

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Protect refugees from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Somalia and ensure their well-being by providing essential assistance and services while they remain in the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania).
- Promote and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees to Burundi, Rwanda and the DRC when conditions in the countries of origin permit.
- Continue to support the local integration of refugees allowed by the Government to settle permanently in Tanzania.
- Promote refugee law and help the Tanzanian authorities to provide security in the refugee camps, ensuring that the camps retain an exclusively civilian and humanitarian character and that they accommodate only those persons entitled to humanitarian protection.
- Maintain the support of the Tanzanian Government and the goodwill of the Tanzanian people towards refugees and asylum-seekers by providing tangible benefits to the local population in areas affected by the presence of refugees.
- Ensure adequate emergency response mechanisms, in view of the unpredictable political situation in the principal countries of origin.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, PROGRESS ACHIEVED, AND CONSTRAINTS

Tanzania continued to host Africa's largest concentration of refugees, totalling almost one million persons. Ongoing civil and political unrest, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi, hindered voluntary repatriation to these countries and continued to cause refugee

flows into Tanzania, albeit at lower rates than in previous years. The assisted refugee population increased from 498,000 at the end of 2001 to 506,200 as at 30 June 2002 (347,000 Burundians, 131,100 Congolese, 24,700 Rwandans and 3,400 Somalis). The unassisted population was estimated by the Government to include some 170,000 Burundians in settlements and a further 300,000 living in villages in northwestern Tanzania.

During the reporting period, the relations between the host communities and the refugee population remained very tense. In addition, the Government's position as regards the continued presence of Burundi and Rwandan refugees hardened. The Government repeatedly called for the repatriation of the refugees as soon as possible and at the latest by the end of the year.

Burundi Refugees

The installation of a transitional government and its various constituent institutions in November 2001 marked a significant achievement in the implementation of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Accord. However, the humanitarian situation in Burundi has continued to be a matter of concern to UNHCR. To date, a cease-fire agreement has not been signed and fighting between government and rebel forces continues to flare up in various provinces in an unpredictable fashion. The overall security situation remains precarious, and internal displacement as well as refugee outflows are still prevalent in the aftermath of clashes, particularly in the southern provinces of the country.

Partially in response to substantial numbers (27,000) of Burundi refugees spontaneously repatriating in 2001, and in order to reduce the incidence of assault and harassment of

returnees, UNHCR, in December 2001, proposed to the Tri-partite Commission that facilitated repatriation to Burundi commence for those refugees willing to avail themselves of the offer of transport and non-food items. The registration of potential returnees thus started in February 2002, and the first return movement was undertaken on 28 March.

Because of the deteriorating security situation in Burundi, repatriation movements could not be organized through three entry points as initially planned. It was therefore agreed to facilitate repatriation only through the Kobero border point and only to the safer northern and central areas of Burundi (currently Musinga, Kirundo, Ngozi, Karuzi, Kayanza, Gitega, Muramvya and Bujumbura Mairie). At the end of June, over 80,000 refugees had registered to repatriate from Tanzania and UNHCR had facilitated the voluntary repatriation of some 15,200. Between January and June, only 1,510 new arrivals were recorded (in 2001 over 15,000 Burundian refugees arrived in Tanzania).

To date, UNHCR remains unable to facilitate returns to the southern and eastern provinces due to continuing insecurity which does not allow the Office to ensure that the refugees can return and reintegrate in safety and dignity. In June, UNHCR issued a policy paper reiterating this position, which was shared with the members of the Tri-partite Commission at its fourth meeting held on 25 June in Bujumbura.

Rwandan Refugees

Both arrival and repatriation figures for Rwandan refugees declined in the first half of 2002. Less than 900 Rwandan asylum-seekers arrived in Tanzania during the first six months of 2002 (compared to 3,000 in 2001). During the same period, 1,650 Rwandans voluntarily repatriated from Tanzania (compared to 4,436 in 2001).

Congolese Refugees (DRC)

Some 10,800 Congolese refugees arrived in Tanzania in the first six months of 2002, as fighting between various armed groups continued in the eastern DRC. The Inter-Congolese Dialogue held in Sun City, South Africa, in March 2002, brought together, for the first time in many months, the major protagonists of the DRC war. Hopes for a positive outcome of the talks diminished significantly as agreements reached at the seven-week meeting were not acceptable to all the parties.

Return possibilities for DRC refugees in Tanzania thus remain uncertain as most returnee areas of origin have remained under rebel control. In the meantime, space for additional new arrivals in Tanzania is running out in refugee camps in the Kigoma region. Negotiations with the Government continue with a view to identifying a new and readily accessible site.

Somali Refugees

In pursuit of the local settlement programme for Somali refugees, the development of the new site at Chogo in the Handeni District continued. The construction of a dispensary, a primary school, three residential houses and a 12 km water pipeline was completed in the first half of 2002. The construction of other basic infrastructure including a community centre, a police post, staff housing and an administration block is underway. Movements to Chogo are expected to start in late 2002.

Tanzanian Refugees/Asylum-Seekers

During 2001, UNHCR organized the repatriation of some 900 of over 2,000 Tanzanians who had fled from the island of Pemba (Zanzibar) to Shimoni in Kenya. It was initially believed that the remaining 1,000 Tanzanians had either repatriated spontaneously or settled in Kenya or other areas of Tanzania. However, towards the end of 2001, UNHCR was informed of various refugee groups remaining in Botswana (some 29 persons), Somalia (around 200 persons)

and Pakistan (a further 200 persons) who may need to be assisted to return in 2002. On 2 May, 13 Tanzanians returned to Dar es Salaam from Botswana.

Other Activities

In order to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps, UNHCR continued to provide special assistance and support to the Tanzanian authorities through a range of measures (the "security package"), including the deployment and training of special police contingents. An increase in the current number of 278 policemen/women may be required in the second half of the year following the expansion of the Lugufu II camp where arriving Congolese refugees are sheltered.

In May, the Government unilaterally sent 389 refugees and asylum-seekers to the UNHCR-funded "Mwisa Separation Facility", bringing the total number of detainees, in a facility designed to hold 350 persons, to 606. UNHCR believes that these detainees may have been held beyond the legal limits and that most of them were not detained in accordance with the criteria for which the separation facility was established. Two joint Government/UNHCR screening missions visited Mwisa in May and June and recommended to the Minister of Home Affairs that 458 persons be released immediately, while the remaining 148 be detained for the allowable period of three months.

Constrained by a lack of funding, UNHCR was only able to provide limited assistance to

areas affected by the presence of refugees through the strengthening of local institutions, transport networks and infrastructure.

The gradual empowerment of refugee women continued to be one of UNHCR's policy objectives in Tanzania. Furthermore, a comprehensive approach to the problem of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) continued to focus on prevention through awareness raising at the community level and the provision of legal, medical and psychosocial support to victims. In addition, increased emphasis was placed on the prevention of exploitation of refugee women.

UNHCR also maintained vigorous environmental protection programmes, *inter alia* to prevent soil erosion and the depletion of wood and water resources. An in-depth review of UNHCR's environmental activities was undertaken between April and May. While the review noted that the multifaceted combination of enforcement measures implemented to date had proven effective, 39 recommendations were made on specific areas of improvement. Most of these recommendations will be implemented during the remainder of the year.

UNHCR's plans to resettle up to 1,000 refugees from Tanzania in 2002 remained on track. As of 30 June, 49 refugees had departed to the USA and Canada and 167 persons were awaiting departure to Sweden and Canada. Norway, New Zealand and Australia are expected to accept a further 325 persons in the second half of the year.

Progress as measured against indicators

Impact/Performance Indicators	Actual Progress
Provision of sufficient food, adequate health care, primary education and water, as well as community services targeting vulnerable refugees, women and children.	A well-organized care and maintenance programme continued to be implemented in all sectors, thereby ensuring that minimum standards were met.
Number of voluntary returnees.	Some 16,850 refugees voluntarily repatriated with UNHCR assistance, primarily to Burundi.
Maintenance of overall security in and around the refugee camps.	278 policemen and women continued to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps.
Number of persons resettled.	49 persons were resettled.
Level of support provided to refugee affected areas.	Only limited activities could be implemented due to funding constraints.

REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER 2002

All the original objectives for 2002 remain unchanged. However, UNHCR's planning figures as presented in the 2002 Global Appeal will need to be revised in light of the above developments.

Influxes in the first six months of 2002 totalled some 13,300 persons and the figure for facilitated repatriation reached some

16,850 persons. Both trends are lower than expected, and it is therefore believed that the average number of refugees requiring assistance during the last six months of the year will be higher than initially planned.

At the same time in June, the operational budgets for Tanzania had to be reduced by USD 1 million, thereby making it more difficult for UNHCR and its implementing partners to sustain adequate protection and assistance activities for the benefit of refugees.

Financial Data (USD)

Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds			
Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available	Obligation Level
24,718,192	29,113,914	14,283,001	14,098,820