

Kenya

Main Objectives

- Ensure safe and dignified asylum for all refugees.
- Facilitate and promote repatriation if conditions are conducive.
- Preserve minimum living standards and ensure that refugees have access to essential services.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

Prior to 1991, Kenya hosted a relatively small population of urban refugees. The fall of the Somali and Ethiopian regimes in 1991 led to a large-scale influx of refugees into Kenya and neighbouring countries, and resulted in the establishment of 15 refugee camps to accommodate over 420,000 refugees who had arrived in the country by December 1992.

UNHCR today cares for 213,050 refugees living mainly in two camps in Kenya: Dadaab in the north-east (Garissa district) and Kakuma in the north-west (Turkana district). In Dadaab, the majority of refugees are Somalis (129,800) and in Kakuma they are mainly Sudanese (70,000). The majority of the Somali refugees originate from southern Somalia (Lower Juba, Middle Juba and Gedo regions) and the Sudanese refugees from southern Sudan (Bahr el Ghazal, Eastern Equatoria, Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, and Upper Nile).

In 2001 UNHCR experienced a number of new refugee inflows to Kenya:

Tanzanian Refugees: In late January 2001, there was an influx of Tanzanian refugees from Pemba Island into Kenya, following political disturbances on the island. The refugees were temporarily hosted in Shimoni for a period of three and a half months, and assistance was provided directly by UNHCR. In May, 667 of them were repatriated and 505 relocated to Dadaab refugee camp. Another group of 44 was repatriated by the end of August 2001. In September, some 100 of these refugees were found to have moved to Somalia where their repatriation back to Tanzania is being negotiated with both local authorities.



PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002
Somali Refugees	129,800	123,400
Sudanese Refugees	70,000	83,240
Ethiopian Refugees	5,600	4,454
Ugandan Refugees	5,378	5,190
Other Refugees	3,418	3,500
Total	213,050¹	220,930

¹ Of which, 8,363 urban refugees are assisted by UNHCR.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 18,150,731

Ethiopian Refugees: Following the police crackdown on the university students' demonstration in Addis Ababa, in mid-June 2001, a number of university students and military per-

sonnel fled to Kenya. This group, of some 253 to date, is likely to remain in Kenya in 2002. In addition, there are some indications that a significant number of Ethiopians may seek asylum and assistance in Kenya next year.

Somali Refugees: In March 2001, there was an influx of Somali refugees from Bula Hawa (south-west Somalia) to the border town of Mandera (north-east Kenya). Initially, there were more than 17,000 persons, 10,000 of whom repatriated spontaneously. Later, 3,800 others were assisted by UNHCR Kenya to return home. There is still a residual group of about 5,000 Somali refugees in Mandera in need of assistance.

Sudanese Refugees: The continued conflict in southern Sudan has caused a constant influx of Sudanese refugees to Kakuma camp. The rate of the influx is about 1,000 refugees a month. From January 2002 to December 2002, there is likely to be a population increase of about 12,000 people in Kakuma refugee camp.

Constraints

The refugee camps are located in semi-arid areas with a hot, dry climate and without surface water. The meagre natural resources available in these areas can barely sustain the local nomadic population. The confinement of refugees in these camps, to date with the very poor resource base in and around the camps, constitute serious constraints to any efforts towards building self-sufficiency.

Organising voluntary repatriation of Kenyan refugees. *UNHCR/P. Stromberg.*

The security in and around the camps is also precarious and unpredictable, with occasional hostile interaction between refugees and the local population, and the potential for further deterioration. This is putting at-risk refugees, NGO and UNHCR staff working in the camps.

Options for durable solutions for refugees are quite limited. Possibilities for local integration are almost non-existent, (limited freedom of movement, access to resources, markets and employment opportunities). Prospects for repatriation are remote as there are continuing conflicts in the countries of origin of the refugees. The opportunities for resettlement, in relation to the needs, are also quite limited in the foreseeable future.

Since 1999, funding shortfalls have resulted in certain essential needs of the refugees being left unmet. The prioritization exercise deeply affected important sectors such as education, vocational training, and income-generating activities, which are geared towards self-reliance and preparation for repatriation. Other sectors such as shelter have not been implemented in a significant and tangible manner. The current funding shortfall will again have an impact on the quality of services to be delivered to the refugees and is likely to further affect the living conditions of the refugees in the camps, resulting in insecurity.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

UNHCR co-operates with the Government of Kenya in providing safe asylum for refugees by guaranteeing their legal protection and physical security, as well as an adequate



level of assistance, while actively seizing every opportunity for durable solutions.

The enactment of National Refugee Legislation by the Parliament is still pending. This combined with the financial limitations of the Government Eligibility Commission, have meant that the legal framework for implementation of a refugee assistance programme in Kenya remains fragile at present. UNHCR will thus continue to be actively involved in the refugee status determination process; promoting refugee legislation and the issuance of refugee identity cards; and assisting Kenyan authorities to gain a better and wider understanding of UNHCR's mandate and international protection principles, in order to improve the safety and security of the refugees.

The bulk of the refugees live in rural camps in semi-arid conditions, where there is much insecurity caused by armed banditry. UNHCR will therefore work in close collaboration with the Government of Kenya to maintain essential services under care and maintenance, while seeking ways to improve the overall security conditions affecting the refugees and staff in the field.

Assistance

Since there are almost no possibilities for local integration, few prospects for repatriation and limited opportunities for resettlement, the refugees in Kenya rely solely on UNHCR for protection and material assistance.

Since the establishment of the Dadaab and Kakuma camps in 1991, most of UNHCR's assistance has been aimed at meeting the basic needs of the refugees and ensuring their physical well-being. In order to find ways to unblock the protracted nature of the refugee programme and to promote cost-effectiveness, as well as enhance the dignity and psychological well-being of refugees, in 2002, UNHCR Kenya will pursue activities that:

- enhance refugee self-reliance and self-management;
- empower refugees economically, to the extent possible;
- improve security and psychological well-being in the camps; and
- seize opportunities to repatriate refugees to secure areas in the countries of origin.

Thus, more emphasis will be given to income-generating activities, refugee employment, community development, education, vocational training, reproductive health, and reduction of sexual and gender-based violence. UNHCR will seek to identify and promote durable solutions for refugees in Kenya through facilitation and promotion of voluntary repatriation where possible, and resettlement to third countries when appropriate.

Enhanced protection and assistance to refugee women through the implementation of relevant guidelines will continue to be

a major focus in the year 2002. Emphasis will be put on strengthening the existing protection and assistance structures already established in the camps, with the refugee community being the key players.

Existing programmes aimed at ensuring protection and general well-being of refugee children will continue to be implemented with the refugee children's involvement.

Environmental concerns will be integrated into all aspects of the programme in a move to mitigate problems associated with the long presence of large numbers of refugees in the host areas. The objective for 2002 will be to re-orient the ongoing environmental management activities in support of more participatory involvement of the refugees; promotion of income-generating activities; capacity-building and intensified education/awareness development.

Desired Impact

In view of the limited options that exist for durable solutions for refugees in Kenya, it is anticipated that the large majority of camp-based refugees will continue to be dependent on international assistance. It is hoped that by enhancing income-generating opportunities, some refugees will be able to cover some of their own needs as a complement to what is offered by UNHCR.

Refugees, who meet the criteria for resettlement, will benefit from this durable solution according to available quotas allocated by countries which avail this facility. UNHCR will work assiduously towards setting up systems and procedures that will facilitate transparent resettlement.

UNHCR is seeking strong partnerships by sensitising and encouraging implementing partners to obtain additional funds and assume full responsibility for some components of the programme. A process of joint planning, monitoring and reporting of programme activities will be pursued and UNHCR will play a central role in the co-ordination of all operational activities to ensure that refugees receive optimal benefits.

Prospects for the adoption of and implementation a National Refugee Act are likely to materialise in 2002. UNHCR will thus play its traditional role of providing guidance to the Government of Kenya in refugee status determination. The project for the issuance of refugee identity cards will be revitalised and completed.

Despite the limited scope for repatriation, UNHCR will assist refugees who voluntarily decide to return to their homes, after providing them with the necessary counselling.

Efforts will be made to further scale down the provision of assistance to urban refugees where it is proven that they have attained some level of self-sufficiency.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

In 2002, the programme will be supported by 30 professional, four UNVs, four JPOs and 117 national staff.

Co-ordination

UNHCR Kenya will continue to participate in regional policy and strategy setting meetings concerning Somali, and Sudanese refugees, and will closely liaise with other offices in the region who are providing assistance and protection to the same caseload, thus maintaining the integrity of the situational approach adopted in the region since 1999. Furthermore, the country office will maintain close co-ordination with other offices in the region with regard to repatriation of refugees from Kenya, where applicable. UNHCR will also closely liaise with Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), the UN umbrella organisation assisting the internally displaced persons in southern Sudan with the aim of creating information networks and reinforcement mechanisms for early warning and emergency preparedness and response capacity. This co-ordination will also assist in planning for eventual repatriation.

UNHCR will continue to work closely with other United Nations agencies, including WFP, UNICEF and UNESCO-PEER in order to assure the provision of food, water in and around the refugee camps, and to support the environmental education programme in the refugee camps. Similarly, UNHCR will continue to be involved in the UNDAF process, thereby ensuring that refugee matters are reflected to the extent possible, in the various development agenda.

UNHCR's programme is implemented by 16 partners (11 NGOs, three UN agencies, one Government agency and one independent agency) in the camps and in Nairobi. UNHCR will continue to co-ordinate and monitor implementation, assess the performance of implementing agencies, train implementing agency and Government staff in selected fields and adjust implementing arrangements so as to improve the overall delivery of programmes to refugees. UNHCR, together with the Government and NGOs, will plan the refugee assistance programme and seek donor support for its implementation.

PARTNERS

Government Agency
National Refugee Secretariat
NGOs
African Refugee Training and Employment Services
African Rehabilitation and Educational Programme
CARE International (Kenya)
GOAL (Kenya)
Handicap International
International Rescue Committee
Lutheran World Federation
<i>Médecins sans Frontières</i> (Belgium)
National Council of Churches of Kenya
World Vision (Kenya)
Others
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
IOM
UNESCO
UNICEF
WFP

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,640,827
Community Services	498,831
Crop Production	47,557
Domestic Needs	1,549,057
Education	1,518,571
Food	379,414
Forestry	152,183
Health	2,039,736
Income Generation	285,408
Legal Assistance	952,055
Livestock	72,104
Operational Support (to Agencies)	2,912,246
Sanitation	139,582
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	407,732
Transport/Logistics	1,289,764
Water	784,360
Total Operations	14,669,427
Programme Support	3,481,304
Total	18,150,731

OFFICES

Nairobi

Dadaab

Kakuma