or without their cattle. The needs of the first group, which comprises some 15,000 refugees who managed to bring their cattle with them, are mainly protection related, as the absence of ID cards can be an impediment to their nomadic way of life. Transhumance, a seasonal migratory pattern determined primarily by the herds’ grazing needs, is part of the traditional lifestyle of Mbororos. As they share strong cultural links with their hosts, the Mbororos do not face major socio-economic problems in Cameroon. Their basic assistance needs concern the settling of their families. The second group of refugees is more vulnerable and comprises about 5,000 Mbororo people who lost their cattle and also includes a small number of Gbaya farmers. Lacking the means for self-sufficiency, this group of refugees has settled down in small villages in an insecure area close to the CAR border, notably in Ngaouï town, where incursions by the “coupeurs de route” are recurrent. Their lack of self-sufficiency has had a serious impact on their well-being and necessitates extensive support in the areas of non-food items, agricultural tools, water and sanitation assistance, medical care, education, etc., from UNHCR and its partners. In addition, the protection needs of this population must be addressed, in particular their relocation to a safer area.

In 2006, UNHCR put in place an emergency programme to register the refugee population, distribute non-food items to the most vulnerable, and vaccinate children under the age of five, for a total budget of 242,000 USD. In 2007, UNHCR is requesting a budget of 1.1 million USD, part of which will be funded by the CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund), to reinforce its protection monitoring and extend its assistance programme in eastern Cameroon along a 500 km border zone with CAR.

(Continued on page 9)
eastern Cameroon. In particular, UNHCR is planning to move the destitute refugee population from the insecure region around Ngaoui to Ngam, situated about 65 km from the border with CAR. Instead of settling down in a camp, the refugees will be moved to a village in an area where agricultural opportunities exist to facilitate their local integration and enhance their self-reliance. To help refugees achieve self-sufficiency, a joint programme will be developed with other UN Agencies and will include access to land provided by the Government, the distribution of agricultural tools and seeds, and assistance in livestock farming.

The 2007 Global Appeal launched in Geneva

The 2007 Global Appeal for UNHCR operations worldwide was launched during UNHCR’s pledging conference at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on 11 December 2006. During the Conference, UNHCR presented a budget of USD 1.06 billion for 2007, including some USD 381.2 million for sub-Saharan Africa, which represents 36.5% of the total financial requirements in UNHCR’s 2007 Global Appeal. Largest African programmes presented in the 2007 Global Appeal are Chad (USD 69 million), Liberia (USD 32 million), Kenya (USD 32 million) and Tanzania (USD 24 million). Requirements for African operations in 2007 represent a 4.5% decrease compared to the 2006 revised annual budget requirements. Phase down strategies related to the voluntary repatriation operations of Liberian, Burundian, DRC and Angolan refugees are one of the main factors explaining this decrease.

The 2007 Global Appeal does not include Supplementary Programmes (apart from the Colombia Supplementary Programme). For Africa, 2007 Supplementary Programmes, to be presented soon, include repatriation and reintegration operations (DRC, South Sudan), assistance and protection of IDPs (Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Liberia, Somalia, and Uganda) and humanitarian assistance to IDPs and refugees in Darfur. With requests for specific allocations from the Operational Reserve to meet unforeseen emergency needs (for emergency assistance to the Bororo refugees in Cameroon; emergency assistance to the new influx of Somali refugees and those flood-affected refugees in Kenya), the overall budget for Africa Bureau in 2007, all sources combined, stands at USD 564.8 million, compared to USD 607.4 million 2006 revised budget.

This table shows the requirements for Africa in USD million for 2006 and 2007:

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<th>Requirements for Africa (USD million)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2006 revised budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>AB</td>
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<td>399.2</td>
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<td>Total AB: 388.8</td>
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The limited human resources capacity of UNHCR’s office in Yaoundé, the 700 km distance from the capital to the eastern region, poor road conditions as well as communication constraints, called for UNHCR to open the office in Meiganga in the east of the country. Deployed staff will facilitate the implementation of the programme, and monitor the protection situation of refugees and potential new arrivals. UNHCR staff will also work in close cooperation with CARE Canada, which is already operational in the area. Partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is under consideration. In addition to the 20,000 Mbororo refugees from CAR, Cameroon hosts 14,000 refugees and 4,500 asylum seekers from various countries in central and West Africa.

The 2007 Global Appeal and more information on the pledging conference are available on the UNHCR website at www.unhcr.org. You can also obtain hard copies of the Appeal, in English and French, from the Appeals and Reports Unit of DRRM, by sending an email to Sylvie Genhart at genhart@unhcr.org.

(Continued from page 8) [CAMEROON]
Interview with Mamadou Ndiaye, Director General of ‘The African Office of Development and Cooperation’ (L’Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération (OFADEC)), which is a NGO partner of UNHCR in Sénégal.

In 2006, UNHCR’s NGO Liaison Unit celebrated its 30th anniversary. The Unit’s objective is to strengthen partnerships and ensure good quality dialogue with its partners. In Africa, more than 100 national NGOs, about 38% of UNHCR’s partners on the continent, work with persons relevant to UNHCR’s mandate. During his recent visit to Geneva, Mamadou Ndiaye, Director General of OFADEC, a long-time African NGO interlocutor with UNHCR, gave his views on partnerships in Africa today.

**UNHCR’s NGO Liaison Unit celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2006. What are your impressions of the evolution and role of this Unit?**

In the days of ‘Partnership in Action’ (PARinAC) in the early 1990s, the idea of strengthening the dialogue with NGOs already existed, even if in reality not all objectives were met. The principles behind PARinAC were good – to establish an information exchange network and carry out consultations and coordination between national NGOs at the sub-regional level. Its main constraint, however, was that it depended primarily on the capacity of the sub-regional coordinator to get the process underway. OFADEC developed PARinAC with UNHCR for West Africa and also for Sénégal. Even if PARinAC no longer exists today at the regional level, the structure is still active in Sénégal where it has permitted NGOs to carry out advocacy and protection activities. It has, for example, assisted in having a review done of an accord concluded between the Government of Sénégal and the Swiss authorities regarding the return of Senegalese asylum seekers.

The principle of having an NGO liaison unit is still essential, particularly for the national NGOs. The current Unit needs to be reinforced in order to reach its objectives. It should have the capacity to visit the field more often and invite more African national NGOs to Headquarters. [Note: Each year, The NGO Liaison Unit sponsors more than twenty national NGOs to take part in UNHCR’s annual consultations; ten of these originate from sub-Saharan Africa.]

**You have been a regular participant in the annual NGO consultations which traditionally take place at the end of September, what do you think about the participation of African NGOs at these meetings?**

I do not think that the representation of African NGOs is strong enough, or of a high enough quality to contribute significantly to the debates. This is largely due to the turnover rate of NGOs participating in the consultations, which in my opinion is too high. In fact, it takes time to understand how the consultations work and during its initial participation, an NGO is in the process of discovery and apprenticeship and not always able to participate proactively in discussions. I think that it is not only important to identify partners capable of contributing to the debates, but also encourage them to come back several years in a row, so that they might get to know the system better and make their opinions known. In order to ensure greater consultation between national NGOs and UNHCR, another solution would be to alternate every other year the traditional annual consultations with a regional forum for each continent.

The idea of creating a consortium of African NGOs has regularly been evoked. What do you think?  

There have been some attempts to set up such a system; however, they have been unsuccessful, mostly because the results were bureaucratic, hierarchic and costly. I do not think that it is necessary at this moment to put in place such a consortium. Internet is a simple and inexpensive means of communication that should permit an exchange of information between NGOs regarding the problems they face on the continent, moreover, there already exists international consortiums of NGOs to which African NGOs can become a member.

**During the last annual consultations the question of capacity building of NGOs was raised during the informal session organized by the UNHCR Africa Bureau and the African NGOs. What are your views on this?**

I think that UNHCR should concentrate on developing a strategic partnership with certain NGOs, the more successful ones and those that have the capacity to become such, since it is not possible to do capacity building for all of the 400 NGO national partners that UNHCR works with in the world. With regard to training, national NGOs have been frustrated since a lot has been said, but little has been realized. Innovative alternatives could be developed to encourage an exchange of information and know-how. UNHCR does not have to be always the one that pro-

*(Continued on page 11)*
vides the training, but it could facilitate training possibilities for NGOs by other NGOs, once the latter have acquired and developed a certain expertise in a particular domain. UNHCR could establish contacts between certain NGOs and finance the training. This took place in Sénégal where OFADEC provided micro-credit training to a Guinea Bissau NGO also working with refugees; OFADEC has a long experience in the field of micro-credit. The operation was inexpensive and made possible through UNHCR financial support.

In the Vallée, not far from their home country, Mauritania, a group of refugee women could reinforce their self-reliance through a project carried out by OFADEC and initiated with the support of UNHCR.

L’Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération (OFADEC) is a Senegalese NGO working with UNHCR since the influx of Mauritanian refugees in 1989. In addition to managing more than 250 refugee camps, OFADEC intervened in the areas of protection, micro credit in favour of women, education, health and training, for the some 20,000 Mauritanian refugees who have chosen to remain in Sénégal as well as for some 3,000 urban refugees. OFADEC also provided assistance to refugees from Guinea Bissau living in Sénégal and has been responsible for repatriation operations carried out on their behalf.

The UNHCR office in the Central African Republic (CAR) resumed the voluntary repatriation of refugees from both South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in December 2006. With the resumption of these operations, which were both suspended earlier in 2006, it is expected that the repatriation programme will be completed in 2007.

At the beginning of 2006, there were some 14,000 Sudanese refugees in CAR, 10,000 of whom live in the Mboki settlement in the remote southeast of the country. Most of them arrived in CAR in the early 1990s to escape the devastating civil war in South Sudan. Despite the difficult living conditions in areas of return, severely affected by the two decades long civil war, most of the Sudanese refugees have expressed a clear intention to return to their country of origin. The repatriation of South Sudanese refugees began following the signing of a Tripartite Agreement between UNHCR and the Governments of CAR and Sudan in February 2006. More than 2,000 Sudanese refugees, mainly from Mboki, were repatriated between February and April 2006, when the operation was halted due to the official closure of the border between CAR and Sudan. The Government of CAR has recently agreed to the opening of a ‘humanitarian corridor’ to allow the resumption of the repatriation. UNHCR, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), plans to repatriate approximately 7,100 additional Sudanese refugees, mainly from Mboki, by mid-2007, after which UNHCR will close its voluntary repatriation programme.

Since the beginning of the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees in December 2003, almost half of the 6,750 Congolese refugees in CAR have returned home with the assistance of UNHCR. Most of the Congolese refugees are from Equateur province, in north western DRC and fled DRC mainly in 1998-1999 to escape fighting in their province. Out the 3,500 Congolese refugees remaining in CAR, 2,500 live as urban refugees in the capital Bangui. In December 2006, UNHCR closed the Molangue refugee settlement, about 100 km south-west of Bangui and will handover the infrastructure and equipments to the CAR authorities at the beginning of 2007. The repatriation operation was suspended pending the outcome of the electoral process, which has now been successfully completed. It is planned that the voluntary repatriation operation of Congolese refugees will come to an end mid-2007.
ANNUAL PROGRAMME

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Initial Budget</th>
<th>Revised Budget</th>
<th>% Revised Budget</th>
<th>Earmarked Funds</th>
<th>% Revised Budget</th>
<th>SB Contributions</th>
<th>Funds Available</th>
<th>% of Revised Budget</th>
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SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMME

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Funding

New appointments

The new representative in Tanzania is Mr Yacoub El Hillo, replacing Mr Chrysantus Ache. Mr Mohamed Dayri is the new Head of Desk for Chad and Sudan, replacing Mr Craig Sanders who is now Deputy Representative in Sudan. Mr Sanda Kimbimbi is the acting Deputy Director for East and Horn of Africa and for Southern Africa for a period of six months, starting in December 2006. He is replacing Mr Oluseyi Bajulaiye who is seconded at the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) as Deputy Humanitarian and Resident Coordinator.