

3rd meeting

UPDATE ON REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA

1. This document is structured as follows:
 - I. Eastern and Southern Africa
 - II. Western and Central Africa
 - III. Programmes in the Great Lakes region for Rwandan and Burundian Refugees
2. The text for each of the above sub-regions starts with an overview of events in the sub-region, and is followed by individual country reviews. Two annexes summarize past levels and budgetary information.

I. EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

A. Sub-regional overview

1. Horn and East Africa (including Special Programmes)

3. UNHCR's main objective in the sub-region is voluntary repatriation - in particular to Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia - from the principal countries of asylum - Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Yemen. The exile of the assisted Ethiopian refugee population, which has persisted for over two decades, is coming to an end.
4. According to the Ethiopian Government, over 800,000 Ethiopians have returned home since 1991; the majority from Somalia, mainly spontaneously. With the UNHCR-organized repatriation of 36,076 refugees from Djibouti from September 1994 to April 1996, the remaining Ethiopian refugee population in that country is negligible and is expected to repatriate this year. The repatriation of 2,500 Ethiopian refugees from Kenya has commenced and should be completed before the end of the year. In December 1995, organized repatriation of Ethiopian refugees began from the Sudan. At the time of writing about 20,000 had been returned out of a planned figure of 50,000 for 1996.
5. Similarly remarkable has been voluntary return to Somalia. It is estimated that up to 400,000 Somalis returned to North-West Somalia following the fall of the Siad Barre regime in 1991. UNHCR is now planning to implement a pilot repatriation of 10,000 refugees out of the 280,000 Somalis remaining in camps in eastern Ethiopia. From Kenya, some 150,000 have voluntarily repatriated to destinations in southern Somalia over the last three years through the cross-border operation implemented by UNHCR. At the time of writing an additional 13,000 were registered to return.
6. Financial support for repatriation and rehabilitation activities in Somalia has been uneven, which has affected performance. Funds for rehabilitation and the active involvement of rehabilitation/development agencies at the point of return of refugees are particularly necessary if sustainable repatriation and reintegration are to be achieved. UNHCR will continue to facilitate voluntary repatriation during 1996/1997.

7. As regards Eritrea, 1995 saw the completion of the pilot repatriation programme from the Sudan which returned some 25,000 people. According to the Eritrean authorities, some 125,000 refugees have also spontaneously returned, mainly from Sudan, since 1991. As indicated by the Deputy High Commissioner during his visit to Sudan in March, UNHCR will continue to emphasize to all parties the right of refugees to return to their country of origin when conditions are propitious.

8. Djibouti is now preparing a programme to address the needs of persons internally displaced by civil strife. Between 12,000 and 18,000 Djiboutians were also displaced by that same conflict and are in Ethiopia. UNHCR will seek to organize their return within the context of the programme which the Djibouti authorities will devise for the internally displaced persons.

9. Elsewhere in the region, Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia continued to experience influxes of Sudanese refugees.

10. Some 219,000 Sudanese refugees are assisted in 35 settlements in Uganda, host to the largest number of Sudanese refugees. The Government of Uganda has allocated sufficient land to afford them a significant level of self-sufficiency. UNHCR is thus actively pursuing this settlement option. So far some 100,000 refugees have been given land. Some 10,000 refugees allocated land in 1995 have achieved self-sufficiency in food production.

11. In Ethiopia, the organized repatriation and reintegration of returnees from neighbouring countries, to be completed by the end of 1996, remain the primary objectives. For Sudanese refugees in the west, where the refugee situation has remained relatively stable, efforts will be intensified to ensure self-sufficiency as an immediate objective for this group. For Somali, Kenyan and Djiboutian refugees, the consolidation/rationalization of care and maintenance assistance will be pursued while promoting and implementing voluntary repatriation movements at the earliest opportunity.

12. Thus, considerable success has been achieved with voluntary repatriation. UNHCR remains, however, very concerned that the rehabilitation needs -- short, medium and long term -- in returnee destinations are insufficiently addressed.

13. This goes to the heart of UNHCR's objective which, in addition to facilitating the return of refugees, is to foster conditions in countries of origin which will consolidate that return in conditions of political, economic and social security. In other words, preventive action to minimize future risks of population displacement.

14. The 1992 Declaration made by the Heads of State at the Horn of Africa Humanitarian Summit clearly recognized the link between future socio-economic development of the region and the resolution of humanitarian problems: "unless we address [humanitarian problems] on an urgent basis, we cannot hope to make progress in solving other equally critical problems which require concerted action."

15. The decision at the end of March by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Summit to revitalize and enlarge Members' cooperation - including in the humanitarian sphere - provides an opportunity to begin to implement the pragmatic 1992 Declaration.

2. Southern Africa

16. During 1996, the Mozambican repatriation and reintegration programme will come to its conclusion, with the last reintegration projects inside Mozambique expected to be completed by June. During that same period, and if conditions permit, it is anticipated that the repatriation operation to Angola from Zambia, Zaire, Namibia and the Congo could start. The last remaining major refugee situation in the southern African region would then be on the road to resolution.

17. The repatriation and reintegration operation for some 311,000 Angolan refugees over a period of 30 months was launched in June 1995. Since that time, some 18,000 Angolan refugees have returned spontaneously to their places of origin.

18. Most countries in the southern African sub-region are experiencing a steady increase in arrivals of urban refugees, many of whom have passed through several countries in the region. The phenomenon of these "irregular movers" clearly calls for a regional approach, requiring careful coordination of protection and assistance activities. Upon the gradual phasing out of cash allowances, assistance measures in support of urban refugees are now focused on income-generation activities in an effort to facilitate their local integration.

19. In line with the phasing out of large scale care and maintenance programmes following the repatriation of Mozambican refugees, UNHCR has correspondingly been consolidating its presence in the region, resulting in the downsizing of former Branch Offices into Liaison Offices and the creation of a Regional Office in South Africa that has assumed direct responsibility for five country programmes in the region. The Regional Office also holds an important coordination function, especially with regard to regional institutions such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), with which UNHCR is collaborating in policy and framework formulation in areas such as population movements, conflict prevention and contingency planning. Further adjustments to UNHCR's country representation will be effected in the future, bearing in mind political considerations and the requirement of organizationally effective structures.

20. Local capacity-building initiatives have been carried out in the sub-region, with particular emphasis on training of government officials, institution-building and public awareness campaigns. Since 1993, training workshops in refugee law and protection have involved more than 1,000 government and non-governmental officials in seven countries. With UNHCR's assistance, national eligibility procedures are being revamped, and eligibility committees meet on a more regular basis.

3. Angola repatriation and reintegration programmes

21. Following the signing of the Lusaka Protocol on 20 November 1994 between the Government of Angola and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), an appeal was launched in June 1995 to cover a repatriation and reintegration operation for some 311,000 Angolan refugees over a period of 30 months (June 1995 to December 1997). An updated appeal covering the requirements for 1996 was issued in March 1996.

22. It is expected that approximately 211,000 of the estimated 293,000 Angolan refugees still living in neighbouring countries will return spontaneously in 1996 pending satisfactory progress in the entire peace process. The remaining 82,000 Angolan refugees will require UNHCR-organized transport assistance to repatriate.

23. UNHCR shares the international community's deep concern at the delays in the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol and the lack of steady progress towards lasting peace, without which large-scale voluntary repatriation could hardly begin. Among other things, tangible progress in the quartering of soldiers and formation of a unified army, increases in de-mining of important routes in Moxico, Uige and Zaire provinces as well as of agricultural lands in areas of return and formation of a Government of national unity are essential for confidence building, especially on the part of refugees.

24. Despite the uncertainties and delays of the past year, recent developments in the quartering of UNITA soldiers provide grounds to be cautiously optimistic. Depending on further extension by the Security Council of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) mandate, which expires on 11 July, UNHCR will review the feasibility of retaining the July 1996 time-frame for the start of its organized repatriation. This review will focus primarily on the progress of quartering of UNITA troops in the above-mentioned provinces of origin. In the meantime, efforts are ongoing in building up UNHCR logistics capacity. Actual overland transportation, either by truck and/or bus, and the drop-off points in Angola, are largely determined by road accessibility.

25. Concurrently, reintegration activities such as repair and upgrading of schools, hospitals/health centres, access roads and bridges geared towards strengthening communal facilities to absorb Angolan refugees spontaneously returning from Zaire, Zambia, Congo and

elsewhere are being implemented in consultation with the national authorities. On the other hand and with the aim of increasing the rate of return, preparatory and promotional activities for voluntary repatriation from the above-mentioned asylum countries, including Namibia, have been initiated.

B. Country reviews

1. Angola

(a) Beneficiaries

26. At 1 January 1996, Angola was host to 10,970 refugees (39 per cent men, 12 per cent women and 49 per cent children), mainly from Shaba in Zaire. Except for 114 refugees from Burundi, Rwanda, Somalia and Zaire who live in urban centres, the refugees are settled in rural areas in six provinces of Luanda, Bengo, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Malanje, Lunda Sul and Moxico, where they have attained a high degree of self-sufficiency in food production.

27. At 31 March 1996, a total of 18,316 Angolan refugees had returned and registered: 3,973 in Cabinda Province, 7,146 in Moxico, 1,739 in Uige, 5,325 in Zaire province and 133 in other provinces.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

28. Following the signing of the Lusaka Protocol on 20 November 1994 between the Government of Angola and UNITA, agencies of the United Nation system, under the Coordination of the Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit (UCAH) formulated and launched, in February 1995, a consolidated inter-agency appeal for funds totalling \$ 212,766,409 to cover humanitarian assistance to affected populations. The appeal covered, *inter alia*, requirements for demobilization and reintegration of UNITA forces as well as resettlement of internally displaced persons. In the consolidated appeal UNHCR had announced that its requirements for repatriation assistance for Angolan refugees would be reflected in a separate appeal.

29. In view of the lack of progress in repatriation and limited donor response, the United Nations consolidated appeal was revised accordingly, with some United Nations agencies adopting a more streamlined approach in this operation.

30. To facilitate policy and operational coordination, UNHCR and the Governments of Namibia and Angola signed a Tripartite Agreement on 7 November 1995, establishing, *inter alia*, a Tripartite Commission which first met in Luanda from 21 to 23 November 1995.

31. On the political front, implementation of the Lusaka Protocol continues, albeit slowly. Quartering of UNITA soldiers and the Government's Rapid Intervention Police started in November 1995, but a month later UNITA stopped participating over objections to the Government's military occupation of a number of UNITA strongholds in the north-western part of Zaire Province. This dispute was resolved and UNITA resumed the quartering process in January 1996. As of 15 May 1996 a total of 31,000 UNITA soldiers had been quartered while the first phase of quartering of up to 2,000 officers of the Rapid Intervention Police in the provinces of Huambo, Uige and Luanda was completed in January 1996.

32. Activities aimed at increasing absorption capacity in areas of return, improving personal safety and mine awareness, involving beneficiary's participation in infrastructure rehabilitation, will be accelerated. Integrated food/non-food distribution will be provided to returnees on par with assistance envisaged for returning internally displaced populations.

33. The suspension of repatriation of Zairian refugees, imposed by the Government of Zaire in July 1994, was lifted in May 1995. However, negotiation with the Government of Zaire to authorize the repatriation of some refugees directly to Shaba, instead of via Kinshasa, is in

progress. In the meantime, a small number had returned to Boa Esperanca and, based on a recent survey, provision is made for the repatriation of up to 2,000 persons to Zaire in 1996.

34. Zairian refugees who fled the Angolan countryside due to the civil war and are as yet unable to return to the established rural settlements will continue to be assisted to undertake agricultural activities in their present locations in or near to the urban centres. Assistance will also be provided for basic improvement of temporary structures and services in the sectors of education, health, sanitation and income-generation.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

35. As in previous years, the Ministry of Assistance and Social Reintegration (MINARS) is UNHCR's government counterpart for all issues related to assistance and protection of refugees. In 1996 and 1997 the Commission of the Recognition of the Rights of Asylum (CODERA), through its field presence, will progressively assume the responsibility of giving direct assistance to individual refugees, an activity hitherto carried out by UNHCR. Beginning in 1996, MINARS is also responsible for coordination of repatriation and reintegration of returnees for which UNHCR is funding a unit within the Ministry.

36. Operational partnership with nine NGOs will be further strengthened in support of repatriation and reintegration activities ranging from transportation of returnees, distribution of relief items, construction and management of reception centres, repair and management of clinics/health posts, and rehabilitation of schools, roads and bridges in the areas where refugees and displaced persons are returning. Within the United Nations family, UNICEF will continue to provide vaccines while WFP will continue to provide basic food rations for refugees and returnees.

(d) Budget

37. The budget requirements for voluntary repatriation of Zairian refugees in 1996 have been increased slightly over those of 1995 in anticipation of a higher rate of return, comprising some 1,500 persons. The 1997 General Programme budget proposal has been maintained at the 1996 level.

38. Expecting a large-scale return of Angolans from neighbouring countries in the second half of 1996, budget requirements under the Special Programme for 1996 are higher than those proposed for 1997 on the assumption that the majority of the caseload would have returned earlier. These proposed allocations are subject to further review, taking into account actual developments at the operational level.

(e) Post situation

39. The need for early preparation and timely response to this repatriation involving wide areas and long distances necessitate the creation of 61 additional posts (over 1995) in the course of 1996. Similar staffing requirements are proposed for 1997.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

40. Within the context of existing programming resources, specific efforts will be made to increase returnee women's participation in reintegration projects.

(g) Oversight reports

41. No reports were initiated during the reporting period.

2. Djibouti

(a) Beneficiaries

42. At 1 January 1996, there were some 24,700 refugees (4,752 Ethiopians and 19,948 Somalis) assisted by UNHCR in the three refugee camps of Assamo, Ali-Addé and Holl-Holl. Of the overall caseload, 54 per cent are estimated to be female and 58 per cent are children.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

43. Promotion of the voluntary repatriation of the overwhelming majority of refugees living in Djibouti remains the overall objective of UNHCR for 1996 and 1997. In addition, bearing in mind the need for UNHCR to work towards the preservation and consolidation of Djibouti's asylum policy in favour of genuine refugees, UNHCR will continue to advocate making a clear distinction between refugees and economic migrants, and will cooperate with the authorities, other United Nations agencies and the Inter-governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) in defining the appropriate solutions to the immigration problem in Djibouti within an integrated framework of humanitarian assistance and development.

44. At the end of 1995, UNHCR completed the repatriation of 32,024 Ethiopian refugees from Djibouti. Of this number, 16,965 persons were repatriated directly from the camps between September 1994 and March 1995, and the remaining 15,059 persons were repatriated from Djibouti-ville from July to October 1995. One of the four refugee camps was thus closed in February 1995. During March and April 1996, UNHCR further undertook the voluntary repatriation of 4,052 Ethiopian refugees from the camps in Djibouti, leaving a residual caseload of about 700 Ethiopians in the camps. This caseload is composed predominantly of former military and civilian personnel of the Mengistu regime, who are mostly of Amhara origin. They do not wish to repatriate and are expected to remain in the camps in Djibouti during 1996. In addition, there are about 1,000 urban refugees in Djibouti-ville, the majority of whom are Ethiopians who arrived in Djibouti since 1978. UNHCR Branch Office in Djibouti has been approached by hundreds of Ethiopian asylum-seekers of Oromo ethnic origin requesting protection and assistance, a recent development closely monitored by the Office.

45. With regard to Somali refugees, who are mainly of Issa ethnic origin from the Awdal province in North-West Somalia, their repatriation has not been possible so far, owing to a number of factors such as the still volatile security conditions in their areas of origin - Zeila, Lughaya and Abdikadir. It is hoped that the situation in the region will be conducive to their repatriation before the end of 1996.

46. Concerning the return of the estimated 18,000 Djiboutian refugees in north-eastern Ethiopia, the Government of Djibouti in April 1996 established a Commission responsible for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the north of the country and requested the assistance of United Nations agencies in this regard. UNHCR has proposed a joint inter-agency and government mission to the region as well as to Ethiopia to assess the needs and intentions of the Djiboutian returnees and prospective returnees.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

47. The Government's Office National d'Assistance aux Réfugiés et Sinistrés (ONARS) will continue to be UNHCR's main implementing agency in Djibouti. In addition, the Association of Medical Doctors of Asia (AMDA), an NGO which currently implements health sector activities, will continue to do so. UNESCO, which implemented educational activities in the camps in 1995, will also continue in that sector in 1996 and 1997.

(d) Budget

48. Under General Programmes, the revised 1996 allocations, current 1996 as well as the proposed 1997 budget proposals are not significantly different from initial estimates. However, noticeable reductions have been made in the Special Programme for 1997 as the repatriation of

the Ethiopian caseload will be completed in 1996.

(e) Post situation

49. As a result of the completion of the voluntary repatriation of Ethiopian refugees in 1996, four posts will be discontinued in the course of 1996: one Telecommunication Operator, one Secretary, one Guard and one Driver.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

50. Particular attention is given to women and children when delivering care and maintenance assistance in the camps. The joint UNICEF/UNHCR activities for improving the sanitary conditions in the camps environment and for running diarrhoea disease control centres will be strengthened. Similarly, further efforts will be made to improve the education activities implemented by UNESCO in favour of refugee children. Efforts will also be continued to promote family reunion and focus on strong humanitarian cases such as unaccompanied children and women-at-risk.

(g) Oversight reports

51. No reports were initiated during the reporting period.

3. Eritrea

(a) Beneficiaries

52. UNHCR serves various beneficiary populations in Eritrea. The largest group is made up of 24,235 Eritrean returnees from Sudan assisted to repatriate under the pilot phase of the repatriation programme. Half of this caseload are women.

53. At 1 January 1996, there were 1,082 refugees in Eritrea composed of 1,043 Somalis, 37 Sudanese and 2 others. By end of March 1996, the number of Somali refugees increased to 1,376 and Sudanese to 73, resulting in a total population of 1,451 refugees, all of whom are assisted by UNHCR. About 40 per cent of the caseload are women and 25 per cent children.

54. The reintegration programme is designed to ensure that the beneficiary population includes, in addition to the projected 125,000 returnees from the pilot and first phases, 110,000 to 130,000 Eritreans who are expected to return spontaneously in the coming years.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

55. The increase in the refugee caseload has exacerbated the housing problem in the Harsile refugee camp in Assab, causing overcrowding.

56. The primary objective vis-à-vis the Somali caseload will be to continue the care and maintenance services in the two existing camps, while the possibility of voluntary repatriation will be continually explored. It is also projected that a limited number of candidates will qualify for resettlement from the current caseload. Forty-one cases were accepted by a recent Canadian immigration mission.

57. The repatriation of 100,000 Eritreans from the Sudan under phase I of the operation, scheduled to begin during the last quarter of 1995, has not yet taken place due to differences of approach between the two countries. With the conclusion of ongoing negotiations, up to 70,000 of the planned returnees under Phase I are projected to be assisted for repatriation during 1996. It is envisaged that 1997 will see the completion of the delayed Phase I with the return of 30,000 individuals and the beginning of the next phase for an additional 75,000 Eritreans.

58. The returnee reintegration programme, in the form of quick impact projects (QIPs), will be a primary focus for 1996 and 1997. The activities will promote sustainable reintegration through addressing the collective needs of the returnee and host communities.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

59. In accordance with government policy, all foreign supported programmes are implemented directly by government agencies. The Ministry of Interior, Refugee Section, continues to be the sole implementing partner for all refugee activities.

60. For the repatriation/reintegration activities under the Programme for Refugee Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Resettlement Areas in Eritrea (PROFERI), Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) is not only UNHCR's sole implementing partner but is also responsible for the overall coordination of the implementation of the returnee programme, with various line ministries as executing agencies, i.e. Health, Education, Marine Resources, Agriculture, Construction as well as Water Resources.

(d) Budget

61. An increase in the care and maintenance budget for 1996 was effected due to an increase in the caseload. The 1997 proposal is similar to the revised 1996 level. The repatriation/reintegration programme budget for 1996 was decreased due to a reduced target beneficiary group. The 1997 proposal is therefore lower than the 1996 level.

(e) Post situation

62. Between 1995 and 1996 one international and eight national posts were added to support the increased operational needs. In addition, one Junior Professional Officer (JPO) was made available. The initial 1997 proposal remains the same.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

63. With the arrival of a Social Services Officer, social services needs, in particular those related to women, are being identified and a comprehensive programme put in place. Particular attention will be given to those QIPs which primarily benefit women returnees. A primary school for refugee children has been established.

(g) Oversight reports

64. The external auditor's team recently concluded a visit to Asmara and their report is awaited.

4. Ethiopia

(a) Beneficiaries

65. At 1 January, 1996, there were 363,479 refugees in Ethiopia. They comprised 275,351 Somalis, 61,113 Sudanese, 18,000 Djiboutians, 8,680 Kenyans as well as 335 urban refugees of mixed origin. Of the total refugee population, 49 per cent are female. In 1995, 34,719 refugees (23,936 from Djibouti, 7,397 from Sudan, 3,205 from Kenya and 181 from other countries) repatriated to Ethiopia. During the first three months of 1996, a total of 19,351 refugees repatriated to Ethiopia with UNHCR assistance. These consisted of 15,138 from Sudan (of whom 103 were deportees), 4,019 refugees from Djibouti, 127 from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and 67 from elsewhere. These returnees, as well as those who returned since 1993, benefit from UNHCR reintegration projects in their areas of return.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

66. Periodic outbreaks of fighting in North-West Somalia since the end of 1994 have hindered prospects for voluntary repatriation from camps in eastern Ethiopia and have made it necessary to upgrade care and maintenance activities. However, UNHCR is planning on a pilot repatriation of some 10,000 persons from Hartisheik, Darwanaji and Teferi Ber camps to relatively safe areas of North-West Somalia later this year.

67. The programme objective for Somali, Kenyan and Djiboutian refugees remains the consolidation and rationalization of care and maintenance assistance while promoting and seizing every opportunity for voluntary repatriation. For Sudanese refugees in western Ethiopia, where the refugee situation has remained relatively stable, the objective remains to facilitate partial self-sufficiency. For Ethiopian refugees in asylum countries, the objective is to complete all mass organized repatriation operations by the end of 1996, and achieve successful reintegration in the areas of return.

(c) Implementing partner arrangements

68. The main UNHCR implementing partner in Ethiopia is the Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs (ARRA), a unit within the Security, Immigration and Refugee Affairs Authority. UNHCR, in consultation with ARRA, will continue to cooperate with technical government institutions in sectors such as health, education, agriculture, water and road construction, at both central and regional levels.

69. In addition to ARRA, a number of NGOs are involved in programme implementation. National NGOs include the Ethiopian Relief Organization (ERO), the Relief Society of Tigray (REST), the Oromo Self-Help Organization (OSHO), the National Committee on Traditional Practices in Ethiopia (NCTPE), the Opportunities Industrialization Centre-Ethiopia (OICE) and the Development and Inter-Church Aid Commission of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church (DICAC). International NGOs involved in the implementation of UNHCR programmes are CARE International, Radda Barnen, Handicap International, Save the Children (UK), the Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS), the Society for International Ministries (SIM) and Refugee Care Netherlands (ZOA).

70. Basic food supplies for refugee and returnee programmes through 1996 will be supplied by WFP in 1996.

(d) Budget

71. The initial 1996 budget submission approved by the Executive Committee in 1995 was made on the assumption that mass repatriation of Somali refugees to North-West Somalia would have taken place, leaving only 60,000 refugees in Ethiopia. However, renewed fighting in North-West Somalia resulted instead in a new influx which increased the population in the east from around 185,000 to some 280,000. This necessitated an upward revision of the 1996 budget. The successful repatriation and reintegration of Ethiopian refugees from Sudan, which started on 15 December 1995, has encouraged many refugees to continue to return. The planning figure for repatriation and reintegration has had to be adjusted from 27,000 in 1995 to 50,000 in 1996.

72. The increase in the number of returnees expected in 1996, as well as delays in implementation of the reintegration projects, will mean that reintegration activities will continue in 1997 though at a reduced cost.

(e) Post situation

73. In 1995 four posts were discontinued in Moyale, Jijiga and Gambella. A number of international and national staff posts are scheduled for discontinuation in 1996 once the ongoing repatriation of Ethiopian refugees from Sudan is completed, which should result in the closure of

Field Office Humera at the end of the year.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

74. The creation of a Regional Adviser for Refugee Women post based in Addis Ababa will augment the activities of a Refugee Women's Officer already in place. The Centre for Research in the Epidemiology of Disasters at the Université Catholique de Louvain, Brussels, is at present conducting research into the reproductive health of refugee women in camps in Ethiopia. Results of the research are expected to be made available towards the end of this year.

75. In collaboration with UNESCO, UNHCR has developed the first ever textbooks in the Uduk language for Grades I and II at Bonga refugee camp. Similarly, syllabi are being developed and teacher training given in the Afar region, which is host to some 18,000 Afar refugees from Djibouti.

76. UNHCR is in the initial stages of field testing solar cookers in Aisha camp. This is being done in cooperation with Solar Cookers International. Environmental projects funded by German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development continue in the east while reforestation activities are taking place under the UNHCR programme in the west. A thorough study of environmental concerns in and around refugee camps is planned this year.

(g) Oversight reports

77. The External Auditors have just completed auditing of the programme in Ethiopia and the report is awaited. The Regional Liaison Office has set up an internal Evaluation Committee which will be responsible for ensuring that various aspects of the programme are evaluated as deemed necessary.

5. Kenya (including the cross-border operation from Kenya to Somalia)

(a) Beneficiaries

78. At 1 January 1996, there were 173,212 assisted refugees 125,759 Somalis, 40,915 Sudanese, 5,716 Ethiopians, and 822 others in UNHCR camps in Kenya, of which 79,921 were women. In addition, more than 50,000 unregistered refugees are estimated by the Government to be living in urban areas.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

79. As of mid-1995, cross-border operations from Kenya to Somalia expanded to cover the whole of Somalia with the exception of North-western part of the country. With limited funds and staff, the programme has worked in close collaboration with local communities in order to assess the needs created by the return of Somali nationals to their region, and with other United Nations agencies for joint humanitarian action in favour of internally displaced persons, returnees and deportees.

80. Repatriation to Somalia is constrained by the security conditions and drought in many potential areas of return. However, arrangements have now been completed to airlift some 2,000 refugees who wish to repatriate from Mombasa and Daadab to Galcayo. Another 13,000 Somali refugees have also registered to repatriate and are waiting in Dadaab camps. Similarly, the airlift operation to repatriate some 2,500 Ethiopians who have registered and received clearance from the Government of Ethiopia has reached the final stage. It is also expected that, before the end of 1996, UNHCR would have assisted some 50,000 refugees, the majority being Somalis, to repatriate to their places of origin.

81. In 1995, the two large coastal camps in Utange and Marafa were closed after the repatriation and relocation of the refugees. At present, there are only three smaller coastal camps

-- Hatimy, Swaleh Nguru and Jomvu -- with a total population of 18,545 non-ethnic Somali Barawanese and Benadiris refugees. The continued hostilities to minority groups and prevailing security conditions do not permit the return of these minority non-ethnic Somalis. Therefore, the Branch Office is making efforts to resettle some of those who have the potential to reintegrate in third countries.

The overall objectives of the country programme could be summarized as follows:

- (i) To enhance a further shift of the care and maintenance programme to sustainable assistance programmes. These will be designed for relevance to refugees' needs, and long term durable solutions, such as education, skills development/vocational training, which will prepare the refugees for repatriation. Particular emphasis will be put on beneficiaries from the most vulnerable groups;
- (ii) To facilitate camp consolidation and closure of the Coastal camps by transferring the population to Dadaab and Kakuma, and by providing repatriation assistance. This process of camp consolidation might also see the expansion of camp infrastructure and services in Dadaab axis camps to accommodate the additional population;
- (iii) To integrate standard environmental activities progressively into the care and maintenance programme with a view to reducing environmental degradation around refugee camps used by the concentration of a large sedentary population, and by the collection and consumption of large amounts of wood for fuel and construction. Efforts will be made to pursue the search for alternative sources of firewood;
- (iv) To empower refugee women by expanding the organization of women's groups, Family Life Centres and targeted income-generation projects in all the camps;
- (v) To sensitize the refugee population, police and local authorities to the rights and protection of refugee women and children, including the continuation of physical protection measures such as live-fencing, which have proved successful;
- (vi) To prepare the refugees for voluntary repatriation and to continue to plan operationally for organized movements.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

82. There are 16 implementing partners involved in various multi-sectoral activities ranging from legal assistance/protection to provision of food, water and non-food items, on-the-job training and other community based activities. The overall working relationship with the implementing partners is satisfactory.

83. In the implementation of cross-border operations priority will be given to international NGOs for the implementation of QIPs. However, for capacity-building purposes, local NGOs and local communities will also be involved in project identification and implementation. In the absence of suitable international or local NGOs, however, relay centres will be established from where UNHCR staff will operate for limited periods of time. The aim in doing so is to ensure that implementation centres are as near as possible to the beneficiaries, for obvious monitoring reasons.

(d) Budget

84. There is no major difference between the initial and the revised 1996 total allocation for Kenya. However a slight decrease is foreseen in the 1997 proposed allocation mainly due to a decrease in caseload as the result of repatriation of the Somali and Ethiopian caseload.

(e) Post situation

85. At the review of UNHCR operations in Kenya in November 1995, four additional posts

were created effective January 1996 to strengthen and enhance overall programme implementation and support services for the region, including the Great Lakes Operation. Twelve posts have been identified for discontinuation during 1996.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

(i) Environment

86. The Government of Kenya continues to express concerns regarding the environmental degradation of refugee hosting areas in the Dadaab/Liboi axis camps, Kakuma and Coastal Provinces. The environmental degradation is attributed to the exploitation of the forest resources mainly by refugees searching for firewood and shelter materials. The traditional chiefs in the Dadaab region recently attempted to ban the cutting of firewood, precluding UNHCR from harvesting shrubs for the "live fencing" around the refugee camps. While UNHCR convinced the local authorities to lift the ban, the issue is likely to arise again, as the issue of firewood collection remains highly sensitive in the region. Since 1993, UNHCR has adopted a strategy comprising three elements, to address the environmental problems. This consists mainly of the following:

(a) To integrate various assistance programmes on environmental degradation in the ongoing care and maintenance programme, i.e., promotion and distribution of fuel saving stoves, and exploring alternative sources of energy (solar stoves in Kakuma camp and supply of charcoal in the Coastal camps), education of refugees to change their cooking habits to save/conservate energy, encourage refugees to participate in the reforestation activities (allocating funds for the accomplishment of the sanitation activities to maintain clean natural surroundings and reduce water and air pollution)

(b) Implementation of pilot projects that directly address environmental issues e.g. Rational Energy Supply, Conservation, Utilization and Education in Refugee Hosted Areas (RESCUE) and Education on Environment to Refugee Children; and

(c) Work as a catalyst by identification of projects, including preparation of project proposals, conducting pre-feasibility studies, etc., to be financed by the bilateral and/or multilateral donors.

(ii) Women

87. The Branch Office has sought to consolidate the Women Victims of Violence project into the regular annual programme, especially in the sectors of reproductive health, enhancement of community development activities which revolve around women's groups, and through the family life education centres which have facilities for activities aimed at empowering refugee women.

(g) Oversight reports

88. No report was initiated during the reporting period.

6. Malawi

(a) Beneficiaries

89. At the beginning of January 1996, Malawi hosted 1,125 asylum-seekers and refugees from Somalia, Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi and several other countries. Protection and material assistance to the asylum-seekers and refugees continued to be provided at the Dzeleka Refugee camp in Dowa District, north of Lilongwe. This caseload is comprised of 37 per cent men, 20 per cent women and 43 per cent children.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

90. The number of asylum-seekers from Rwanda and Burundi appears to be on the increase, and all indications are that the trend could continue. During the first quarter of the year, the

process of status determination by the Eligibility Committee was accelerated. By March 1996, a total of 126 asylum-seekers were granted refugee status. There was still a significant backlog of asylum-seekers whose status needs to be determined.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

91. The Government of Malawi through the Office of the Commissioner for Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Rehabilitation oversees all refugee/asylum-seeker assistance programme in the country. The Malawi Red Cross Society is UNHCR's main implementing partner at the Dzeleka refugee camp for urban refugees.

(d) Budget

92. In line with the evolution of the refugee caseload, the overall budget allocation in 1996 has been significantly reduced following the completion of repatriation of Mozambican refugees in June 1995. A further discontinuation is proposed for the 1997 programme, which is mainly to cover care and maintenance of individual cases pending a durable solution.

(e) Post situation

93. With the closure of the Blantyre Sub-Office on 31 December 1995, the UNHCR Branch Office in Malawi is operating with 20 posts as compared to 53 in 1995. A discontinuation of an additional two posts is foreseen at the end of 1996 as part of the effort to scale down following the completion of the Mozambican repatriation operation.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

94. A refugee committee, composed mainly of women, has been organized at Dowa to assist the camp administration in planning and delivering assistance to the population. Under the supervision of the Committee, social and vocational activities have been initiated and a primary school is fully operational with 171 students, out of which 61 are girls.

95. Following the cessation of material assistance to Mozambican refugees in the wake of the successful completion of the repatriation operation in July 1995, limited assistance continued to be provided to the Government to augment its efforts in addressing the environmental damage caused by the hosting over a million refugees for several years. The project is being implemented by the Department of Forestry, the Evangelical Lutheran Development Programme and the Coordination Unit for the Rehabilitation of the Environment. Areas of focus are refugee affected districts and main activities are the promotion of ecological balance through conservation and afforestation.

(g) Oversight reports

96. No reports were issued.

7. Mozambique

(a) Beneficiaries

(i) Refugees and asylum-seeker

97. At 1 January 1996, there were 177 asylum-seekers and refugees, of whom 96 received UNHCR assistance. Predominantly young, educated males of urban origin between 17 and 35 years old, the group includes Angolans, Somalis, Ethiopians, Zairians, Burundians and Rwandans. The number of women and children decreased slightly in 1995, with 27 women and 25 children under the age of 17 receiving assistance.

(ii) Returnees

98. When the registration process ended on 31 December 1995, a total of 1,734,174 Mozambican returns had been recorded, with Tete Province alone receiving 820,553, or 47 per cent of the total. In all, the northern provinces (Tete, Niasa, Zambezia and Cabo Delgado) received over 1.3 million, the central provinces (Manica and Sofala) 297,300, and the southern provinces (Maputo, Gaza and Inhambane) 87,561. The vast majority of the returnees are of rural background and depend on subsistence farming. The level of literacy amongst them is extremely low. It is estimated that as many as 25 per cent to 35 per cent of the households are female-headed, with women making up over 53 per cent of the total returnee population. Half of all returnees are under the age of 15. A total of 78 per cent of the caseload returned spontaneously. Simultaneously, organized movements were carried out from Malawi, Swaziland, South Africa, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe, during which assistance was provided to over 378,000 refugees. Organized movement from the United Republic of Tanzania came to an end in October 1994, from South Africa in March 1995, Zimbabwe in May 1995 and Malawi in June 1995.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

(i) Refugees and asylum-seekers

99. With the closure of the transit centre for asylum-seekers in Benga, Tete Province, the only such facility remaining is in Maputo (Massaca II). Improvements will be made to relieve the present overcrowding in the centre.

100. The Eligibility Commission meets regularly. The Branch Office is continuing to encourage the Commission to streamline its decision-making and notification process. In addition, training activities for relevant government officials are also planned. The Office will furthermore promote opportunities for durable solutions towards local settlement of recognized refugees.

(ii) Returnees

101. The movement phase of the repatriation to Mozambique came to an end in June 1995. Since then the Branch Office has focused on the reintegration of returnees in the selected 34 priority districts. The main objective -- the phasing out of food distribution to over one million returnees -- was achieved in April/May 1995. However, as anticipated, some 204,000 returnees still require food assistance until June 1996. As part of the reintegration strategy adopted in 1994, most of the 1,386 quick impact projects in the four priority sectors of water, education, health and roads have been completed. These QIPs include the rehabilitation/construction of 134 health posts, 877 classrooms, over 400 staff houses, over 1,500 latrines, 269 shallow wells, 543 boreholes with pumps and the rehabilitation of over 3,800 kilometres of access roads.

102. UNHCR is determined to complete the remaining reintegration activities by the middle of 1996 and allow a smooth phasing out of the UNHCR programme from Mozambique. To this effect, linkages have been developed with appropriate development agencies and government authorities in order to ensure the sustainability of the projects started by UNHCR under its reintegration programme. In particular, it is foreseen that the European Union will complement reintegration activities in Niassa and Zambezia provinces; in Manica and Sofala linkages have been planned with Finland Development Agency (FINNIDA), UNICEF, CARE and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and in Tete with Danish Development Agency (DANIDA) and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC). In addition, a joint framework for inter-agency initiatives was drafted with UNDP in August 1995 with a view to promoting a smooth transition from humanitarian assistance to development assistance.

(c) Budgets

(i) Refugees and asylum-seekers

103. The care and maintenance budget provision for 1996 is 50 per cent higher than the 1995

allocation in part due to the continued need for capacity-building of implementing partners and the improvement of the transit facility in Maputo. For 1997 the proposed amount is marginally lower than 1996 based on an expected stabilization of the refugee caseload. Programme delivery and administrative support costs will be covered from General Programmes as of 1 January 1997, thereby increasing to level of General Programmes.

(ii) Returnees

104. No new programmes were established for reintegration activities in Mozambique for 1996. Instead, the relevant reintegration activities under 1995 projects were extended until June 1996. It is envisaged that at least one project will be further extended until the end of the year. Budgets were adjusted to take into account the actual implementation capacity but remain within the established incomes.

(d) Implementing partners/arrangements

(i) Refugees and asylum-seekers

105. UNHCR's main government counterpart is Nucleo de Apoio aos Refugiados (NAR), which is co-signatory to all implementing instruments. NAR is also responsible for the management of communal facilities for asylum-seekers and assumes the function of Secretariat to the Eligibility Commission, which interviews asylum-seekers.

(ii) Returnees

106. As is the case for the above category, NAR is a co-signatory to all tripartite implementing instruments for reintegration programmes. Most UNHCR-funded QIPs have been implemented by some 40, mostly international, NGOs. Some of these organizations have contributed their own resources to the programme.

107. Cooperation with various United Nations and other agencies (UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, World Bank, European Union, DANIDA, FINNIDA, GTZ) has been undertaken to promote the sustainability of UNHCR's reintegration programme.

108. World Food Programme and World Vision have continued to supply basic food rations to returnees and for the transport to Extended Delivery Points until April 1996. Beyond these Extended Delivery Points NGOs, mainly funded by UNHCR, are responsible for secondary transportation and distribution of rations.

(e) Post situation

109. The scaling down of staff from the operation, which started in late 1994, has continued with the phased closing of all field locations before May and planned final closure of the three Sub-Offices before September 1996. As from 1 January 1997, the posts will be reduced to 13 down from 125 posts in 1995, which in turn was already a dramatic reduction compared to a peak of 236 posts in 1995. They will also be funded under the General Programme.

(f) Implementation of programme priorities (women, children, environment)

110. Two sub-projects within UNHCR's reintegration programmes in Tete and Manica targeted women. Also, within existing sectors such as water (including the formation of district water committees), education, and food security (provision of grinding mills) the needs of women were especially taken into account during the implementation phase. A number of district seminars were organized by UNHCR, attended by traditional leaders, during which gender issues were discussed at length. This included the promotion of girls' attendance in primary schools.

(g) Oversight reports

111. An evaluation of the movement phase of the repatriation of Mozambican refugees was

undertaken in the first months of 1995 and finalized in March 1996. The evaluation report stresses the importance of close coordination and interaction between countries of asylum and the country of origin. A review of the reintegration phase of the Mozambique repatriation and reintegration operation was undertaken jointly by UNHCR, the representatives of the two major donor countries (the United States and the Netherlands) and the implementing partners in March/April. The report, which will focus on lessons learnt and their application in future reintegration operations, will be issued shortly. An internal audit is taking place in Mozambique in April at the request of the Branch Office.

8. Somalia (North-western Somalia only, rest of country covered in section 5)

(a) Beneficiaries

112. At 1 January 1996, there were some 500 assisted Ethiopian refugees in Hargeisa, of whom about 64 per cent were men, mainly former military personnel of the previous Ethiopian regime.

113. There were also, according to estimates, some 400,000 Somalis who had returned spontaneously since 1991. Additionally, some 350,000 Somali refugees are expected to return during 1996 and 1997 as follows: 280,000 from Ethiopia, 25,000 from Djibouti, 35,000 from Kenya, and 10,000 from Yemen, Saudi Arabia and other countries.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

114. In cooperation with the local authorities, the UNHCR Office in Hargeisa has been preparing, in consultation with the UNHCR Regional Liaison Office in Addis Ababa, for the voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from eastern Ethiopia to north-western Somalia. In this connection, it has been agreed by all concerned parties that voluntary repatriation to specific areas in Somalia

(i.e. areas that are known to be safe) will be actively encouraged. These areas, principally in the Awdal and West Galbeed regions, represent the major places of origin of a significant number of refugees hosted in the Ethiopian refugee camps. The pilot project for the repatriation of 10,000 refugees from Teferiber, Darwonaji and Hartisheik camps, which was put on hold due to an outbreak of clan hostilities in Hargeisa in late 1994, will now be implemented. Should this pilot project be successful, it is planned to undertake a large-scale repatriation programme from Ethiopia to North-West Somalia in the next two years.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

115. To implement the returnee programme in north-western Somalia, UNHCR has sought, in coordination with the Central Administration, the active participation of various players such as governmental institutions, elders, councils, regional authorities, United Nations agencies, as well as international and local NGOs working in north-western Somalia. Agencies and NGOs are selected on the basis of their proven capacity to carry out objective needs assessment, as well as requisite skills and experience. WFP will supply basic food for the vulnerable groups amongst the returnee and displaced populations and will implement food-for-work programmes.

(d) Budget

116. The revised 1996 requirements are not significantly different from the initial estimates.

(e) Post situation

117. Compared with 1995, in view of the relatively slow pace of repatriation as well as the funding situation, the post of one international administrative officer has been discontinued since

February 1996, and two other international posts (one Senior Field Officer and one Protection Officer) will be discontinued by the end of June 1996.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

118. It is known that the majority of the refugees who have returned spontaneously are those who had some food security and are able to survive without the refugee assistance given in the camps in Ethiopia. In view of this, it is thought that the refugees who will register for the UNHCR organized voluntary repatriation are those who are destitute, single-parent families, women and children, or other vulnerable groups who find better socio-economic security in the present assistance they receive in the camps. Substantial relief assistance will therefore be given to these vulnerable returnees both upon departure from Ethiopia and during the initial stages of their reintegration in North-West Somalia, to ensure eventual self-sufficiency at the earliest opportunity.

(g) Oversight reports

119. No reports were initiated during the reporting period.

9. Sudan

(a) Beneficiaries

120. At 1 January 1996, the refugee population in Sudan was estimated at 588,204 of which 310,777 were assisted by UNHCR in the camps. The assisted caseload comprised 264,792 Eritreans, 41,085 Ethiopians, 4,400 Chadians and 500 Somalis. A census was carried out among the assisted Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees in the camps in Eastern Sudan during March/April 1996. Preliminary statistics indicate that the number of these two major groups of refugees stands at 148,400 against the previous estimates of over 300,000.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

121. The organized repatriation of Ethiopians recommenced in mid-December 1995. As of February 1996 about 20,000 had been assisted to return, out of a planned figure of 50,000 to be repatriated by the end of the year. Apart from the 24,235 Eritreans repatriated under the pilot phase of the repatriation programme by mid-1995, the first phase of the operation, which should bring back 100,000 Eritreans by the end of 1996, has not yet started. The resumption of the movement has been put on hold due to differences of approach between the two Governments. Negotiations are ongoing and it is hoped that, following a high level UNHCR mission to the Sudan in March this year aimed at revitalizing the long-standing relationship between the Government of the Sudan and UNHCR, a positive development/outcome will be reached.

122. The primary objective in the Sudan for 1996 and 1997 will be to continue to focus on the promotion and implementation of the voluntary repatriation programme. The care and maintenance programme will be consolidated on the basis of the reduced population indicated by the recent census as well as the progress made in repatriation. The infrastructure thus made redundant from the programme will be handed over to the authorities for the use of the local population. UNHCR will also continue to seek donor support for rehabilitation of Refugee Affected Areas and would carefully consider the Government's request for such projects within the limit of budgetary constraints.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

123. The Commissioner for Refugees continues to be UNHCR's main implementing partner. There are in addition 13 international and local NGOs implementing various components such as

health, education, community development and environmental projects.

(d) Budget

124. There is no significant change between the initial and the revised 1996 General Programme budget. The 1997 proposal is lower than the 1996 level taking into account the planned repatriation of Eritreans as well as Ethiopians. Similarly, there is no significant difference between the initial and revised 1996 Special Programme budgets. However, a reduction is anticipated in the 1997 budgets due to the expected large-scale repatriation of Ethiopian caseload during 1996.

(e) Post situation

125. There were no new post creations in 1996. The 1997 staffing level will be subject to further review depending on the pace of repatriation.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

126. Maternal and Child Health Care form part of the comprehensive preventive and curative health care programme. UNHCR support to the income-generation projects for women implemented by Save the Children Federation - USA and Ockenden Venture in select camps continues. Provision is made to ensure that refugee children enrolled in UNHCR supported schools have access to instructional materials and other related supplies. Two environmental projects continue to be implemented by Enso Forest Development Ltd/Forest National Commission (ENSO/FNC) and GTZ. A third environmental project is to be implemented by SOS Sahel during 1996.

(g) Oversight reports

127. No reports were initiated during the reporting period.

10. Uganda

(a) Beneficiaries

128. In January 1996, there were 229,347 assisted refugees, comprising 209,796 southern Sudanese, 12,291 Zairians, 6,799 Rwandans and 461 refugees of various origins living in urban areas. Females make up 57 per cent of the population, and 56 per cent are below 18 years of age. The majority of the refugees are from rural areas and many are subsistence farmers.

129. The Government of Uganda estimates that some 50,000 non-assisted refugees reside outside the established camps and do not benefit from specific UNHCR assistance. However, as the majority of them are living in the vicinity of the refugee settlements, they benefit indirectly from the services provided for the refugees.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

130. The ongoing civil war in the Sudan and delay in any peace negotiation will continue to impede early return of the majority of southern Sudanese refugees from Uganda. Further influxes of Sudanese refugees may be expected. Given the possible delay in repatriation and the Government's generous policy of land allocation, UNHCR focused on the development of local settlements, which would enable refugees to attain self-sufficiency in food production and gradual integration.

131. Since the last half of 1995, an intensified rebel insurgency in the north continued to hamper the delivery of assistance to refugees and caused delay in the settlement development

programme. Furthermore, the Government insistently demands that UNHCR relocate refugees away from the congested transit/reception centres close to the border, and to designated settlements. The deteriorating security situation could delay the local integration programme, hence the need for continuing care and maintenance assistance.

132. In the case of Zairian refugees, arrangements are underway for repatriation of some 2,200 refugees. As the remaining 10,000 have not applied for repatriation and are, therefore, willing to integrate in the designated settlement, assistance could be gradually phased out. There are two groups of assisted Rwandans. The majority -- 5,000 refugees from the Hutu ethnic group who fled to Uganda in 1994 -- still consider that the conditions in Rwanda are not safe for their return, while some 1,000 of Tutsi origin will be assisted to repatriate during 1996.

133. The designation of Nakivale for the Somali urban refugees and the transfer to the settlement reduced numbers being assisted, while having the additional effect of stemming the flow from neighbouring countries. With this stabilization in numbers, the Branch Office is now better placed to seek a revision of the Government's policies and to grant convention status to Somali refugees, who have been restricted to mandate status for a number of years.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

134. The Ministry of Local Government is responsible for overall government coordination, and 20 NGOs are UNHCR's implementing partners. UNHCR has strengthened coordination efforts with NGOs through the UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC) process. During the second half of 1995, five new NGOs were identified to implement multi-sectoral assistance programmes in existing settlements, as well as the establishment of services in new settlements.

(d) Budget

135. There are no major changes in the general programme budget. The development of the local settlements programme will continue in phases during 1997.

(e) Post situation

136. A total of 21 posts were created between September 1995 and January 1996. The majority of the newly created posts are based in the field to strengthen monitoring capacity and enhance programme planning activities. The reduced caseload of Rwandans has led to staff reduction, and will eventually lead to the closure of the Field Office in Mbarara by the end of 1996.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

(i) Women

137. Under the auspices of UNHCR, a Refugee Women's Working Group (RWWG) has been formed comprising representatives from the Ugandan Ministry of Gender and Community Development (MGCD), other United Nations agencies and NGOs. The RWWG will develop programmes/projects to meet the special requirements of women and children. In line with the Government's policy, RWWG has adopted the following four priority areas: poverty and income-generation; economic empowerment; reproductive health and rights; girls' education and training in decision-making and leadership with a view to fostering legal empowerment.

138. It is envisaged that the RWWG will facilitate the network/link between donors and agencies in developing small scale projects/activities aimed at fulfilling the above priorities. The RWWG also intended to establish a resource library/data bank (based at UNHCR) which will facilitate cross-agency collaboration.

139. As a pilot project, UNHCR's implementing partner INTERAID has established a successful programme to promote reproductive health, funded by UNFPA. In January 1996, 88

per cent of births were attended by traditional birth attendants as compared with 40 per cent as of August 1995. Similar initiatives funded by UNFPA are being developed for other refugee settlements.

140. Steps have been taken in the fields of family planning, the provision of sanitary cloth to women, while future activities will focus on the problems of teenage pregnancy and sexual violence against refugee women. UNHCR actively participated in the initiative launched by the Dutch NGO EA-SNV on the follow-up to the Beijing conference.

141. UNHCR sponsors a campaign to increase girls' access to education through parent-teacher meetings, teacher workshops and competitions. The Uganda Girl Guide Association will be involved in UNHCR's initiative to distribute the "Peace Packs" donated by the World Association of Girl Guides, for refugee children.

(ii) Environment

142. As from the beginning of this year, the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation (BMZ) has approved a four-year project worth DM 3.25 million for Support to Forestry Activities and Energy Supply. The project covers afforestation in refugee affected areas, alternative energy, introduction of grass-burning stoves developed locally by an NGO, environmental education, and support to enhance the Government's technical departments.

(g) Oversight reports

143. A United Nations external audit team undertook a one-month audit mission to Uganda, and their findings are awaited.

11. Zambia

(a) Beneficiaries

144. At 31 March 1996, Zambia hosted 132,189 refugees comprising 108,982 Angolans, 17,007 Zairians, 783 Somalis, 950 Mozambicans, 700 Rwandans, 267 Burundians, and 3,500 refugees of other nationalities. The majority of the refugee population was composed of women (57 per cent) and the proportion of children under 16 years was higher than that of adults -- some 56 per cent of the total population.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

145. Notwithstanding the slow implementation of the Lusaka Protocol signed by the Government of Angola and UNITA in November 1994, preparations for the organized voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees continued well into 1996. Mine awareness campaigns have been stepped up, together with the dissemination of information on the evolution of the peace process in Angola. The Tripartite Commission Meetings, (July 1995, Lusaka; November 1995, Luanda) bringing together the Governments of Zambia, Angola and UNHCR, have paved the way for the launching of organized repatriation planned for July 1996 if progress in the implementation of the peace process continues.

146. Depending on significant progress made in the implementation of the Angolan repatriation in 1996, assistance in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements in 1997 will be reduced. The primary focus will be on repatriation of the remaining Angolan refugees wishing to return, and assisting the remaining non-Angolan refugees attain a level of self-sufficiency to enable their local integration.

147. A survey was conducted by the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (OCOR) in February 1996, which revealed that Zambia is host to some 16,000 urban refugees from various countries, with the largest group originating from Zaire. The survey also indicated that the number

of new asylum- seekers from Rwanda, Burundi and Somalia was on the increase.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

148. The OCOR in the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for all refugee related activities in the country. In addition to the registration of new arrivals and documentation of refugees, the OCOR, on behalf of the Government, is also a party to all the agreements signed by UNHCR with implementing partners.

149. Following the replacement of Care International on 15 February 1996, the Lutheran World Federation has become the lead agency in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements for the implementation of the ongoing local settlement and upcoming repatriation projects. The Mines Advisory Group implements mine awareness courses for Angolan refugees.

150. AFRICARE implements the rehabilitation and management of the Makeni Training Centre in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Lusaka, which undertakes all training activities. The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) is responsible for the implementation of care and maintenance programmes including education for urban refugees.

151. The World Food Programme is responsible for food assistance to refugees. For 1996, this is estimated at 2509 metric tons of basic food for 12,500 beneficiaries.

(d) Budget

152. The expected large-scale voluntary repatriation of Angolan refugees so far has not materialized thus necessitating an increase in the care and maintenance budget for 1996 over the 1995 allocation. Similarly, prospects for an early return of Zairian refugees do not appear to be viable.

153. The proposal for 1997 is higher than the current year primarily to cater for repair and maintenance of the settlements' infrastructure. However the overall budget from all sources of funds for 1997 is lower than for 1996 and, depending on the actual progress of the Angolan repatriation, further review will have to be made in second half of the year.

(e) Post situation

154. Six additional posts were created, bringing the total to 35 posts in 1996. This increase is directly connected to the increased preparatory activities for Angolan repatriation. A reduction of two posts from the 1996 level is proposed for 1997 in anticipation of the completion of the Angolan repatriation, and the implementation of consolidated and streamlined works procedures.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

155. Special attention will be paid to urban refugee women who have continued to express a need for training in homecraft and English courses. Women beneficiaries will be included in projects aiming at self-reliance and self-sufficiency.

(g) Oversight reports

156. No reports were initiated during the reporting period.

12. Zimbabwe

(a) Beneficiaries

157. At 1 January 1996, Zimbabwe hosted 358 refugees, out of whom 232 were urban refugees and 126 were asylum-seekers and recognized refugees residing at the Waterfalls transit

centre. Most of them are Angolan, Somali and Bosnian.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

158. The Mozambican repatriation operation has come to a successful conclusion with the return of some 25,000 spontaneously settled Mozambicans in early 1995. Assistance measures aimed at supporting the local integration of urban refugees are proceeding in line with the scheduled phase-out of cash subsistence allowances. Significant budgetary provisions have been made for income-generation activities that are enabling increasing numbers of refugees to attain self-sufficiency upon their departure from the transit centre. Discussions are continuing with the Government to identify suitable opportunities for those refugees who encounter difficulties in becoming self-reliant through a possible transfer to Mazowe settlement which offers a more adequate infrastructure.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

159. Three main organizations implement UNHCR's programme activities: the Department for Social Welfare, which is responsible for the management of Waterfalls transit centre; the International Catholic Migration Commission, which covers education and income-generating sectors; and the National Organization for the Development of the Disadvantaged, which implements construction and rehabilitation activities.

(d) Budget

160. The projected 1997 budget shows a reduction over the 1996 allocation based on an expected stabilization of the caseload as well as the completion of construction activities at Waterfalls transit centre in 1996.

(e) Post situation

161. With the discontinuation of the post of Protection Officer in June 1996, the office is composed of only one international staff member, while protection, programme and administrative responsibilities are being covered by National Officers. Compared to a total of 32 posts at the beginning of 1995, Branch Office Harare is currently staffed with 15 posts, to be further reduced to 10 posts by early 1997. The future staffing level at Branch Office Harare is under review.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

162. Environmental degradation, particularly deforestation, in the five refugee camps hosting Mozambican refugees has been of concern following their departure in 1995. As UNHCR was unable to provide direct support for the rehabilitation efforts, it has been actively involved in trying to facilitate external funding. Pending the outcome of such initiatives, UNHCR continues to support the Government in the maintenance of the existing infrastructure in the camps in order to prevent further degradation.

(g) Oversight reports

163. No reports were initiated during the reporting period.

13. Southern Africa (South Africa, Botswana, Lesotho, Madagascar, Namibia, Swaziland)

(a) Beneficiaries

(i) South Africa

164. At 1 January 1996, 12,109 persons of concern, including 2,200 recognized refugees (46 per cent men, 35 per cent women and 19 per cent children), were registered in South Africa, representing a significant increase over the previous year. The largest groups include Angolans (3,000), Zairians (2,500) and Nigerians (1,000), followed by mostly urban refugees of different nationalities. In addition, some 88,000 Mozambican refugees, who may be granted permanent residency during the course of the current year, are residing in South Africa.

(ii) Namibia

165. At 1 January 1996, Namibia hosted 1,577 refugees of whom 1,499 were of Angolan origin and 78 of other nationalities. The majority, 1,519 refugees, were residing at Osiri camp while the balance of 58 refugees had special permission to remain in Windhoek. This reflects an increase of approximately 200 persons over 1995, mainly due to new arrivals from Angola. Of the total figure of 1,577, 33 per cent are men, 20 per cent women and 47 per cent children.

(iii) Swaziland

166. Swaziland is hosting approximately 800 persons of concern, including 690 refugees and 110 asylum-seekers, the majority of whom are residing at Malindza settlement. Apart from some 140 Angolan refugees of rural origin, the population is composed of urban refugees, most of whom are young single males.

(iv) Botswana

167. At 1 January 1996, Botswana hosted 312 refugees, of whom 215 were of Angolan origin. The majority has been assisted at Dukwe settlement while some 70 refugees of urban origin reside in Gaborone. These figures represent a slight decrease over 1995, primarily due to abscondments. The composition of this caseload is 53 per cent men, 14 per cent women and 33 per cent children.

(v) Lesotho

168. The refugee caseload in Lesotho of 33 recognized refugees (26 men, 3 women and 4 children) has remained unchanged since 1995 as no eligibility determination has taken place due to the dissolution of the committee. It is, however, reported that some of the 400 illegal aliens presumed to be residing in the country may have valid asylum claims. The Regional Office in South Africa is investigating this situation further.

(vi) Madagascar

169. A total of 65 Ethiopian refugees (60 men and 5 women) who have been recognized by UNHCR as mandate refugees continue to reside in Madagascar. Although one refugee recently opted to repatriate, the vast majority of the Ethiopians appear reluctant to consider this option.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

(i) South Africa

170. On 12 January 1996, the Government acceded to the 1951 Convention and the 1967 Protocol. UNHCR continues to support the eligibility determination process through frequent training courses for government officials. The Regional Office will be relocating to the United Nations Common Premises in Pretoria by June 1996.

171. At present, UNHCR is not providing more than notional assistance to the vast urban caseload, although it will be called upon increasingly to facilitate external assistance to marginalized refugees. To this end, UNHCR will continue to support the three regional refugee fora which comprise a large number of national NGOs active in refugee assistance, in line with the Partnership in Action (PARinAC) regional plan of action.

172. The Regional Office has been actively involved in further deepening the collaboration

with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), and a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the areas of mutual concern, such as population movements, is being finalized. UNHCR will continue to place major emphasis on strengthening regional cooperation, including the harmonization of both protection measures as well as assistance standards. The Regional Office is also actively involved in public information activities, in an effort to increase the awareness of and galvanize support for refugee issues.

173. Acknowledging the fundamental and durable character of the new political dispensation in South Africa and Namibia, UNHCR has invoked the application of the cessation clause to South African and Namibian refugees in June 1995. After consultations with concerned Governments in the sub-region, UNHCR envisages invoking the cessation clause for Mozambican refugees in December 1996.

(ii) Namibia

174. Restrictions on free movement of refugees have been relaxed considerably and the local authorities have also agreed to the issuing of work permits. The construction of a primary school at Osiri halted in 1995 has resumed and is now expected to be completed by mid-1996. The principal objective for 1996 and 1997 remains voluntary repatriation to Angola. Although the general outlook appears to be reasonably optimistic, it is to be noted that some 200 new arrivals were registered during 1995, many of whom had displayed a rather discouraging attitude towards repatriation.

(iii) Swaziland

175. UNHCR has completely phased out cash assistance to urban refugees and provides care and maintenance only to those cases who have no other source of support. Income-generation activities have been expanded and a number of refugees attained degrees of self-sufficiency which allowed for their complete removal from the beneficiary list. The Office continued to be closely involved in providing training seminars on protection and has been also collaborating with the Government in the revision of the refugee bill. The Office has also engaged in a very constructive dialogue with the NGO community during which a number of the global PARinAc recommendations were implemented.

(iv) Botswana

176. The main objective of UNHCR remains the repatriation of Angolan refugees, which is expected to commence during 1996. At the same time, efforts are focused on the local integration of those urban refugees whose repatriation is considered unattainable in the foreseeable future. Food assistance for the residents of Dukwe is being gradually phased out and replaced by the provision of agricultural implements and respective training courses, aimed at achieving food self-sufficiency by the end of 1996. In anticipation of the reduction in the caseload, UNHCR and the Botswana Refugee Council (BRC) are examining the conversion of BRC into an emergency preparedness unit which will then continue to provide assistance to the remaining caseload.

(v) Madagascar

177. Despite regular follow-up from both UNHCR and UNDP, no significant progress has been achieved regarding the future status of the Ethiopian refugees. In the absence of accommodation provided by the Government or other related community facilities, UNHCR has been obliged to continue the payment of subsistence allowances to the refugees. Efforts are continuing to identify alternative implementation arrangements in order to provide a more sustainable assistance package.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

178. In view of the relatively small caseloads, most country programmes feature only one implementing partner, namely CARITAS in Swaziland, the Council of Churches in Namibia, the Botswana Council for Refugees and the South African Red Cross Society. Many offices have, apart from direct relations with their respective implementing partners, successfully involved a

greater number of NGOs in activities under the various PARinAc initiatives which include mutual consultations as well as training programmes in protection and other capacity-building measures.

(d) Budget

(i) South Africa

179. Given the increasing number of recognized urban refugees, the 1997 allocation is projected to increase some 20 percent over 1996. UNHCR is selectively providing assistance to a limited number of refugees, and provides care and maintenance to the urban refugee caseload as such. However, given the difficulties encountered in supporting the local integration of refugees, it is anticipated that additional funds will have to be channelled into income-generation activities.

(ii) Namibia

180. The 1997 budget allocation has been based on the assumption of repatriation of Angolan refugees in the course of 1996, thus reducing the caseload at Osiri to some 600 persons. Should repatriation not take place according to the projected schedule, this budgetary provision may require an upward revision.

(iii) Swaziland

181. Given that the steady increase of new arrivals into Swaziland is expected to be offset by the repatriation of the Angolan caseload, the 1996 revised budget allocation has been increased and will be maintained at the same level in 1997.

(iv) Botswana

182. Based on the assumption that at least half the Angolan caseload would have returned by the end of 1996, the 1997 allocation has been reduced by 20 per cent. As is the case with Namibia, this provisional figure will have to be reviewed in line with actual departures.

(v) Lesotho

183. No provision is foreseen for the care and maintenance of urban refugees in 1997 as the provision of material assistance, if required, will be covered through direct implementation from South Africa.

(vi) Madagascar

184. The 1996 allocation has been provisionally maintained for 1997 but may be subject to review once a more suitable implementation arrangement has been determined.

(e) Post situation

(i) South Africa

185. With the creation of a National Services Officer post, as of January 1996, and the upward reclassification of the post of Protection Officer and the Administrative Officer, the present staffing complement (30 posts compared with 50 in 1995) is considered adequate for the Regional Office to effectively fulfil its regional support functions.

(ii) Namibia

186. A National Programme Officer post was created effective from January 1996 until June 1997 to assist with the preparation and implementation of the repatriation to Angola, bringing the total to four posts.

(iii) Swaziland

187. No changes are foreseen in respect of the current staffing complement of four posts.

(iv) Botswana

188. A National Programme Officer post was created, effective January 1996, in support of the Angola repatriation and current efforts at redesigning the programme of assistance at Dukwe settlement thus bringing the total to five posts.

(v) Lesotho

189. According to present planning assumptions, the sole remaining UNHCR post of National Counselling Officer will be discontinued as of December 1996, with the Regional Office for Southern Africa assuming direct responsibility for UNHCR activities in Lesotho.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

190. Most of the urban refugees residing in southern Africa are single males with women and children consequently representing only a small percentage of the caseload, with the possible exception of Namibia. However, specific assistance measures have been put into place to take account of the special needs of women and children. In this context it is to be noted that education assistance to refugee children is provided throughout the region. The priority issues regarding women and children, including protection, access to food, medical care, education as well as participation in decision making, are being adhered to throughout the programme planning process in southern Africa.

(i) South Africa

191. The Catholic Diocese, operating under a UNHCR supported NGO forum, assists 81 Angolan children to attend primary school and also offers English language classes to refugee women. The Red Cross, UNHCR's implementing partner, has arranged with local hospitals for the provision of free medical care to refugee women.

192. A new project for income-generation activities in the tailoring sector benefiting exclusively refugee women is being finalized and will be implemented during the second half of 1996. This project will be funded from the Government of Canada contribution towards projects supporting refugee women in Africa.

(ii) Namibia

193. Some 350 refugee children at Osiri camp receive elementary education in primary schools and kindergartens as well as supplementary feeding. Income-generation projects continue to be implemented for refugee women, with a particular emphasis on small-scale gardening. A special Women in Development project, benefiting in equal parts refugee women at Osiri camp as well as marginalized Namibian women, has been implemented from 1994 to 1996, with funding from the Canadian Government contribution.

(iii) Swaziland

194. Most refugee women in Swaziland are of Angolan origin and benefit from the regular assistance packages provided at Malindza settlement. However, some 40 women have organized themselves in sewing and knitting groups, a venture that was supported through the procurement of sewing machines. Refugee children receive assistance to attend primary school.

(iv) Botswana

195. All refugee children in Botswana benefit from education assistance. Refugee women are organized in self-help groups, although it has been noted that Angolan women have shown little interest in such activities as they perceive their repatriation to be imminent.

(g) Oversight reports

196. An Inspection and Evaluation mission is scheduled to visit South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Swaziland, Lesotho and possibly Madagascar during May 1996. The Terms of Reference for the mission include a standard inspection as well as a review of the Regional Office and its impact on the delivery of protection and assistance in the region.

II. WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA

A. Sub-regional overview

197. By and large, the prospects for durable solutions to the refugee problem in Central and Western African countries are mixed. This is due primarily to the limited progress made in the countries of origin of the refugees hosted in the Central and Western Africa region, namely Angola, Sudan, Chad and Liberia. With the exception of Togo and Mali, it is rather a wait-and-see situation. The dust is yet to settle in Angola. The civil war in southern Sudan continues unabated, while in Liberia renewed fighting dashed all hope of repatriation in the foreseeable future. In Chad, there has been a stalemate since the 1994 political achievements which led to the return of some 10,000 persons. New influxes from southern Chad into Cameroon and the Central African Republic can no longer be ruled out completely. The case of Togo, then, is notable. Normalization of the situation there made it possible for 200,000 out of the 300,000 persons who fled during 1993 to return home spontaneously since 1994. It is envisaged that the remaining less than 100,000 Togolese in neighbouring Ghana and Benin will have returned to Togo by the end of 1996, with UNHCR's assistance.

1. Togolese repatriation/reintegration

198. By January 1993, after approximately four years of socio-political disturbances in Togo, some 300,000 Togolese nationals had left their country and found refuge in Ghana, Benin and other neighbouring countries. Since 1994, there has been significant improvement in the political situation, resulting in the spontaneous repatriation of more than 200,000 Togolese refugees.

199. In light of these positive developments, and coupled with the promulgation of an amnesty law by the Togolese Parliament in December 1994, UNHCR considered it necessary to initiate more coordinated efforts to create the legal framework and make relevant operational arrangements to promote voluntary repatriation for the remaining Togolese refugees from Ghana (75,000), Benin (20,000) and from elsewhere (500).

200. Refugees repatriating from Benin and Ghana will receive three months' food ration from the World Food Programme and a cash repatriation grant. With the exception of vulnerable cases, refugees are expected to make their own arrangements to return.

201. Some 9,000 individuals are expected to return home from Ghana between April and May 1996.

202. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) is UNHCR's implementing partner in Ghana, while in Togo the repatriation activities will be undertaken by the Association des Juristes Africains (AJA), Caritas International and the Togolese Red Cross.

203. It is envisaged that the repatriation and reintegration of Togolese will be completed by 31 December 1996.

204. A majority of the refugees will return to the capital, Lomé. Most returnees will not be entitled to individual assistance in Togo. Rather, communal structures including schools and hospitals will be renovated in returnee affected areas in Lomé in coordination with WHO and GTZ. Small scale income-generating activities will be supported by UNHCR. Agricultural tools and seed will also be provided to the small minority of those returnees who are farmers.

205. The financial requirement for this operation is estimated at \$ 9.1 million, for which an appeal was launched by UNHCR on 26 April 1996.

2. Liberian repatriation

206. Following the signing of the peace agreement by all major warring factions in Abuja, Nigeria on 19 August 1995, significant progress towards lasting peace was observed in Liberia

and, consequently, prospects for large-scale Liberian repatriation became more tangible. In accordance with the schedule set under the Abuja Agreement which was to lead to elections on 20 August 1996, a cease-fire came into effect at midnight of 26 August 1995 and a six-member Council of State was sworn in on 1 September 1995. After a two month delay and despite financial, logistics and personnel difficulties, the West African Peace-Keeping Force (ECOMOG) started its deployment throughout Liberia on 14 December 1995. The deployment of ECOMOG troops nationwide was considered a significant breakthrough in the peace process which was expected to lead to disarmament and demobilization, a prerequisite for large-scale Liberian repatriation.

207. As part of preparatory activities for large-scale Liberian repatriation, a UNHCR regional meeting took place in Monrovia, Liberia from 6 to 8 December 1995 to discuss the modalities for the repatriation of some 750,000 Liberian refugees in the sub-region (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Nigeria), based on which a Plan of Operation for the Repatriation and Reintegration of Liberian refugees was finalized in January 1996.

208. The following priorities were set by UNHCR as conducive to large-scale repatriation of Liberian refugees:

- The deployment of ECOMOG peace-keepers and United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) observers throughout Liberia;
- Progress in, and completion of, the disarmament and demobilization exercise; and
- The extension of central Government (not factional) administration throughout Liberia.

209. While faction leaders have repeatedly pronounced their commitment to the implementation of the Abuja Agreement, the peace process suffered a major setback when a warring faction launched attacks on ECOMOG in late December 1995 in Tubmanburg, Bomi County. Various cease-fire violations by other warring factions were also witnessed. Notwithstanding the volatile situation, UNHCR launched an Appeal of some \$ 60 million in late February 1996 in order to meet financial needs for various repatriation activities from the asylum countries and in Liberia for a period of 18 months. The Appeal was issued in an effort to make UNHCR as prepared as possible for large-scale Liberian repatriation, taking into consideration the fact that the majority of Liberian refugees, who have been in exile for years, have expressed their willingness to repatriate as soon as the security conditions in Liberia permit.

210. Since the cease-fire violation in Tubmanburg, the situation in Liberia has worsened with severe fighting in Monrovia which erupted in early April 1996 and has plunged Monrovia (hitherto considered a "safe haven") into a state of total lawlessness, anarchy and chaos, with massive looting and human suffering.

211. Following the upsurge in fighting, all United Nations agencies including UNHCR were looted and the UNHCR Office in Monrovia has been temporarily closed down. Out of five UNHCR international staff who were in Monrovia at the time of the outbreak of the fighting, four were evacuated, leaving one international staff in Monrovia to monitor the situation, together with some 40 staff of other United Nations agencies relocated to Riverview.

212. As a result, UNHCR has suspended its preparatory activities for large-scale Liberian repatriation until such a time as the above mentioned priorities set are implemented.

3. Mali and the Niger

(a) Repatriation of Malian refugees

213. After several years of difficult negotiation and mediation, the efforts of Malian Government led to the establishment of a lasting consensus, the improvement of security in the north and national reconciliation. The implementation of the "Pacte National" is now effective. As a result, local administration, development organizations and NGOs have begun re-establishing

themselves in the affected region.

214. The "flamme de la paix" ceremony held by Malian Government on 27-28 March 1996 marked the culmination of the reconciliation process, with a declaration by the five opposing factions of the dissolution of their movements and the burning of small weapons collected from the ex-combatants of the different movements.

215. Given this positive development, UNHCR initiated a pilot project in 1995 and is now concentrating its operations in the northern part of Mali through the implementation of a reintegration programme for organized and spontaneous returnees mainly from Mauritania, Algeria, Burkina Faso and the Niger.

216. A joint UNHCR and Action Internationale Centre la Faim (AICF) technical mission recently returned from Mali has elaborated some concrete proposals for the acceleration of movements of return, and planning for repatriation is being phased according to the situation. Other agencies, such as GTZ, are implementing rehabilitation projects for the reintegration of returnees.

217. The Branch Office will take advantage of the dry season in Mali (March to June 1996) to accelerate preparatory activities, undertake the rehabilitation of water points in priority returnee areas and strengthen the overall absorption capacity in Mali. The rainy season (July to September 1996) should also be the time to enhance further the preparation activities for a larger-scale repatriation that would normally start in October 1996.

218. Other significant developments include the reception of Malian spontaneous returnees during the reporting period, and the organized return of 7,388 returnees from Mauritania, Algeria and Burkina Faso to five regions in Mali. Concurrently, spontaneous repatriation to Mali is continuing from the countries of asylum, mainly Mauritania, Algeria and Burkina Faso. Malian authorities have registered some 49,000 spontaneous returnees since the beginning of 1995. For the remaining months of the year, it is estimated that an additional 30,000 to 40,000 Malian refugees will opt for voluntary repatriation on an organized or spontaneous basis.

219. Given the delays in the implementation of the reintegration programme, UNHCR has undertaken capacity-building of its implementing agencies. Since March 1996, some NGOs, such as AICF, Accord and GTZ, have been involved in project implementation.

(b) Repatriation of Niger refugees

220. As in Mali, an upsurge of violence between the Government and the Organisation de la Résistance armée was resolved. Given this important and positive development, UNHCR is now preparing the repatriation of Niger refugees from Algeria (20,000) and Burkina Faso (700). All Tripartite agreements for voluntary repatriation were signed on 6 March 1996 between the Governments of Algeria, Niger and Burkina Faso, and UNHCR.

221. Before the start of the operation in October 1996, a registration exercise of refugees from the Niger in countries of asylum will be undertaken in order to establish the number of candidates and their profile, and to finalize preparations in the area of return. On the basis of the Plan of Operation established in January 1996, an appeal will be launched in May to mobilize funds for activities in Niger as well as countries of asylum. The funding requirements for that operation have been included in the appeal for the repatriation of Malian refugees.

B. Country reviews

1. Benin

(a) Beneficiaries

222. At 1 January 1996, Benin hosted a refugee population of 20,506 persons, comprising

20,370 Togolese, 67 Chadians, 37 Rwandans and 32 refugees of various origins. In comparison with the 48,900 refugees registered at 31 March 1995, this figure reflects an important decrease in the refugee population that is due to the ongoing assisted voluntary repatriation of Togolese refugees. Most of the refugees are children under the age of 18, accounting for 55 per cent of the population. Women and men represent 27 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively, of the refugee population.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

223. Since January 1996, 1,435 Togolese refugees have benefited from the organized repatriation programme. In view of the continued reduction of the number of Togolese refugees in Benin, the UNHCR Field Office in Lokossa was closed in February 1996. Whereas the number of Togolese refugees continues to decline with repatriation, that of refugees of various origins has increased following a recent influx of 918 Ogoni asylum-seekers from Nigeria. A protection mission was sent to Cotonou to evaluate the overall nature of the movement and to assist the Branch Office in determining the refugee status of the group concerned.

224. The main objective for 1996 remains the voluntary repatriation of Togolese refugees, which is expected to be completed by December 1996. Meanwhile UNHCR assistance will continue to be provided to the remaining refugees in the country. In due course, UNHCR's presence will be reviewed accordingly.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

225. UNHCR assistance programmes are being implemented by the following agencies:

- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and the Beninese Red Cross, responsible for food distribution in the Province of Ouémé and in the Cotonou and Ouémé accommodation centres, and for the execution of the health programme in the provinces of Ouémé and Atlantique;
- Terre des Hommes, responsible for the health sector in Mono, Zou and the sub-prefecture of Ouidah;
- Caritas-Benin, responsible for the distribution of food and domestic goods in Mono, Atlantique and Zou, and also for the management of income-generation micro-projects;
- Conseil des Activités Educatives du Bénin (CAEB), responsible for the programme of assistance for school enrolment of refugee pupils;
- Coordination Nationale pour l'Assistance au Réfugiés Togolais (CNART), representing the Beninese Government, whose assistance will also be sought for the coordination of the assistance directly mobilized by the international community;
- Direction des Affaires Sociales, Association des Juristes Africains and the Ministry of the Interior will be responsible, respectively, for the integration of disabled refugees, the promotion of the principles of international protection and the distribution of new "refugee cards".

(d) Budget

226. There was a substantial budget reduction under the care and maintenance project in Benin, financed from the Voluntary Repatriation Fund, due to a steady repatriation of Togolese refugees. A further reduction is foreseen in the 1997 proposed budget. However, an upward revision may be needed in due course to cater for the influx of 918 Ogoni asylum-seekers who arrived during the first quarter of 1996 and who are being assisted.

(e) Post situation

227. In view of the ongoing repatriation of the majority of the Togolese refugees, a Field Office

in Lokossa was closed in February 1996. The number of posts was reduced from 25 to 20 in 1996 and will be further reduced to 15 in 1997.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

228. Particular attention is being given to women and children, notably through garbage collection and other sanitation related activities to benefit refugee hosting families.

(g) Oversight reports

229. No oversight reports were undertaken.

2. Burkina Faso

(a) Beneficiaries

230. The registered refugee population of 24,049 at the beginning of 1996 represents a significant decrease compared to the 36,000 registered in early 1995. Most of them (28,514) are Malian refugees of Tuareg and Moor origin settled in rural areas; another 535 refugees of various nationalities live in urban areas.

231. A recent Government/UNHCR registration exercised revealed that 47 per cent of the refugees are female, 42 per cent are adults over the age of 18, and 7 per cent a children under 5 years old.

232. During the reporting period, 781 refugees, including 3 Liberians and 1 Rwandan, repatriated with UNHCR assistance. A total of 777 Malian refugees, including 350 females, returned home without UNHCR assistance.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

233. The main objectives of the programme in 1996/1997 will be the implementation of the repatriation programme for Malian refugees. In order to accelerate the organized repatriation movement of Malian refugees and pending the response to the UNHCR appeal, an allocation of \$400,000 from the Voluntary Repatriation Fund has already been approved for preparatory activities, which include the registration exercise as well as building of transit and distribution centres at departing points.

234. Given the complexity of the operation, UNHCR has strengthened its presence in Burkina Faso since January 1996 by upgrading its Liaison Office to a Branch Office.

235. From the second semester of 1996, the Office will enhance working relationships with the national authorities, and intimate strong public information and public awareness campaigns to inform the refugees about the possibilities for repatriation. It is anticipated that at least 10,000 Malian refugees will be repatriated by the end of 1996. The care and maintenance project will be reduced accordingly in 1997.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

236. UNHCR's multisectorial care and maintenance project established in early 1996 is currently providing assistance to refugees in Burkina Faso. The components of the project, which includes food assistance provided by WFP, delivery of non-food items, sanitation, health and income-generation activities, are implemented by five implementing partners: MSF-Luxembourg, Agence Adventiste d'Aide et de Developpement (ADRA), Catholic Relief Service (catwell) and the Centre Regional pour l'eau Potable et l'Assainement (CREPA).

(d) Budget

237. The initial appropriation for 1996 was reduced due to a decrease of the caseload following a recent census, and to continued spontaneous repatriation.

(e) Post situation

238. The Liaison Office in Ouagadougou has been upgraded to the level of Branch Office. Representative, Secretary and Driver posts were created as a result.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

239. Special activities relating to women and children refugees are an integral part of the Branch Office work plan for 1996 and 1997. Under care and maintenance, the Branch Office will provide special assistance to cover needs of refugee women and children mainly in health and education. Income-generation projects will be implemented in favour of refugee women.

(g) Oversight reports

240. No reports were undertaken.

3. Cameroon

(a) Beneficiaries

241. At 1 January 1996, there were 41,079 refugees from Chad, 163 from Equatorial Guinea and 855 from various countries residing in Cameroon. A total of 4,684 are receiving regular assistance from UNHCR.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

242. Some 400 Chadian refugees were repatriated in April 1996. Other individual voluntary repatriations were delayed by the collapse of a bridge on a proposed exit route. The Bill for the creation of the commission of eligibility is to be voted on in parliament during 1996, paving the way for the actual establishment of the eligibility commission in 1997. UNHCR will pursue its assistance to needy refugees but will downscale this assistance in preparation of the planned transfer of its activities to UNDP.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

243. UNHCR's programmes in Cameroon have been entrusted to the following implementing partners:

- The Cameroonian Red Cross, responsible for the implementation of the assistance project for Chadian refugees at Poli Faro;
- Organisation Canadienne pour le Secours et de Developpement (OCSD), responsible for implementation of income-generation activities;
- The Presbyterian Church, which conducts the education and vocational training of refugees.

(d) Budgets

244. The General Programme covers allocations for care and maintenance, local settlement and voluntary repatriation. The budgetary requirements for 1997 have been reduced by 19 per cent from the 1996 level.

(e) Post situation

245. The existing staffing level will be maintained throughout 1997.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

246. The Liaison Office will endeavour to facilitate the more active participation of women on community-based initiatives within the framework of the existing assistance programme.

(g) Oversight reports

247. The recommendations of a July 1995 Inspection and Evaluation Service mission are being implemented.

4. Central African Republic

(a) Beneficiaries

248. At 1 January 1996, the Central African Republic (CAR) hosted 32,526 refugees comprising 26,785 Sudanese, 4,768 Chadians and 973 persons of various origins. This represents a 31 per cent decrease compared to the 1996 figure, and is due to spontaneous and organized repatriation of Chadians in 1995. Of the total refugee population, women represent 20 per cent, men 25 per cent and children 55 per cent.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

249. Following the signing of a Peace Agreement between the Chadian Government and Chadian rival factions in Bangui on 24 January 1996, UNHCR was able to repatriate 289 Chadian refugees in February. Furthermore, 512 Sudanese refugees were repatriated by air from Mboki (CAR) to Khartoum during the same month.

250. Whereas recent developments in Chad may enable the repatriation of the majority of Chadian refugees in CAR, the return of Sudanese refugees cannot be envisaged at this stage in view of the prevailing situation in southern Sudan. In this context, the continuation of assistance, including the expansion of earlier efforts to introduce agricultural activities, to Sudanese refugees in Mboki and the promotion of the voluntary repatriation of Chadian refugees, remains the main objective for 1996 and 1997.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

251. The implementation of assistance programmes is entrusted to Commission Nationale pour les réfugiés (CNR), Organisation Canadienne pour la solidarité et le développement (OCSD) and Africare with the following responsibilities:

- CNR: responsible for protection, education and community services for Chadian and Sudanese refugees;
- OCSD: responsible for assistance projects for Chadian refugees (food distribution, health/nutrition, agriculture) and for the logistics of the entire programme in the CAR;
- AFRICARE: responsible for the implementation of the health, agriculture and water sectors of the Sudanese refugee assistance project.

(d) Budget

252. The 1996 care and maintenance budget is proposed to be reduced by 10 per cent

compared to 1995 expenditures as a result of the voluntary repatriation of 8,500 Chadians in 1995 and early 1996. The proposed reduction is also due to reduced dependency on food assistance on the part of some Sudanese refugees who have attained an acceptable degree of self-sufficiency following the introduction of agricultural activities. Expecting both trends to continue in 1997, the budget is proposed at 20 per cent less than the 1996 level. The allocation for both voluntary repatriation and local settlement for 1997 will be maintained at a similar level to that of 1996.

(e) Post situation

253. Three posts of Messengers were created for Bangui, Bossangoa and Mboki in 1996 bringing the total to 26 posts. The overall staffing level will be maintained throughout 1997.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children environment)

254. Although there is no separate programme for women and children, the needs of women and children are taken into account during the planning and implementation of the ongoing care and maintenance programme, especially in the selection of beneficiaries of income-generation activities.

(g) Oversight reports

255. Recommendations of the 1995 Inspection and Evaluation Service mission to Bangui are under implementation. The mission had recommended that strategies for a phase-down of UNHCR activities in favour of refugees be put into place. This includes a reassessment of food requirements at Mboki in cooperation with the World Food Programme. Taking into account the actual return of many Chadians and the prospect for future voluntary repatriation to Chad, an assessment mission to Chad was recommended to assess the status of reintegration and plans for the future. It was also suggested that the draft contingency plan for a possible refugee influx from Sudan be updated as a preparedness measure. In this connection, two contingency plans were received and a Headquarters follow-up mission to the region is planned.

5. Chad

(a) Beneficiaries

256. At 1 January 1996, there were 91 Sudanese refugees and 18 others, making a total of 109 refugees of whom 67 were assisted by UNHCR.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

257. Twenty new asylum-seekers, mainly Sudanese, have been accepted in Chad. The establishment of a National Refugee Commission is planned for 1996. In 1997, UNHCR will pursue its assistance to needy refugees through UNDP Ndjamen.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

258. The assistance programme for refugees in Chad is administered by UNDP on UNHCR's behalf. Secours Catholique pour le Développement (SECADEV) is the main implementing partner for refugee assistance.

(d) Budget

259. The revised care and maintenance budget for 1996 is maintained at the same level as the initial budget, and the same allocation is maintained for 1997.

(e) Post situation

260. UNHCR is represented by UNDP in Chad.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

261. Nothing to report.

(g) Oversight reports

262. In compliance with a UNHCR Inspection and Evaluation service recommendation following its mission to the Central African Republic in December 1995, a mission is being planned for May 1996 to look into the status of reintegration of returnees, and to develop planning for future return.

6. Congo

(a) Beneficiaries

263. At 1 January 1996, there were a total of 14,729 refugees in Congo comprising 11,904 Angolans from Cabinda Province, 2,109 Chadians, 329 Zairians, 245 Central Africans and 142 other refugees. A total of 7,642 of the refugees are assisted by UNHCR.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

264. *Angolan refugees:* the transfer of refugees from the crowded camp of Komi to Kondi Mbaka, an agricultural site with sufficient land and water, will be carried out in the second half of 1996. Repatriation to Cabinda will be promoted.

265. *Urban refugees of mixed origin:* During 1997, it is envisaged to transfer a group of refugees from the capital city, Brazzaville, to a rural setting at Mpoumako where they will engage in agricultural activities and attempt to attain self-sufficiency.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

266. The Congolese Red Cross assists urban refugees in Brazzaville, notably in the sectors of health and education.

267. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is the main implementing agency for UNHCR in Pointe Noire for all sector activities.

(d) Budget

268. The budgetary provision for care and maintenance in 1997 is 17 per cent lower than in 1996 based on the expectation that some Angolans would be able to repatriate. Furthermore, for the remaining caseload, some progress is expected to have been made in reducing food dependency through agricultural activities. The budget for local settlement for 1997 is maintained at the 1996 level.

(e) Post situation

269. The staffing level for 1996 and 1997 remains unchanged from 1995.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

270. Nothing to report.

(g) Oversight reports

271. No report was initiated during the reporting period.

7. Côte d'Ivoire

(a) Beneficiaries

272. From an initial influx of 40,000 Liberian refugees in 1990, the numbers have gradually increased to 300,302 at end of 1995. This group, which is 60 per cent children, 27 per cent women and 13 per cent men, is settled in "zones d'accueil", notably in the Danané, Tabou, Guiglo, Grabo and Toulepleu areas.

273. Côte d'Ivoire also hosts 816 urban refugees of various nationalities composed of 60 per cent men, 25 per cent women and 15 per cent children. Compared to the end of 1994, the number of urban refugees has increased from 771 to 816.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

274. Since January 1996, the Branch Office in Abidjan has begun implementing the joint WFP/UNHCR mission recommendations largely focused on the phasing-out or targeting of food assistance for the greater part of the Liberian caseload.

275. As from 1 January 1996, food assistance has been discontinued to all urban refugees who arrived between 1990 and June 1994. Rural refugees who arrived during the same period will only be assisted for five months, during the rainy season.

276. It is expected that the beneficiaries of general food assistance will gradually be reduced by end of 1997.

277. As recommended in mid-1995, a pilot targeted feeding programme is being implemented by Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) for school-children under the age of 14 years.

278. In order to protect the refugee population in the Tabou area against a cholera epidemic, a vaccination campaign was conducted in early 1996 by the Government and assisted by UNHCR and WHO.

279. Following a nutritional survey conducted in Tabou in March 1996 by MSF-France, it was found that global and acute malnutrition rates stood at 4.0 and 0.9 per cent respectively. These are similar to 1995 rates, and there has been no significant change in nutritional status since March 1995.

280. There have been, in the recent past, security incidents caused by Liberian warring factions in the "zones d'accueil", in particular in the Taï and Bereblo areas near Grabo, resulting in loss of lives and property, thereby straining relations between the local and refugee populations. In order closely to monitor the situation, UNHCR has reinforced its presence at field level by establishing a Field Office in Guiglo, where a new site was opened for the refugee population displaced as a result of the rebel incursion in Taï in June 1995.

281. In the interest of the Government and the refugees, the issuance of refugee identity cards has been sanctioned by the national authorities for the control of the refugee population. The issuance of that document remains one of the principal protection objectives that the Government and UNHCR will implement during the coming months. All preparatory activities in this regard have already been completed.

282. Taking into consideration the discontinuation of food to most of the refugees, UNHCR is planning to promote greater self-sufficiency, notably in food production. In this respect, 14,000

heads of families participating in the agricultural sector and another 2,000 in income-generation activities will be assisted by UNHCR in 1996. The local authorities will be encouraged to allow refugees the use of land for swamp rice cultivation. UNHCR's assistance will focus on the provision of seeds, tools and fertilizer, and the preparation of land. These activities have assumed greater importance as the repatriation of Liberian refugees is not on the immediate agenda.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

283. During 1996, UNHCR, in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies and some NGOs, is implementing a care and maintenance project in favour of Liberian refugees, devoting particular attention to agriculture, health, income-generation and education.

284. WFP provides basic food rations as well as supplementary feeding for school programmes and the malnourished. Caritas is responsible for individual family support, income-generation activities and part of the health care programme. Africare is also implementing a portion of the health care programme. ADRA and ANADER (Agence Nationale pour le Développement Rural) are implementing primary and secondary school and crop production activities respectively.

285. The Government of Côte d'Ivoire has assigned the responsibility for Refugee Affairs to the Ministry of the Interior and National Integration, and has created a National Coordination Committee for Assistance to Liberian refugees, which meets on a regular basis. This committee is chaired by a technical adviser to the Minister of the Interior and National Integration and Coordination. The monitoring of programme implementation is carried out by the UNHCR Field Offices in Grabo and Guiglo under two Sub-Offices (Danane and Tabou) coordinated by the Branch Office in Abidjan.

(d) Budget

286. Pending the review of refugee needs during the year, the 1996 budget has been increased slightly and an allocation from the 1996 programme reserve may be required if the repatriation of Liberians cannot take place.

(e) Post situation

287. The 1996 budget for programme delivery had to be increased in comparison with the initial budget due the creation of a new Field Office and of twelve local and one regional posts (Guards, Secretaries, Regional Public Information Officer). The 1997 budget needs to be increased due to the lack of repatriation prospects for Liberian refugees.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

288. In its efforts to achieve its main objectives in 1997, the Branch Office will devote part of its activities to children (59,325) attending primary school. Women heads of families, as well as vulnerable groups, will receive special attention from the UNHCR programme.

289. The five year presence of several thousand refugees in "zones d'accueil" has led to deforestation. UNHCR has started to protect the environment in refugee affected areas by implementing a small project to increase refugee self-sufficiency through the development of swamp rice as a measure to prevent land clearing.

290. In addition, the UNHCR Branch Office in Abidjan is planning to support the forestry department through modest reforestation in affected areas, especially in Nicla, where an allocation under the care and maintenance project will support some rehabilitation activities.

(g) Oversight reports

291. The Inspection mission to Côte d'Ivoire in January 1996 focused mainly on assistance programmes for Liberian refugees in the western provinces. The Branch Office's efforts to decentralize programme activities were strongly supported by the mission, since weaknesses identified in programme implementation were attributed largely to excessive centralization, particularly by implementing partners. The readiness of UNHCR in Côte d'Ivoire to reorient its activities from care and maintenance to repatriation planning was also examined, and recommendations made to enhance this eventual transformation. Finally, staff living and working conditions were reviewed, notably in the Field Offices, and recommendations made to alleviate the effects of isolation and hardship.

292. Following the mission, it was felt that there is a need for a thorough review of the assistance programme to urban refugees in Abidjan to identify those deserving further assistance and to develop strategies to find durable solutions for them.

293. In March 1996, the joint Medical Service undertook a mission to Côte d'Ivoire to assess health conditions and logistics relating to evacuation. Several audit missions were undertaken for the implementing agencies.

8. Gabon

(a) Beneficiaries

294. At 1 January 1996, there were a total of 771 refugees of various origins in Gabon comprising 143 Chadians, 122 Mauritians, 109 refugees from Equatorial Guinea, 108 Angolans, 75 Rwandans and 10 others. Only 350 of them received UNHCR assistance, with the rest assumed to be self-supporting.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

295. In March 1996, a bill was introduced by the Government of Gabon directed towards the establishment of a National Commission for Refugee Affairs and for the creation of a National Commission of Eligibility. In 1997, the Government of Gabon will be a key player in refugee related matters, notably in refugee status determination, and will not require direct involvement from the UNHCR Regional Office, Kinshasa.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

296. As in previous years, UNHCR's programmes are being implemented through UNDP, based on a Letter of Understanding between the UNHCR Regional Office Kinshasa, Zaire, and the UNDP office in Libreville, Gabon.

(d) Budget

297. Budgetary requirements for 1997 are maintained at 1996 levels based on the assumption that the caseload will remain at the same level.

(e) Post situation

298. UNHCR is represented by UNDP. UNHCR staff based in Kinshasa periodically travel on mission to Gabon.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

299. Nothing to report.

(g) Oversight reports

300. No report was initiated during the reporting period.

9. Gambia

(a) Beneficiaries

301. At 1 January 1996, Gambia hosted a refugee and returnee population of 10,550, comprising 3,500 Sierra Leoneans, 2,300 Senegalese, 200 Liberians, 4,500 Gambian returnees affected by the war in Sierra Leone and 50 refugees of other nationalities. Some 80 per cent of the total refugee population were estimated to be women and children. Some 400 Senegalese refugees are living in three camps, while a majority of the Sierra Leoneans and refugees of other nationalities reside in the urban areas. The returnees are located in over 40 villages in the Upper River Division.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

302. Further efforts will be made to facilitate self-sufficiency among refugees within the framework of local integration. Meanwhile, in view of the improving political situation in Sierra Leone as well as of the political will prevailing in Senegal to settle the Casamance crisis, repatriation of Sierra Leoneans and Senegalese in Gambia will be sought as the most suitable solution. The phasing out of the assistance programme to Gambian returnees will be implemented in 1997.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

303. As there is no UNHCR office in Gambia, UNDP is coordinating all activities on behalf of UNHCR. The Government of Gambia through the Department of Immigration and the National Intelligence Agency has been assisting and will continue to assist in the registration and screening of refugees in Gambia. The Gambian Red Cross is responsible for the logistics, water, sanitation, health, shelter and legal assistance sectors, while Anglican Mission Development Ministries (AMDM) is implementing community development activities, education, agricultural and income-generation activities.

(d) Budget

304. The care and maintenance programme in Gambia was reduced in 1996 and is expected to be further reduced in 1997 in view of increasing self-sufficiency among refugees as well as the decreasing number of beneficiaries as a result of the foreseen Sierra Leonean repatriation. The local settlement programme was established in 1996 to provide educational assistance to 25 refugee students. The programme will be maintained in 1997 at the same level.

(e) Post situation

305. UNHCR is represented through UNDP in Gambia under supervision of UNHCR Dakar. Posts are charged under the project.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

306. Women's groups have been assisted through the provision of items for income generation activities. Children are assisted to attend local primary schools.

(g) Oversight reports

307. No reports were initiated during the reporting period.

10. Ghana

(a) Beneficiaries

308. At 1 January 1996, there were 75,599 Togolese, 13,709 Liberian and 52 other refugees receiving assistance from UNHCR. Of the overall population, 30 per cent are women and 41 per cent are children.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

309. UNHCR launched an appeal on 26 April 1996 to fund the repatriation and reintegration of Togolese refugees mainly from Benin and Ghana. To date, 3,337 refugees have returned from Ghana since April 1996. All refugees willing to return should be repatriated before 31 December 1996. Meanwhile, the projected mass repatriation of Liberian refugees came to a sudden halt due to renewed hostilities in Liberia. About 20 Nigerian ethnic Ogoni asylum-seekers have been registered pending determination of their status.

310. Food relief assistance has been scaled down to half the standard ration for the majority of the refugees up to June 1996 and totally discontinued for those Togolese refugees residing outside Klikor camp. Hence, in 1997, crop production and income-generation will be encouraged in order to speed up self-sufficiency for the refugees from Togo who do not opt to repatriate.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

311. IOM is responsible for the repatriation programme of Togolese refugees in collaboration with the National Refugee Board of Ghana. The Christian Council of Ghana is responsible for income-generation activities for Liberian refugees, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency is responsible for income-generation activities for Togolese refugees. The Ghana Red Cross Society, the National Catholic Secretariat and the Assemblies of God Development and Relief Services are in charge of distribution of food and other relief items.

(d) Budget

312. There was a slight reduction of the budget due to voluntary repatriation of Togolese refugees financed from an allocation from the Voluntary Repatriation Fund and the projected repatriation of Liberians, which has now fallen through. In view of the prevailing situation in Liberia, which may bring more refugees to Ghana, an upward revision of the budget may be required during 1997 for the Liberian refugees.

(e) Post situation

313. As a result of the ongoing repatriation of Togolese refugees, the existing level of posts will be reduced from 39 in 1996 to 29 in 1997. However, this situation may be reviewed in light of the ongoing influx of Liberian refugees.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

314. As a result of a high rate of sexually transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancy among inmates in Buduburam camp, a series of workshops on family life education are being undertaken.

11. Guinea-Bissau

(a) Beneficiaries

315. The armed conflict between the Government of Senegal and the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de Casamance has resulted in an influx of 15,000 Senegalese refugees from the Casamance region into Guinea-Bissau. The refugees are located at the northern side of the Cachou river. At the beginning of 1996, it was decided to transfer refugees to a safe area. This activity is being implemented by UNHCR in close cooperation with the Government of Guinea-Bissau.

316. Another 250 urban refugees of various origins reside in the capital city.

(b) Recent development and objectives

317. UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to refugees through its multi-sectoral care and maintenance project by reinforcing agricultural production, social services as well as education and health.

318. With the Senegalese Government-rebel peace talks, which began in December 1995, yet to bear fruit, UNHCR has not been able to organize a voluntary repatriation.

319. Pending repatriation of refugees to Senegal, UNHCR has set the following objectives for 1996 and 1997:

- completion of the transfer of 4,000 refugees to two new sites;
- expansion of agriculture and other income-generation activities;
- building implementing partner capacity through the organization of training seminars.

320. Activities in 1997 will focus on the integration of the refugees through agricultural activities.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

321. In order to monitor the situation of refugees regularly, UNHCR has since January 1996 strengthened its presence in Guinea-Bissau by establishing a Liaison Office.

322. Since the first influx of refugees in Guinea-Bissau, the role played by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency in the programme implementation has been central. For 1996 and 1997 ADRA will be involved in the implementation of the transfer and settlement of refugees as well as food distribution and primary education. The Centre d'étude et de coopération internationale, a Canadian agency, will be responsible for social community services, health and shelter construction.

(d) Budget

323. The budget for the care and maintenance project had to be increased to cover the transfer of the 4,000 refugees from the border to the settlements.

(e) Post situation

324. All six posts, previously charged to the project, were converted into regular posts from 1 January 1996.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

325. Greater focus will be placed on the situation of refugee women and children in particular with regard to health, school and income-generation. Such assistance will be provided under a care and maintenance project established after the beginning of the year.

(g) Oversight reports

326. No reports were initiated during the reporting period.

12. Guinea

(a) Beneficiaries

327. The registered refugee population in Guinea is composed of 390,707 Liberians and 212,079 Sierra Leoneans located in Guinée forestière. An additional 29,573 Sierra Leoneans and 690 Liberians are settled in Forecariah and Conakry, respectively. The refugee population is composed of 54 per cent women and 46 per cent males. About 60 per cent of the refugees are under the age of 20.

(b) Recent development and objectives

328. The recommendations formulated by the joint WFP/UNHCR and donor food assessment mission in January 1996 largely focused on the phasing-out of food assistance for the greater part of the refugee population. Targeting other beneficiary groups through, for example, school feeding and food-for-work projects, is another objective.

329. During 1996 and 1997, the installation of a sophisticated computerized census-system will be required to maintain accurate statistics of the population.

330. With regard to the reduction of food assistance, special attention will be given to income-generation activities particularly in the agricultural sector (rice) where UNHCR is being confronted with difficulties related to deforestation, and availability and ownership of land. In 1996, 5,000 families will be assisted by UNHCR in this activity. In this regard, Branch Office Conakry will review the 1995 agricultural programme and elaborate new agricultural strategies as an alternative to care and maintenance assistance including follow-up on an FAO proposal regarding low-land agriculture. This becomes even more crucial as repatriation for Liberian refugees does not appear possible for the time being.

331. Concurrent to discontinuing food assistance, a registration/census will be undertaken in 1996 and 1997 to identify vulnerable groups and provide them with special assistance. Refugee women will receive guidance in order to improve the management of existing self-sufficiency projects.

332. Fuel-wood collection by refugees in Guinée forestière has resulted in considerable deforestation. A small-scale UNHCR reforestation project has been initiated, but more needs to be done to rehabilitate some of the most affected forests.

333. It is planned to provide all refugees above 15 years with refugee identity cards, pending repatriation to Liberia and Sierra Leone. With the situation improving in Sierra Leone there may be a large repatriation movement at the end of 1996 or in 1997.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

334. The UNHCR care and maintenance project in Guinea is implemented by various partners, both international and local. These include Adventist Development and Relief Agency, MSF and Action Internationale Contre la Faim.

335. ADRA delivers food provided by WFP, and non-food items. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies is responsible for food and non-food item distribution. The health/nutrition sector will be jointly implemented by MSF-Belgium and AICF.

(d) Budget

336. The programme delivery budget had to be increased due to the creation of a new Field Office (Macenta) and several local and international posts in order to ensure better programme

monitoring.

(e) Post situation

337. Two international posts (programme and finance) were created in order to reinforce UNHCR's capacity to better monitor the projects.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

338. A Community Social Services Officer recently appointed at Branch Office Conakry has developed a work plan. The community-based activities within the framework of the care and maintenance project, including primary education, and social counselling for refugee children and adults were initiated in 1995 and are being consolidated in 1996. A pilot school feeding programme for children attending primary schools recommended by the joint food assessment mission is about to start after having identified ADRA as the implementing partner, and having established related costs.

(g) Oversight reports

339. Following visits to the four Field Office locations coordinating assistance to over 600,000 refugees from Liberia and Sierra Leone, a mission from the Inspection and Evaluation Service made various recommendations. The need was felt to review the agricultural programme, to develop new agricultural and self-sufficiency strategies and to carry out a follow-up joint food assessment mission with WFP. Repatriation planning, in line with the conclusions of the Regional Representatives meeting of 5 - 7 December 1995 in Monrovia, particularly to Liberia which seemed realizable at the time of the mission, was reviewed with the Branch Office as a concurrent exercise. The lack of experienced staff, combined with inadequate training, prevented optimal programme delivery, leading to further recommendations to bolster staffing and to fill existing vacancies.

340. The Inspection and Evaluation Service mission, which was the first in Guinea since the office was established in 1990, reviewed representation and management issues, as well as durable solutions, programme coordination, administration (including personnel) telecommunications, living conditions and security issues. The recommendations made will permit improvements in programme management and staff living conditions.

341. An audit covering a three-year (1993-1995) was carried out in December 1995. The audit covered verification of accounts, administration and programme management issues of the UNHCR Offices in Conakry, Gueckedou, Nzerekore as well as of major implementing partners. Preliminary verbal recommendations included suggestions concerning the establishment of better procedures and improved financial and project management by these partners and monitoring by UNHCR.

342. Also, in March 1996, the joint Medical Service undertook a mission to Guinea to assess health conditions. The report on the mission has been finalized.

13. Liberia

(a) Beneficiaries

343. At 1 January 1996, there were some 120,000 Sierra Leonean refugees and 81 refugees of other nationalities (e.g. Ethiopians, Ghanaians and South Africans). There were also an estimated 30,000 returnees, including 9,899 who had been assisted in 1995 by UNHCR to repatriate. Between 60 and 80 per cent of the Sierra Leonean refugee population were estimated to be women and children. The 120,000 refugees are located mainly in Cape Mount (31,700), Bomi (6,300), Lofa (65,000) and Monrovia/Montserrado (15,000) counties.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

344. Despite the signing of the Abuja Peace Agreement in August 1995, the situation in Liberia again started to deteriorate since the cease-fire violation by a warring faction in Tubmanburg in late December 1995. This event resulted in an outbreak of severe fighting in Monrovia in early April 1996 which has continued. Out of five UNHCR international staff who were in Monrovia at the outbreak of the fighting, four were evacuated, leaving one international staff member in Monrovia to monitor the situation, together with some 40 staff of other United Nations agencies. The UNHCR office in Monrovia was ransacked and has been temporarily closed down.

345. Consequently, UNHCR's regular access/assistance to refugees as well as returnees has now been seriously perturbed. At present, UNHCR can only visit internally displaced person/refugee camps in Monrovia area, where some 15,000 refugees are settled, when the security conditions permit.

346. Given the current security situation where no access/assistance to refugees and returnees is possible, the prime objective of UNHCR is to re-establish its normal access to refugees and returnees to the extent possible, and resume its assistance programmes to meet immediate needs of refugees and returnees who are in desperate need as a result of the recent conflict. Furthermore, in light of the improving political situation in Sierra Leone and the willingness expressed by some 20,000 Sierra Leonean refugees to be repatriated, efforts will be made to repatriate Sierra Leonean refugees, including some 100 unaccompanied minors in Monrovia areas, as soon as security conditions are met for their return in safety and dignity.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

347. The Liberia Refugee Repatriation and Resettlement Commission (LRRRC) is UNHCR's government counterpart in Liberia. Prior to the fighting in Monrovia in early April 1996, the Lutheran World Federation/World Service (LWF/WS) was responsible for refugee camp management, the distribution of food and non-food items, primary and secondary education, income-generation and logistics operations. Medical Emergency Relief Cooperative International (MERC I) provided health coverage. Don Bosco implemented technical and vocational training in and around Monrovia and also acted as an implementing partner in the construction/renovation of buildings. Sustainable Development Promoters (SDP) was in charge of the agricultural sector in Montserrado, Bomi and Cape Mount Counties. The Children Assistance Programme (CAP) carried out a programme in favour of unaccompanied minors. The Abused Women and Girls (AWAG) organization conducted counselling services to refugee women. Furthermore, Special Emergency Life Food (SELF) implemented registration and distribution under a limited Liberian repatriation/returnee programme in Monrovia.

(d) Budget

348. There is no significant change in the care and maintenance programme for 1997. However, due to the political developments both in Liberia (negative) and Sierra Leone (positive), the UNHCR assistance programme (both for 1996 and 1997) in Liberia is to be reviewed. As indicated above, the UNHCR Appeal for Repatriation and Reintegration for Liberian refugees was launched in February 1996. However, given the negative developments in Liberia, the preparatory activities for Liberian repatriation have been suspended.

(e) Post situation

349. In anticipation of large-scale Liberian repatriation, 40 posts were created under the Special Programme. Furthermore, 4 posts were created to expand UNHCR assistance to Sierra Leonean refugees due to foreseen increasing access as a result of the positive developments following the signing of the Abuja Agreement in late August 1995. However, given the developments in Liberia, the post situation is also to be reviewed.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

350. Refugee women were assisted in establishing various income-generation activities. Nearly 1,000 Sierra Leonean refugee women were organized into agricultural cooperatives with the assistance of SDP in order to achieve food-self sufficiency, particularly in Bomi and Cape Mount. Refugee women and girls who had been victims of sexual violence were catered for by AWAG, which provided trauma counselling, public health education on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, case diagnosis and follow-up treatment mainly for refugees in Monrovia areas. As to children, some 75 Sierra Leonean unaccompanied minors who were evacuated from Vahun in December 1993 when the security situation in Upper Lofa deteriorated were provided shelter through CAP, receiving basic assistance such as elementary education, and literacy and vocational training. However, due to the recent fighting in Monrovia, all these activities have been interrupted.

(g) Oversight reports

351. At the time of the Inspection and Evaluation Service mission to Liberia in late 1995, prospects for an enduring peace seemed good, and planning for repatriation was beginning to gain momentum. The Inspection mission looked into the question of capacity of the Branch Office in Monrovia to move from a limited care and maintenance operation for a proportion of the Sierra Leonean caseload to which UNHCR then had access, to a large-scale repatriation operation for more than 700,000 returnees. This review focused on the difficulties of striking a balance between operational preparedness for massive returns, including the creation of conditions conducive to return, and a recognition that such a fragile peace could collapse at any moment. Another area of particular concern to the mission was staff stress and security, and a number of recommendations were made to alleviate the exceptionally difficult living and working conditions faced by staff based in Liberia.

352. A Regional meeting of Representatives took place in Monrovia from 6-8 December 1995 to define the framework of the repatriation of Liberians in neighbouring countries.

353. A joint UNHCR/WFP/donor mission visited Liberia from 16 to 20 January 1996 to review food needs in 1996/97.

14. Mali

(a) Beneficiaries

354. Since April 1989, Mali has granted refugee status to 16,715 Mauritians settled in rural areas near Kayes. Out of this group, 882 refugees (Liberians, Sierra Leoneans, Togolese, Chadians), and 3,000 internally displaced persons benefit from UNHCR assistance.

355. During the reporting period, UNHCR assisted 20,000 Malian returnees who had repatriated spontaneously under a UNHCR pilot project established in 1995.

356. A total of 47 refugees of various nationalities repatriated from Mali to their countries of origin during the same period.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

357. The full implementation of the Pacte Nationale and the improvement of the situation in northern Mali, have since October 1995, contributed to the return of Malian refugees from neighbouring countries.

358. Regarding national reconciliation, the "flamme de la paix," ceremony of 27-28 March 1996 marked the culmination of the reconciliation process, with a declaration by the five movements of the dissolution of their movements and the burning of small weapons collected

from the combatants.

359. UNHCR has established four Field Offices and strengthened the Branch Office in Bamako to cope with the expansion of activities. In terms of objectives, UNHCR is expecting that most Malian refugees (102,000) in neighbouring countries will be repatriated by the end of 1997. Some preparatory activities (water installation, infrastructure and rehabilitation of major sites) have been or are being implemented by UNHCR as well as other organizations with their own funding.

360. UNHCR will continue to assist Mauritanian refugees. In this regard, special efforts will be made to increase refugee self-sufficiency in the agriculture sector and other income-generation activities during 1996 in order to begin a phase out of assistance in 1997.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

361. Two multi-sectoral care and maintenance projects and a project for voluntary repatriation were established in early 1996 to assist rural and urban refugees and Malian returnees as well as 3,000 internally displaced persons in the country. Most of the implementing partners for voluntary repatriation are international NGOs and include the following: Aide Medicale Internationale, Atlas, GTZ, Vision Mondiale, ACCORD, CARE, and Action Internationale Contre la Faim. Monitoring is undertaken by UNHCR Field Offices in close cooperation with the Branch Office in Bamako.

(d) Budget

362. An allocation was made from the Voluntary Repatriation Fund while awaiting for the launching of the fund raising appeal, which will cover all asylum countries and the country of origin.

(e) Post situation

363. As of 1 May 1996, all posts in Mali are charged to the special repatriation programme. Four Field Officers with supporting staff (local) were created from 1 January 1996.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities

364. With the assistance of the main implementing partners both for care and maintenance assistance for Mauritanian refugees and the reintegration of a Malian returnees, specific attention will be given to children's primary education and single headed households for the implementation of income-generation projects.

(g) Oversight reports

365. In May 1996, an internal auditor reviewed the accounts of UNHCR offices in Mali. The recommendations and suggestions should allow UNHCR's offices in the country to improve its programme management and administration.

366. In March 1996, a UNHCR technical mission conducted an assessment mission in returnees areas (Gao, Kidal, Lere and Toumbouctou) and recommended improvement in coordination of implementing partners to concentrate efforts on the rehabilitation of returnee sites. All measures concerning the implementation of these recommendations have been taken.

15. Niger

(a) Beneficiaries

367. Since the end of 1995, the Niger has been hosting an estimated 20,000 Malian and 2,350

Chadian refugees settled in rural areas.

368. Chadian refugees who crossed the border into the Niger in 1990 are located in Goure and have been assisted by UNHCR under a care and maintenance project for the past five years.

369. The exodus of Malian refugees of Tuareg and Moor origin started at the end of 1994 following an upsurge of hostilities between the rebels and Malian forces. This group is settled in rural areas, notably Ayerou and Inotes. Some are living in Fourmey (5,000), Manguaise (2,000), Colmane, Naboau (700), and Bani-Bangou (58). Assistance provided to Malian refugees in the Niger under a care and maintenance project covers health, education, agriculture and livestock needs. The assistance is community orientated and not directed to individuals. The Niger is also hosting 2,200 urban refugees of various nationalities, notably Somalis expelled from the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. The refugee population in the Niger is 6 per cent men, 19 per cent women and 75 per cent children.

(b) Recent development and objectives

370. At the end of 1995, 152 Chadian refugees in the Niger repatriated spontaneously and one returned under UNHCR auspices. It seems that Chadian refugees may wish to await political developments in their own country before making any decision to return home. Others also may wish to repatriate after the general elections scheduled for June 1996.

371. Due to positive developments in Mali, it is expected that some Malian refugees in the Niger will opt for voluntary repatriation by end of 1996. In this regard, UNHCR intends to conclude a tripartite agreement with the Governments of the Niger and Mali and is launching an appeal by the end of this year for repatriation of Malian refugees from the Niger. Phasing out of the care and maintenance Programme for Chadians will be implemented by the end of 1996.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

372. UNHCR's multi-sectoral care and maintenance project established for the Niger covers the needs of all refugees in the country. It is being implemented by Red Cross of the Niger and Caritas, and is monitored by a local staff under a joint UNDP and UNHCR Regional Office arrangement.

(d) Budget

373. The 1996 budget was increased in order to cover the revised needs of the community assistance approach for Malian refugees. In anticipation of expected repatriation, a decreased budget for 1997 is proposed.

(e) Post situation

374. UNHCR is represented in Niger by UNDP.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

375. Special activities relating to women and children refugees are an integral part of UNHCR work plan for 1996 and 1997.

(g) Oversight reports

376. Nothing to report.

16. Nigeria

(a) Beneficiaries

377. At 1 January 1996, there were 8,120 refugees in Nigeria, of whom 5,771 were being assisted (4,313 Liberians, 1,296 Cameroonians, 43 Sudanese, 32 Zairians and 87 others) .

(b) Recent developments and objectives

378. A United Nation fact finding mission was sent to Nigeria to assess the human rights situation including an investigation into the execution of Ogoni activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight of his associates in April. The mission report is awaited.

379. Preparatory activities for mass repatriation of Liberian refugees were suspended due to renewed hostilities in Liberia. In 1996, UNHCR will endeavour to strengthen the capacity of the Eligibility Commission. The 1997 objectives will focus on the search for durable solutions, especially for Liberian refugees, through voluntary repatriation.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

380. The National Commission for Refugees is responsible for refugee eligibility. The Nigerian Red Cross carries out activities in the health sector and distributes assistance. Justice and Peace is responsible for the education Programme. The National Directory of Employment (NDE) is responsible for vocational training for urban refugees.

(d) Budgets

381. The care and maintenance allocation for Nigeria was considerably reduced due to a sizeable decrease in the size of the refugee population.

(e) Post situation

382. It had originally been planned to reduce the number of posts from 16 in 1996 to 11 in 1997, in expectation of the voluntary repatriation of Liberian refugees from Nigeria and the projected transfer of the office from Lagos to Abuja. However, in view of the changed situation in Liberia, staffing arrangement may have to be reviewed.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

383. Nothing to report.

(g) Oversight reports

384. A 1995 Inspection and Evaluation Service mission to Nigeria made a number of important recommendations including the rapid implementation of the planned transfer of the UNHCR office from Lagos to Abuja. These recommendations are being implemented.

17. Senegal

(a) Beneficiaries

385. At the end of December 1995, the total number of refugees in Senegal stood at 67,433 persons, who came mainly from Mauritania (66,500) and were settled in northern Senegal ("region du fleuve"). There were also 933 urban refugees of various nationalities, mostly Malians (237) Rwandans (154) Sierra Leoneans (109) and Liberians (101).

386. A registration exercise conducted in 1995 by the Government of Senegal with the

assistance of UNHCR indicated that 22 per cent of urban refugees are between 18 and 26 years and the majority are men without dependants. The census also indicated that 27 per cent have already completed university. During the reporting period, ten refugees were repatriated from Senegal to their countries of origin.

(b) Recent development and objectives

387. Following the recommendations of a joint WFP/UNHCR food assessment mission, the general food distribution for Mauritanian refugees has, since January 1996, been phased out except for vulnerable groups.

388. UNHCR's objectives in Senegal aim at ensuring adequate protection to refugees and asylum-seekers, promoting durable solutions for Mauritanian refugees, and contributing to and reinforcing national capacity for status determination in Senegal. A new structure, established for this purpose after the dissolution of the "Bureau d'orientation sociale," will be improved. Focus will continue to be placed on strengthening the NGO network in countries covered by the Regional Office in West Africa (Senegal, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Niger) and improving government, UNHCR and NGO partnership through the PARINAC process.

389. A survey conducted recently among Mauritanian refugees revealed that 78 per cent of them may opt for voluntary repatriation in coming months.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

390. A new multi-sectoral care and maintenance project established at the beginning of the year and implemented by the Commission nationale d'éligibilité and the Centre d'étude pour la coopération internationale provides assistance to urban refugees. In northern Senegal a local settlement project was established in 1989 to assist Mauritanian refugees by l'Office Africain pour le Développement et la Coopération. The Government of Senegal has assigned responsibility for refugees and internally displaced persons to the Commission d'assistance aux Réfugiés et Personnes déplacées which is the UNHCR Regional Office counterpart in Senegal.

(d) Budget

391. The 1996 initial budget of the care and maintenance project for urban refugees had to be increased in order to offset the consequences of the devaluation of the CFA, which mostly affected the urban area. Arrangements with a new implementing partner and the evaluation of the former partner also needed an increase of the budget.

(e) Post situation

392. Given the reduction in the Regional Office's responsibilities, two posts have been discontinued as from 31 January 1996 and 31 May 1996. However, a post of Regional Training Coordinator in Dakar will be created in 1996.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women children, environment)

393. Special activities relating to women and children refugees are integral to the Regional Office's work plan for 1996 and 1997.

(g) Oversight reports

394. No reports were initiated during the reporting period. An internal mission is planned to reassess the level of the UNHCR presence in Senegal.

18. Sierra Leone

(a) Beneficiaries

395. At 1 January 1996, the number of refugees assisted by UNHCR stood at 4,671, comprising 4,667 Liberians, 1 South African and 3 Chadians. Some 50 per cent were women and some 30 per cent were children under 18. The number of spontaneous returnees as well as refugees unassisted by UNHCR could not be verified due to the inaccessibility of most of the areas outside Freetown.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

396. In the last five years, Sierra Leone has been faced with civil war following persistent armed confrontation between the Government and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The situation worsened, resulting in the internal displacement of 1.6 million persons, and the outflow of 240,000 and 120,000 refugees into Guinea and Liberia respectively.

397. On 29 March 1996, the military Government handed over power to a democratically elected Government.

398. Before and after elections, the Government embarked on serious negotiations with RUF, culminating in a cease-fire agreement, the outcome of which has led to serious transition planning initiatives in the country.

399. Should the positive trend be maintained and further steps for lasting peace be achieved, repatriation could be undertaken for some 360,000 Sierra Leoneans in the region. Meanwhile, given the volatile situation in Liberia, an influx of Sierra Leonean returnees as well as Liberian refugees into Sierra Leone could take place. UNHCR is therefore developing a contingency plan for both Sierra Leonean returnees and Liberian refugees.

400. Following threats by the rebels on the areas surrounding Waterloo camp in April 1995, Liberian refugees relocated to Jui camp. However, in view of the poor living conditions in Jui camp, the Government of Sierra Leone allocated 12 acres of adjacent land in November 1995 for temporary settlements. With \$ 287,000 allocated from the 1996 Emergency Fund, the land was cleared, latrines and wells were constructed and tents were purchased. Currently, 3,420 Liberians are located in Jui Camp. Given the fact that Liberian repatriation is not foreseen in the near future, it may be necessary to establish a permanent camp for Liberians in a more suitable place.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

401. The National Rehabilitation Committee (NARECOM) is the government agency responsible for refugee affairs. CAUSE-Canada, a Canadian NGO, as well as the Council of Churches in Sierra Leone have been implementing UNHCR's assistance programme. The newly elected Government has created a new Ministry for Reintegration, Resettlement and Rehabilitation to replace NARECOM.

(d) Budget

402. The care and maintenance programme in Sierra Leone was reduced in 1996 and had been slated for further reduction in 1997 in anticipation of the planned Liberian repatriation, which is expected to lead eventually to the reduction of the beneficiaries in Sierra Leone. However, given the adverse developments in Liberia, the budget for the UNHCR assistance programme (both for 1996 and 1997) in Sierra Leone is to be reviewed. As reported above, an allocation was made from the 1996 Emergency Fund to meet the urgent needs for setting up Jui temporary camp.

(e) Post situation

403. Unchanged

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

404. Women heads of households have been encouraged to be involved in the assessment of their basic needs and to identify activities that would enable them to earn a living in Sierra Leone and facilitate reintegration or their repatriation. Prior to relocation to Jui Camp, groups of women engaged in petty trading were assisted with loans to procure their merchandise. Women in agriculture who had acquired parcels of land on their own for the cultivation of cash crops were assisted with seeds, tools and fertilizer. Women refugees were encouraged to participate in training courses to acquire skills in sewing, embroidery, dying and soap making. Necessary measures will be taken to resume these activities, which had been suspended with their relocation to Jui Camp.

(g) Oversight reports

405. A report, "Audit of Project AP/SLE/CM/200 with CAUSE CANADA for the Period January 1993 to May 1995", was made by an external auditor.

19. Togo

(a) Beneficiaries

406. At 1 January 1996, Togo hosted 11,021 refugees (10,756 Ghanaians and 265 urban refugees from central and western African countries). It is envisaged that by the end of 1996 some 100,000 expected Togolese returnees from Ghana and Benin will have been fully reintegrated.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

407. In February 1996, 1,593 Ghanaians and two Rwandans were repatriated. The opening of a UNHCR office in Atakpame was cancelled due to reduced activities. UNHCR launched an appeal on 26 April 1996 to finance the repatriation and reintegration programme of some 100,000 Togolese refugees from Benin and Ghana. In 1996, activities will focus on the reintegration programme for returnees.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

408. The Organization de la Charité pour un Développement Intégral (OCDI) and the Togolese Red Cross are implementing the care and maintenance programme on behalf of Ghanaian refugees. The renovation of communal infrastructure in Lomé will be undertaken by WHO, GTZ and the Government of Togo.

(d) Budgets

409. In order to meet the needs of Ghanaian refugees in the north of the country, the 1996 care and maintenance programme has been increased. For 1997, the budget will be reduced.

(e) Post situation

410. Following the cancellation of the opening of the Field Office in Atakpame, the total number of posts has been reduced from 25 to 17.

(f) Implementation of policy priorities (women, children, environment)

411. Nothing to report.

(g) Oversight reports

412. Nothing to report.

20. Zaire (excluding the Rwanda - Burundi operation)

(a) Beneficiaries

413. Besides Rwandan and Burundian refugees in eastern Zaire, at 1 January 1996, there were, 50,117 Angolan, 94,170 Sudanese, 12,596 Ugandan and 61 other refugees of various nationalities (total 156,944) receiving assistance under the UNHCR regular programme. In addition, 119,003 Angolan, 15,568 Sudanese and 36 Ugandans were hosted in Zaire but received no material assistance from UNHCR.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

414. In Haut-Zaire, refugees continued to arrive from the Sudan, although in fewer numbers as compared to previous years. About 3,000 Ugandans who were repatriated in 1994/1995 are reportedly back in the camps in Haut-Zaire, allegedly due to the security situation in Uganda. No assistance is being given to them pending the decision on their status determination.

415. At the same time there is an apparent reduction of 2,062 Angolan refugees in Shaba, according to a recent census conducted in the framework of the Angolan repatriation. Those who left the camps are believed to have repatriated spontaneously. Preparatory activities for mass repatriation of Angolan refugees is continuing. A team from the Mines Advisory Group is conducting a programme on mine awareness in Shaba. The Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) is also organizing Portuguese language training courses on behalf of selected groups of refugees prior to their repatriation. The office in Kimpesse, in Bas-Zaire, was reopened in March 1996 and a Senior Repatriation Officer was recruited.

416. In 1997, UNHCR will endeavour to pursue its care and maintenance programme on behalf of Sudanese refugees in Haut-Zaire, especially for the new arrivals. Based on political developments taking place in Angola, repatriation will be pursued in 1996 and 1997 as this is the most viable durable solution for Angolans. Similarly, repatriation will also be promoted for Ugandan refugees.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

417. Following the waves of looting which swept across Zaire during the 1991 and 1992, most of the traditional partners of UNHCR left Zaire. Nearly all of the NGOs in the country are now confined to North and South Kivu and are committed to the Rwanda/Burundi programme. There are no NGOs left in the rest of the country. Consequently, the Regional Office will be compelled to implement its own project pending identification of reliable partners to take up this responsibility.

The Mines Advisory Group (MAG), a United Kingdom-based NGO, and the NRC are currently implementing their respective programmes in Zaire, in the framework of the Angolan repatriation.

(d) Budget

418. A 35 per cent reduction is proposed for the care and maintenance programme for Angolan refugees in 1996 due to the expected voluntary repatriation of this caseload in the second half of the year. The same revised level is maintained for 1997. The allocation for local settlement for 1996 is maintained at a similar level to that of 1995. In 1997, a reduction of 11 per cent is proposed in anticipation of a reduced Angolan caseload due to repatriation.

(e) Post situation

419. The remoteness and distance of Field Offices in areas where repatriation to Angola is expected required the creation of 27 additional posts, making a total of 92. A similar level of staffing will be maintained in 1997.

(g) Oversight reports

420. An internal audit mission visited Zaire in December 1995 to examine a number of projects implemented during the period covering 1991 through 1995. A final report concerning this mission is forthcoming.

III. PROGRAMMES OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION FOR RWANDAN AND BURUNDIAN REFUGEES

A. Sub-regional overview

421. The year 1996 began with renewed expectations for massive voluntary repatriation, in particular from Zaire and Burundi. However, nearly six months on, the number of refugees in the Great Lakes region has fallen significantly only in Burundi, which itself spawned a fresh outflow of Burundian asylum-seekers into the United Republic of Tanzania and south-eastern Zaire. A special initiative to encourage repatriation from Zaire at the beginning of the year did not result in any major repatriation movements.

422. New influxes of refugees from Burundi and low rates of repatriation, in addition to very high birth rates in the refugee camps, meant that as of 1 May 1996 the number of refugees in the camps were in fact higher than on 1 January 1996. There are now some 1.7 million Rwandan refugees in Burundi, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire, and some 168,000 Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire. The number of refugees is updated periodically by registration exercises, which will have been carried out in most camps by the middle of the year.

423. In a recent development, Rwanda received some 8,900 refugees who claim Zairian nationality, a result of the continued ethnic upheaval in the regions north-west of Goma in the North Kivu region of Zaire, particularly in the Masisi area.

424. The Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire and Rwanda, and UNHCR, are becoming increasingly concerned with the slow rate of return to Rwanda. There are very few signs that a massive voluntary repatriation movement is likely to occur in the near future. Refugee leaders continue to demand that such a return be subject to a dialogue on power-sharing between themselves and the Rwandan authorities, clarity on judicial retribution in Rwanda, as well as the return of property to those repatriating. The demand for dialogue is rejected by the Government of Rwanda, which emphasizes the need to punish those responsible for the genocide. With regard to the perpetrators of the 1994 genocide, while some persons have been indicted by the international tribunal for the Rwandan genocide and progress has been made in the development of a new Rwandan penal legislation, no cases have as yet been brought to court. Also, recent violent incidents in Rwanda are likely to contribute to further delays in voluntary repatriation.

425. While it must be acknowledged that large-scale voluntary repatriation will not take place soon, resources available for the care and maintenance in the camps are dwindling. Against the 1995 Appeal of \$ 288 million, a mere \$ 57.3 million had been received by 1 May 1996. Taking into account carry-overs from 1994 and 1995 and a loan from the Emergency Fund, only \$ 96.9 million were available for obligation by 1 May. Given the diminished level of funding, programme activities in the second half of 1996 will therefore have to be reduced significantly. Indeed, the core of UNHCR activities, such as the provision of potable water, preventive health care, primary health care and community services, provision of cooking fuel and basic non-food items such as

blankets and shelter materials, and maintenance of roads and vehicles, will have to be curtailed unless further major contributions are received. Also, with the situation in the region remaining highly volatile, it is necessary to be prepared for new massive population movements. Contingency planning and emergency preparedness, however, require resources which are not currently available.

426. The increased tension at the border where the refugee camps are situated and the heavy damage to the natural environment, in particular by cutting of trees and poaching, make it necessary to reopen the discussion with asylum countries on the possibilities of relocating camps to a more secure and hospitable environment further away from the border.

427. In view of the security situation in the refugee camps and the negative influence of internal elements controlling the refugee community, the implementation of durable solutions has been obstructed, and special measures are required to counter their influence. The Zairian Camp Security Contingent and the arrangement with the Tanzanian police force have ensured some degree of security, but in both cases strict monitoring remains necessary. While the cost of the two operations remains modest as compared to any other external arrangement, they occupy a considerable portion of UNHCR's operational expenditure. In the three asylum countries, discussions have continued with Governments to address the specific problem of "intimidation" by refugee leaders opposed to voluntary repatriation. Their separation from the rest of the refugees remains high on the agenda in these discussions.

428. The need to reduce expenditure and curtail activities has led to the departure of a number of international NGOs from the camps. Yet the strategy for implementation of assistance activities remains largely dependent on the input of implementing partners, mainly voluntary agencies. UNHCR has made a successful effort to replace a number of international agencies by local NGOs, particularly in the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire.

429. In Rwanda, UNHCR's activities remain two-pronged: UNHCR assists in the reintegration of the returnees of the so-called old caseload -- refugees and other Banyarwanda who had left the country before independence, and refugees who left between 1959 and 1994. Assistance activities mainly comprise the provision of shelter materials and community oriented infrastructure, such as water, medical facilities and schools. The shortfall in income for the Burundi-Rwanda Special Operation will affect these activities adversely in 1996. Secondly, preparations have been made for the return of refugees from the large group who left after April 1994. Preparedness activities comprise the preparation of reception facilities, non-food assistance to be handed out on arrival, and the availability of important logistical means to ensure an easy return to the home communities. UNHCR's budget for such activities will also have to be reduced unless considerable new financial resources are received.

(a) Beneficiaries

430. At 1 January 1996, there were some 1.9 million Rwandan and Burundian refugees in the asylum countries (168,000 Burundians and 1,743,000 Rwandans). Zaire is hosting the largest number with more than 1,059,000 Rwandan and 81,000 Burundian refugees. The United Republic of Tanzania hosts a total of 496,000 Rwandan refugees in Ngara and Karagwe and 82,000 Burundi refugees in Kigoma and Ngara districts. In addition, the United Republic of Tanzania is hosting 3,252 Somalis and 4,841 refugees of other nationalities. Burundi was hosting 152,500 Rwandan refugees at the end of 1995. However, due to ongoing violence in the country, an estimated 30,000 have sought refuge in the United Republic of Tanzania, while more than 20,000 returned to Rwanda. At the end of April 1996, 91,000 refugees remained in the camps of northern Burundi. In addition, UNHCR is assisting 25,000 displaced persons in Burundi. Of the overall caseload in the region, it is estimated that between 50 and 55 per cent are women and about 35 per cent are children under 15 years.

(b) Recent developments and objectives

431. Efforts to promote voluntary repatriation continue. Tripartite Commission Meetings at ministerial and technical levels have been convened regularly to support the repatriation efforts with cross-border visits and mass information campaigns aimed at providing balanced information on the situation in Rwanda. In spite of these efforts, repatriation seems to be at a stalemate. Repatriation reached its nadir in April, with only 3,533 persons returning to Rwanda. Rwanda considers the major obstacle to repatriation to be the presence of "intimidators" in the refugee camps. While this is certainly a contributing factor, there are other reasons, including the refugees' perception of insecurity inside Rwanda.

432. The Rwandan Government has taken major steps to re-establish a civil administration and to return the country to normalcy. However, the security situation in the country continues to be of concern, especially in the prefectures bordering Zaire. Frequent incursions into Rwanda, mine incidents on both sides of the border, and exchanges of fire across the border have been on the rise.

433. In addition, the situation between Rwanda and Zaire has further deteriorated with the recent arrival in Rwanda of more than 8,900 persons of Banyarwanda origin from the Masisi area (eastern Zaire). The decision taken by the Rwandan authorities to keep them in a transit camp at the border with Zaire, coupled with controversies about their status, has further increased tension between the two countries.

434. In Burundi, where the security situation has been tenuous since 1993, there has been a further deterioration during the last few months. While before insecurity was limited to Bujumbura and the north of the country, fighting has now spread through 10 of the 16 provinces. In addition, the further deterioration of the security in Cibitoke and Bubanza provinces at the beginning of May 1996 has led to an influx of more than 5,000 Burundi refugees to Uvira (Zaire).

435. In view of the situation in Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania continues to receive new arrivals. The latest large influx, in January 1996, numbered 30,000 Rwandan refugees and Burundian asylum-seekers. At 31 March 1996, the number of new arrivals had reached 46,724, comprising 36,402 Rwandan refugees and 10,322 Burundian asylum-seekers. Despite its closed border with Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania has allowed entry on humanitarian grounds. The new arrivals are accommodated in a temporary site at Keza in Ngora District. The possibility of transferring them to existing camps is being discussed between UNHCR and the Government.

436. In February, Zaire launched an operation progressively to close some selected camps in north and south Kivu. Only 1,200 refugees from Kibumba and Nyangezi camps opted to repatriate under UNHCR auspices. The Zairian Government with UNHCR, in the context of the Tripartite Commission and the follow-up mechanism of the Bujumbura Plan of Action, is reviewing its approaches to repatriation.

437. The resurgence of violence in the western provinces of Burundi has led to a new influx of refugees to south Kivu in eastern Zaire. During the first week of May about 5,000 refugees arrived in Uvira. The latest influx is the biggest in a relatively short period compared to previous refugee movements to Uvira this year. The influx is likely to continue in view of the ongoing conflict in Burundi.

438. As the lead agency in Rwanda for the repatriation of refugees, UNHCR continues to monitor the returnee population and to assist them to reintegrate successfully. The reception capacity in Rwanda is about 6,000 returnees a day. In addition to the monitoring of returnees, UNHCR is working closely with the Rwandan judiciary and police to improve the standards of justice and protection in the country. Assistance and protection training is being provided to the judiciary system.

439. The key component for the reintegration assistance is the construction of shelter, principally for "old" caseload returnees in Rwanda who are at present occupying the houses and land of the "new" caseload refugees. UNHCR is also implementing a series of quick impact projects in the water, health, education and community services sectors in areas of return.

440. In Burundi, in view of the present security situation, UNHCR is discussing and reviewing

with the authorities ongoing refugee protection problems (arrests and detention of alleged intimidators, expulsions to Rwanda, and reduction of refugee movements and commercial activities in the camps).

441. The presence of a large refugee population in the United Republic of Tanzania and the lack of prospects for repatriation have made it difficult to discuss with the Government the possibility of relocating the refugee camps. The Government views relocation as an acceptance of the permanent presence of the refugees in United Republic of Tanzania. Efforts to provide sufficient water in the present locations will have to continue, provided that funds are available. The Zairian Camp Security Contingent in conjunction with the Civilian Liaison Group has continued to be responsible for law and order in the camps of eastern Zaire. UNHCR is planning to undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the security operation in order to draw lessons from this experience.

(c) Implementing partners/arrangements

442. In Rwanda, UNHCR has working arrangements with the Ministry of Rehabilitation and Social Integration, IOM and ICRC. UNHCR and has signed sub-agreements with 22 NGOs.

443. In Burundi, assistance projects for refugees are implemented by 13 NGOs. The Government, through the Ministry of Rehabilitation, is coordinating assistance activities for returnees and internally displaced persons.

444. In United Republic of Tanzania, UNHCR has signed sub-agreements with international and local NGOs, which are implementing care and maintenance programmes in 15 refugee camps. In addition, government Ministries and Departments are implementing activities under a Bipartite Agreement.

445. In Zaire, sub-agreements have been signed with 20 NGOs. Their activities are mainly in the sectors of water, sanitation, health, transport, logistics and the distribution of domestic items. In addition, UNHCR is also working with UNICEF, IOM and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

(d) Budget

446. In view of the current financial crisis, UNHCR has introduced a 10 per cent reduction in the care and maintenance budgets and a 25 per cent reduction in the voluntary repatriation budgets, while maintaining the current Appeal budget of \$ 288 million, which represents actual needs.

This results in at least a provisional decrease of \$ 35 million, and a revised budget of \$ 253 million for the region.

447. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the 1996 country budget has been revised downwards by some 11 per cent to \$ 45 million. An emergency project to cover the new influx from Burundi was established in February 1996 and is expected to continue until June 1996 in view of the continuing influx.

448. In eastern Zaire, the care and maintenance programmes were cut by 10 per cent and the repatriation projects by 25 per cent. The current budget for eastern Zaire is \$ 72 million dollars.

449. Repatriation and reintegration budgets in Rwanda have been revised downward by 25 per cent. The current budget for the Rwanda programme is \$ 58 million.

450. The Burundi care and maintenance programmes were also cut by 10 per cent and the repatriation projects by 25 per cent. The current budget for Burundi is \$ 11 million.

451. Because of the current uncertainties concerning care and maintenance versus repatriation activities in the Great Lakes operation, an accurate projection for the 1997 Rwanda-Burundi Special Programme remains particularly difficult. As a result, the initial 1997 budget has

been maintained at \$ 253 million. This will be reviewed again over the coming months, leading to a fully revised 1997 budget proposal.

(e) Post situation

452. In November 1995, in anticipation of repatriation movements from eastern Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania and the resulting need for Field and Repatriation Officers, 147 posts were created and 15 posts were re-classified. However, some of the posts created remain unfilled or frozen pending improved financial resources. This level of staffing will be maintained in 1997.

(f) Implementation of Policy Priorities (women, children, environment)

(i) Women

453. The genocide of 1994 radically changed the family structure in Rwanda. Many widowed women have become de facto heads of family, and a large number of them welcomed orphans and victims of the genocide into their homes. UNHCR is assisting the Ministries of Family and Promotion of Women, Labour and Social Affairs, in conjunction with various non-governmental women's groups, with programmes to help the most vulnerable women. These programmes are meant to provide suitable shelter for foster families, proper health facilities, literacy programmes, vocational training and cooperative enterprise financing.

454. In Burundi, a provision was made in the 1996 programme for direct assistance to refugee women. UNHCR has also organized training sessions on refugee women policy for government representatives, NGOs and UNHCR staff.

455. In the United Republic of Tanzania, attention to the special protection and assistance needs of refugee women continues in 1996. In Ngara, Kigoma and Karagwe, self-help activities have been initiated for single parent female-headed families. UNHCR has earmarked funds for the establishment of small business activities in Karagwe and Ngara (implemented through OXFAM and Christian Outreach, respectively). These activities are under the supervision of an international woman officer posted in Ngara.

456. Special attention has been given to women in all refugee activities in the Zaire camps. In many camps food distribution is entirely handled by women, while women in all camps have been included in the process. All community service activities are designed with the aim of further involving women, particularly vulnerable ones, in the community. Special training has been given to members of the Security Operation in the appropriate police techniques to be used with women, and women have participated in the Camp Security Liaison Group. Reproductive health programmes and community health activities target women, for not only are women more receptive to such activities, their direct involvement is a means by which they can effect a higher degree of authority in their own communities. Special attention has also been given to the provision of sanitary cloth and other hygienic materials.

(ii) Children

457. At 1 April 1996, there were still 40,689 Rwandan children registered with ICRC outside Rwanda requiring tracing and/or family reunion. In addition, UNHCR's implementing partner Save the Children Fund-UK records 19,720 children who need tracing and family reunion inside Rwanda. Since 1994, a total of 1,198 children have returned to Rwanda to be reunited with their families.

458. In the asylum countries, programmes for unaccompanied children will continue. In the United Republic of Tanzania, 90,000 refugee children are attending primary school in the camps, while in Burundi 17,500 children are benefiting from UNHCR educational assistance. Among them, 2,000 are considered as unaccompanied minors. Particular attention is given to tracing programmes, family reunion, and foster families. There are also special feeding and health

programmes for this group.

(iii) Environment

459. Rwanda has always faced environment difficulties: soil erosion, deforestation, water shortages and diminishing arable land. The return of refugees with large herds of cattle from Uganda (estimated at 700,000, located mainly in the north and eastern provinces of Byumba and Kibungo) has presented a new environmental threat to regions which were previously almost uninhabited. In these areas, UNHCR has started reforestation and seed distribution programmes which will be implemented in the course of 1996. In conjunction with the Government, UNHCR is also working to rationalize water use.

460. In the asylum countries, deforestation is the major threat posed to the environment by the large presence of refugee. In Zaire, environmental projects are focusing on reforestation, provision of fire wood, and fuel-efficient cooking stoves. In the United Republic of Tanzania, IFAD-funded projects were implemented in 1994 and 1995 to provide firewood needs and fuel efficient stoves to refugee households and to plant trees on some 274 hectares around the refugee camps. In addition, the Swiss Disaster Relief is funding a peat project as an alternative source of fuel wood in Karagwe District. In Burundi, UNHCR has developed a special tree planting programme covering some 828 hectares.

(g) Oversight reports

461. During the 1995 and 1996 reporting period, a number of internal UNHCR audits were initiated. In 1995, internal auditors visited the United Republic of Tanzania on two different occasions. Of the 19 recommendations made, all have been implemented and the audits are considered complete. There were also two internal audit visits to Bukavu, Zaire. The audits focused on the areas of UNHCR activities, property, procurement, transactions and implementing partners. Of the 60 recommendations made, thus far half have been implemented, while a number remain pending. For 1996, the internal auditors plan follow-up visits to Zaire and the United Republic of Tanzania.

462. The Board of External Auditors has indicated their intention to schedule a mission to the region in 1996. Dates and locations have not yet been specified.

(Editor's Note: For technical reasons, it is not possible to reproduce here Annexes I and II to this report. Please contact the UNHCR Library for the hard copies.)