

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

INITIAL OBJECTIVES

- Protect refugees and ensure their well-being by providing essential assistance and services while they remain in the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) and help them return home voluntarily by facilitating and, conditions permitting, promoting their voluntary repatriation.
- Maintain adequate emergency preparedness to respond to major refugee movements.
- Promote refugee law and help the Tanzanian authorities provide security in the refugee camps; ensure that the camps retain an exclusively civilian and humanitarian character and that they accommodate only those persons entitled to international protection.
- Ensure a comprehensive approach to sexual and gender-based violence through preventive measures, legal, medical and psychosocial support for the victims.
- Maintain the support and goodwill of the Tanzanian Government and people towards refugees and asylum-seekers by providing tangible benefits to the local population in areas affected by the presence of refugees.
- Continue to support the local integration of those refugees whom the Government has allowed to settle permanently.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS

Ongoing civil and political unrest in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) hindered voluntary repatriation to these countries and caused new influxes of refugees. Continuing inflows, particularly from Burundi, had brought the UNHCR-assisted refugee

population to 538,500 by the end of June 2001 (389,500 Burundian, 116,900 Congolese, 29,000 Rwandan and 3,100 Somali refugees). The population increase between January and June of 27,400 comprised 16,100 newly arrived refugees and 13,300 newborn babies. This increase was partly offset by a reduction attributable to repatriation (1,650), resettlement (320) and recorded death (700). Some 2,160 refugees were moved from villages into the camps during the first six months of the year (compared to some 9,560 during last year).

International attention to the Burundi and DRC peace processes increased in the first half of 2001. While the assumption of power in the DRC by Joseph Kabila has had a positive effect on the DRC peace process, its implications for the neighbouring countries Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania, are still unclear especially given the large refugee population in Tanzania.

As concerns the ongoing Burundi peace negotiations, little progress has been made since the signing of the peace accord in Arusha on 28 August 2000. After a regional summit in February 2001, the facilitator of the Burundi Peace Process, Nelson Mandela, visited Lukole refugee camp in Tanzania to inform the Burundian refugees about the result of the summit, which had been attended by most leaders from neighbouring countries. The visit was a highly significant event for the refugees, who turned out in tens of thousands. For them, it represented a rare opportunity to obtain firsthand information about the status of the peace talks. However, reports from Lukole camp indicated that Mr. Mandela's remarks were not well received by the refugees, who felt that they, and not the Government of Burundi, were being asked to compromise.

The main concern in the early part of the year was the shortage of food for refugees in Tanzania due to WFP food pipeline problems. The most serious incident that occurred in this connection took place in the Lugufu I camp where Congolese refugees boycotted the food distribution in March and demanded full rations. Subsequently, over 5,000 refugees left the camp on foot en route to Kigoma town. The police brought the situation under control within several days, and food distribution in the camp then resumed at the previous 80 per cent level. Contingency planning was hampered by the Government's reluctance to identify viable sites in western Tanzania for potential influxes from Burundi.

An unforeseen event at the beginning of the year was the flight of over 2,000 Tanzanians from the island of Pemba (Zanzibar) to Shimoni in Kenya. Their departure was precipitated by events linked to a demonstration on 26 and 27 January 2001, in which several persons were reportedly killed. Having received guarantees from the Government of Tanzania that, except for four persons, none of the others would be prosecuted for actions related to the demonstration, UNHCR organised the voluntary repatriation of 672 persons in mid-May 2001. In addition, some 1,000 Tanzanians have either repatriated spontaneously or settled in Kenya. It is expected that the voluntary return of approximately 500 remaining refugees will take place soon. During the visit of members of the Security Council in Tanzania, the Tanzanian President suggested that the Burundian refugees in Tanzania could return to "safe zones" in Burundi. UNHCR was, however, assured that there would be no forced returns and that any return would be in accordance with the tripartite agreement on voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees signed in May 2001.

As concerns the assistance programme for refugees in western Tanzania, the funding shortages at the beginning of the year forced UNHCR to reduce implementing partner budgets to 80 per cent. Whilst all life-

sustaining activities were implemented and minimum standards were maintained, especially in the health and water sectors, numerous activities were curtailed or cancelled (a planned eye-care programme, the construction of a vehicle workshop in Kasulu, repair of roads to way-stations). The procurement of trucks, vehicles, electronic-data-processing and water equipment, health education materials, and some emergency drugs had to be deferred. Furthermore, fuel allocations for partners were reduced to fifty per cent, and soap rations for beneficiaries were halved to 125 grammes per person per month.

In the meantime, UNHCR continued to pursue viable durable solutions for refugees in Tanzania; 1,657 were assisted to voluntarily repatriate, mainly to Rwanda (1,485 persons) and Burundi. Before leaving, the returning refugees were registered by UNHCR, provided with basic non-food items (plastic sheeting, blankets and kitchen utensils) and then transported to the Rusumo border crossing, from where UNHCR Rwanda arranged their onward journey to their home villages. For the remainder of the year, due to the closure of UNHCR's office in Kibungo, all parties have agreed that the UNHCR office in Ngara will transport Rwandan returnees to destinations close to the Tanzanian border. Allegations that "intimidators" were obstructing voluntary repatriation, particularly of Rwandans, have not been confirmed.

A total of 321 refugees, mainly from Burundi, were resettled in third countries. At the same time, the development of a new site was initiated in Chogo, where the Government granted land to Somali refugees for their local integration. A 12-kilometre access road was completed, 80 per cent of the residential plots (5,000 acres) as well as the water pipeline were surveyed, and preparatory work was started for a road network and water system. This included the procurement of pipes and fittings, excavation of 70 per cent of the trenches

needed as well as clearance of a bush area, four metres wide and 9.1 kilometres long.

UNHCR held several refugee law and policy workshops for the police, refugee leaders, implementing partners and UNHCR staff. Training for NGOs, refugee leaders, health and community services officials and others focused on legal procedures, rights and obligations relating to crimes of sexual and domestic violence. For victims of such crimes a standard medical protocol is being used in all the camps on a continuous basis.

The “Security Package”, which was designed to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps, has been in operation for nearly three years. As part of this package, 278 police (90 per cent of them from outside the regions of operation) are provided with allowances and accommodation. UNHCR also employs three international Field Safety Advisors. During the first half of 2001, several dozen suspected combatants were arrested, mostly in the border areas (not in the camps), and detained in a UNHCR-funded prison known as the “Mwisa Separation Facility”. The Government’s applied methods in locating, arresting and isolating suspected combatants have shown improvement compared to prior years. However, there have been reports of detainees being held beyond the legal limits and doubts as to whether or not some of them actually fit the criteria for which the separation facility was established. The problem of suspected combatants

absconding prior to being sent to Mwisa, due to cumbersome procedures, was partially resolved when the Ministry of Home Affairs recently delegated certain powers previously held by the Minister to the Regional Commissioners.

The key constraint on the promotion of refugee law was the fact that international instruments remain conditional upon the enactment of domestic legislation. In this context, UNHCR and the Ministry of Home Affairs are currently involved in discussions aimed at preparing amendments to the 1998 Refugee act in order to clarify the interpretation of certain stipulations contained in this act.

In the refugee affected areas, UNHCR provided benefits to local communities by constructing or rehabilitating selected schools, teachers’ houses and health centres, and improving water supply systems. In the Kagera region, UNHCR initiated the construction of a secondary school, the rehabilitation of two primary schools and a dispensary as well as the upgrading of the Ngara town water system. Furthermore, construction work on teachers’ houses for a secondary school in Biharamulo, where the Kitali Hills camp is situated, is underway. In the Kigoma region, assistance was rendered for the rehabilitation of the Lake Tanganyika stadium and the Peoples’ Development College in Kibondo.

Progress as measured against selected indicators

INDICATORS	PROGRESS
Good quality of assistance is provided to all refugee groups, including the newly arrived.	Ensured well organised care and maintenance assistance in all sectors, particularly food, health, primary education, water and community services.
Number of persons voluntarily repatriating.	A total of 1,657 refugees voluntarily repatriated, the majority to Rwanda (1,485 refugees).
Number of persons resettled.	321 refugees were resettled (178 Burundians, 124 Congolese and 19 Rwandans), mainly to Canada (260 persons).
Overall security is maintained in and around the refugee camps.	278 policemen and women continued to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps.
Level of support provided to refugee affected areas.	Construction/rehabilitation of health and education facilities initiated. Ngara water system being rehabilitated.

REVISED OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITY ACTIVITIES FOR JULY-DECEMBER

Most of the initial objectives remain valid for the second half of the year. Protection and assistance activities for all beneficiary groups will be continued, whereas large-scale voluntary repatriation will depend on significant political progress being achieved through the various national, regional and international initiatives currently underway. With regard to voluntary return to Burundi, UNHCR had originally hoped to repatriate some 75,000 refugees in the course of the year. Given the current situation in Burundi, however, planning figures have been revised downwards to 25,000 persons who will be

able to return to areas of relative stability. The remaining refugees will continue to depend on humanitarian assistance from UNHCR.

The Somali refugees are unlikely to move to the new Chogo settlement because of budgetary constraints, which caused delays in the infrastructure development at the Chogo settlement, before the end of the year. Implementation of other projects planned for refugee-affected areas were also post-phoned due to funding shortages. With the reinstatement of the 20 per cent budget that had previously been “frozen”, these activities will now be implemented in the second half of the year.

FINANCIAL DATA (USD)

	Initial Budget	Revised Budget	Total Funds Available¹	Total Funds Obligated
APB and TF	32,095,720	31,605,379	20,162,128	12,918,500

¹Includes income from unrestricted contributions, income from contributions restricted to the regional, sub-regional and/or country level, opening balance and adjustments.