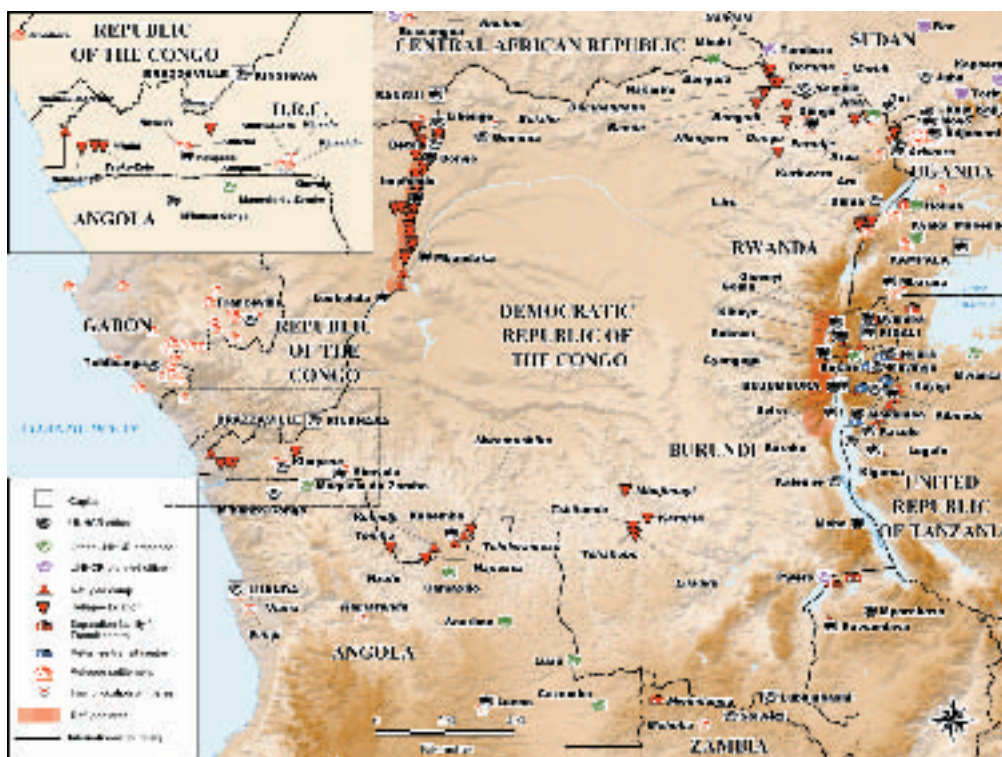


Democratic Republic of the Congo



self-reliance or local integration for those refugees who will not return.

- Strengthen the awareness of refugees and returnees on sexual and gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS and implement preventive measures.
- Support the rehabilitation of the environment in refugee camps and other areas formerly occupied by refugees.


Main objectives

- Facilitate the repatriation of Congolese refugees to those areas in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) deemed conducive for organized refugee return; assist spontaneous returnees upon arrival and ensure the sustainable reintegration of all returnees (refugees and internally displaced persons – IDPs) through conflict-sensitive, community-based, initial reintegration assistance.
- Build the capacity of national institutions and civil society organizations working with refugees and assist the Government in developing a national framework for the sustainable reintegration of returnees.
- Organize and facilitate the repatriation of Angolan, Burundian, Sudanese and Rwandan refugees and provide assistance conducive to

Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
Angola (refugees)	90,000	53,000
Returnees	63,500	123,300
Rwanda (refugees)	50,000	40,000
Other (refugees)	40,000	35,000
Sudan (refugees)	13,520	3,520
Asylum-seekers	150	100
Total	257,170	254,920

Note: In addition, an estimated 400,000 returnee IDPs in the country are in need of protection and assistance.

Total requirements: USD 72,882,298



Brigitt Demba, who returned home in May 2005, washes her baby daughter at their home in Mawuya village. *UNHCR / J. Ose*

Working environment

Recent developments

The process of transition in DRC has reached the final stage, with elections for a permanent government in sight, albeit postponed from June 2005 to the first half of 2006. This postponement extended the transition process put in place by the 2002 Sun City Accords, which, together with a series of other agreements, brought almost all parties to the Congolese war into one Transitional Government. In June 2005, voter registration for the forthcoming elections began in several provinces, including some that are hosting refugees, such as Bas-Congo, and others to which refugees are returning, such as South Kivu. UNHCR has noted that the electoral process is leading to increased numbers of returnees, as many refugees wish to participate in the forthcoming elections.

With the adoption of key legislation, much progress has already been made towards instituting the rule of law in the DRC. The draft text of the constitution has been adopted by Parliament and a referendum is scheduled for late 2005. The

Nationality Law adopted in November 2004 helped significantly to create an environment conducive to refugee return and reintegration, in particular in the eastern part of the country. Unfortunately the amnesty law is still pending, as the debate around this issue has raised complex and potentially controversial questions.

Since 1999, the deployment of the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) has contributed to the maintenance of peace in the country (working in collaboration with the national army). In 2005, the UN Security Council authorized the expansion of MONUC by 5,900 to more than 16,500 troops, and increased the ceiling for military police, enabling the deployment of additional troops to eastern DRC. MONUC is authorized to use all necessary means to reinforce peace and indeed since the end of March 2005 has made significant headway in securing this troubled region.

Constraints

It is probable that political campaigning in the run-up to elections in 2006 will be accompanied by heightened tensions. Issues such as refugee

return to DRC risk being politicized and humanitarian issues might be drawn into the electoral debate. By mid-October 2005, following voter registration in nine out of eleven DRC provinces, more than 15 million people were estimated by the DRC Independent Electoral Commission to have been registered to vote, out of 26 million potential voters. Registration has been slower than expected, particularly in rural areas. This might lead to further delays in the electoral process.

The security situation in DRC has improved in many areas, despite persistent pockets of insecurity. North and South Kivu provinces continue to be affected by the presence of the *Front démocratique pour la libération du Rwanda* (FDLR), a renegade Rwandan militia group, in addition to elements of Mayi-Mayi militia, who have not yet fully integrated into the national army. Local populations in Equateur province, in particular the Imese/Buburu area, have complained of harassment by the military. The Ituri region remains plagued by several local militia groups, although the disarmament programme has made significant progress.

The killing of nine MONUC peacekeepers in the Ituri region in February 2005 constituted the most violent incident since the establishment of the mission in 1999. MONUC reacted by implementing its mandate to reinforce peace more proactively, launching search and cordon operations against militia groups, not only in Ituri, but also in the Kivus against the FDLR. Although these operations are likely to increase stability in the medium-term, they could lead to localized insecurity and internal displacement in the short-term.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

With regard to the return of Congolese refugees to DRC, the main protection strategy will be to establish a returnee monitoring system in cooperation with a range of partners, including Government authorities, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as local and international

NGOs. Through this monitoring system, obstacles to return and reintegration will be identified and addressed. UNHCR will contribute to the establishment of local conflict-resolution mechanisms in return areas. The number of qualified protection staff in return areas will be reinforced to accompany returnees in the reintegration process. A robust protection presence will be important to identify and address problems returnees face upon return, including sexual and gender-based violence.

UNHCR will continue capacity-building measures for national institutions dealing with refugee issues, such as the inter-ministerial National Commission for Refugees (CNR), the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry of Human Rights. Key issues for capacity building include knowledge of refugee rights and asylum procedures, adoption of a national reintegration strategy for displaced populations and the principles of refugee return in safety and dignity. UNHCR will support the conclusion and implementation of tripartite agreements on refugee return between UNHCR, DRC and countries hosting Congolese refugees and the countries of origin of those refugees hosted by the DRC respectively.

In close collaboration with the Government, UNHCR will initially start providing urban refugees with identity documents, with a view to expanding the activity for all recognized refugees hosted in the DRC. A registration exercise is to be conducted in late 2005 to identify the number of spontaneously settled Angolan refugees. In 2006, once the results are known, UNHCR will facilitate their return to their home country. For the 13,520 Sudanese refugees living in north-eastern DRC, a registration campaign is under way to identify those who wish to return.

UNHCR will also bring to the UN Country Team its expertise in assisting internally displaced populations and putting in place adequate mechanisms for voluntary return in safety and dignity. In the collaborative response to internal displacement, UNHCR will propose activities for 2006 appropriate to the DRC context and overall policy guidance in the areas of protection, camp coordination and management, and emergency shelter.

Assistance

The assistance programme for refugees hosted by the DRC will continue to focus on repatriation assistance for Angolans, Burundians, Sudanese and Rwandans and achieving self-reliance in the local integration process for those who opt to remain. Essential humanitarian assistance will be provided to Sudanese and Angolan camp-based refugees until durable solutions have been achieved. The programme will also focus on developing responsible environmental management practices and rehabilitating refugee-impacted areas. For urban-based refugees, UNHCR will collaborate with a network of specialized NGOs to implement targeted interventions using micro-credit to encourage self-reliance.

Under the facilitated repatriation programme for Congolese refugees in the Central African Republic, the Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Tanzania, UNHCR will intervene in three main areas. First, cross-border return movements in safety and dignity will be organized, including the provision of repatriation documentation, medical screening, transport by boat and by truck and the provision of a return package in transit centres in DRC. Second, a community-based initial reintegration programme will ensure that immediate needs are addressed, such as shelter, access to health and education services and income generation. UNHCR will adopt a conflict-sensitive approach in all interventions, ensuring the inclusion of local communities in initial reintegration projects. The objective is to meet the most urgent reintegration needs and to narrow gaps in the transition from humanitarian to development interventions. Third, the implementation of the returnee monitoring system and community services projects will contribute to ensuring respect for returnees' rights. Special projects will be implemented in eastern DRC on conflict prevention, awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS, SGBV and mines, through village theatre, small community grants and the production and broadcast of radio programmes. Spontaneous returnees will be eligible for the same assistance as returnees upon arrival in the DRC. In order to enable them to make an informed decision on their voluntary return, refugees will receive objective and neutral

information on their areas of origin through mass information campaigns.

Key partnerships with agencies of the UN system will be intensified through the conclusion of MOUs and joint programming. Cooperation with WFP will ensure the provision of food rations to refugees hosted by the DRC and to Congolese returnees. UNICEF, FAO and UNDP will be key partners in ensuring the sustainability of refugee return through the implementation of complementary development oriented projects in refugee return areas.

Desired impact

Some 123,300 Congolese refugees are expected to return to the DRC either under UNHCR's voluntary repatriation programme or as spontaneous returnees to areas which have not yet been deemed conducive to organized return. The desired impact is that return is sustainable and that there are no secondary displacement movements. It is assumed that some 22,000 Angolan refugees hosted in the Bandundu and Bas-Congo provinces, 10,000 Rwandan refugees based in North and South Kivu, 10,000 Sudanese refugees from the Oriental province and 5,000 Burundian refugees will return to their home countries. Some 15,000 Angolan refugees who cannot or do not want to return will locally integrate in the DRC and become self-sufficient.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

338 staff members – 58 international, 262 national and 18 UNVs will implement UNHCR's programmes in 2006, a large number of whom will be involved in the ongoing repatriation and reintegration operation. UNHCR will maintain its main office in Kinshasa and will be supported by 19 field offices and one field presence. The expansion of the office structure will be conducted in a flexible manner in response to new

needs in refugee return areas. UNHCR will make good its commitment to support the UN country team with assistance to IDPs subject to the availability of additional resources.

Coordination

CNR is UNHCR's key counterpart in the DRC Transition Government. All issues relating to refugee return and asylum are addressed in close collaboration with CNR's central office in Kinshasa and the CNR field offices in the provinces. In addition, UNHCR regularly consults with a range of ministries, in particular the Ministry of the Interior, and senior officials in the Transition Government.

UNHCR will participate fully in all national and local UN Country Team coordination mechanisms. In the spirit of the integrated UN mission in the DRC, UNHCR will closely collaborate with the Humanitarian Coordinator and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) of MONUC. Humanitarian coordination takes place in the framework of the Humanitarian Advocacy Group. UNHCR and UNDP are jointly chairing the inter-agency working group on reintegration, which is tasked with developing an overall reintegration strategy for all concerned beneficiary groups, including returning refugees and IDPs, and ex-combatants.

Inter-agency needs assessment missions form the basis of planning for humanitarian assistance and UNHCR has taken the lead in facilitating this process in the provinces of Equateur, Bandundu and Bas Congo. All UNHCR budgets form part of the 2006 Action Plan for the DRC, which will replace the Consolidated Appeal. UNHCR extends its full support to implementing the Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative and the multi-donor pool fund for the DRC to be managed by the Humanitarian Coordinator.

Offices

Kinshasa

Aba
Aru
Baraka
Bukavu
Bunia
Dongo
Dungu
Gemena
Goma
Kahemba
Kalemie
Kimpese
Kimvula
Libenge
Lubumbashi
Mbandaka
Moba
Pweto
Uvira

Partners

Government agencies

Gouvernorat du Nord-Kivu
Ministry of the Interior
Ministry of Human Rights
National Commission for Refugees

NGOs

Action humanitaire Afrique
Actions et interventions pour le développement et l'encadrement social
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development
Association pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement
Atlas Logistique
Caritas Katanga
Catholic Relief Services
Comité de développement intégré
Danish Church Aid
Encadrement des réfugiés urbains
Mine Action Group
Oxfam (Quebec)
Regroupement des institutions du système de financement décentralisé du Congo
Search for Common Ground
Solidarité des femmes de Fizi pour le bien-être familial

Others*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische
Zusammenarbeit*

FAO

UNDP

UNICEF

UNHCHR

WFP

Budget (USD)			
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget¹	Total
Protection, monitoring and coordination	6,850,443	22,650,729	29,501,172
Community services	400,244	1,200,000	1,600,244
Crop production	36,106	600,000	636,106
Domestic needs	319,348	1,000,000	1,319,348
Education	285,630	2,200,000	2,485,630
Food	40,000	65,000	105,000
Forestry	73,526	200,000	273,526
Health	414,000	3,500,000	3,914,000
Income generation	110,000	1,000,000	1,110,000
Legal assistance	551,718	3,000,000	3,551,718
Operational support (to agencies)	1,129,744	3,780,000	4,909,744
Sanitation	61,520	350,000	411,520
Shelter/other infrastructure	157,660	7,000,000	7,157,660
Transport/logistics	1,917,753	6,000,000	7,917,753
Water	26,000	2,000,000	2,026,000
Total operations	12,373,692	54,545,729	66,919,421
Programme support	5,962,877	0	5,962,877
Total	18,336,569	54,545,729	72,882,298

¹ The figures refer to the supplementary programme for the repatriation and reintegration of Congolese (DRC) refugees.

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget does not include a 7% support cost (USD 3,818,201) that is recovered from each contribution received to meet indirect costs in UNHCR (field and headquarters).