

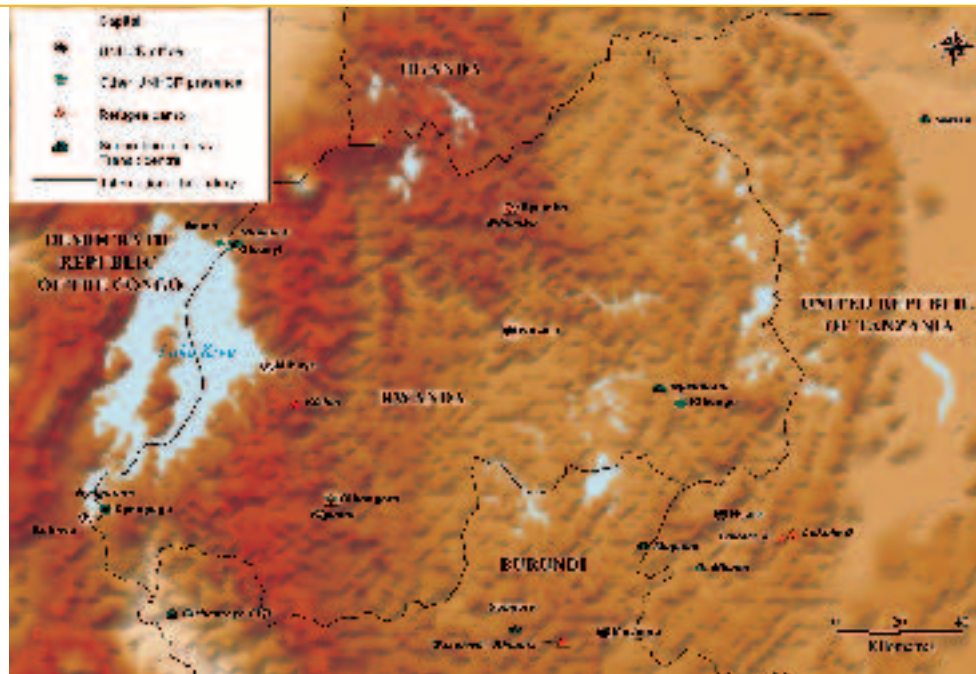
# Rwanda

## Main objectives

Continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees from neighbouring countries and provide onward transportation to points close to their final destination; monitor returnees in their communities of origin to ensure safety and dignity of voluntary return; promote reconciliation and co-existence under the Imagine Co-existence Project in Rwanda with a focus on women and children, in order to maintain the conditions conducive to sustainable return; assist the Government of Rwanda in implementing the new rights-based refugee law and in building the capacity for refugee and returnee management; continue to provide protection and basic assistance to refugees from neighbouring countries and elsewhere in Africa; increase awareness among refugees on HIV/AIDS and gender-based violence; prevent environmental degradation in refugee areas.

## Impact

- In general, the protection and assistance needs of refugees were met, except from August 2002 when the Government forcibly returned Congolese to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and imposed restrictions on the delivery of certain types of assistance such as firewood.
- Returnees numbered 38,100 mostly from the DRC and the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania).
- UNHCR provided technical assistance to the Government for the drafting of the Regulations for the National Refugee Council, and training for government personnel.
- An Inter-Agency Task Force on Sexual Exploitation was established. There was agreement on the need for codes of conduct for humanitarian agencies, and the publication of an information pamphlet on sexual exploitation.



- Over one million trees were planted in a drive to promote reforestation in refugee-impacted areas.

## Working environment

### The context

2002 was supposed to be the penultimate year of the current regime's transitional period but the draft Constitution has still not been presented to the electorate for approval in a referendum and presidential and parliamentary elections have been postponed to November 2003. Restrictions on freedom of expression remained in place. The Government of Rwanda withdrew its troops from the DRC but at the same time, relations with Uganda continued to worsen. Internal security improved and the *gacaca* traditional courts began to operate. While the Government devised a poverty reduction strategy paper, poverty remained widespread throughout the country, with an estimated 8.1 million people living below the poverty line.

### Constraints

The problem of inadequate shelter for refugees and returnees remained of great concern. UNHCR

phased out its monitoring and reduced its reintegration activities for returnees. At the same time, the Office is hoping to identify a development partner to take over these vital areas. Despite UNHCR having chaired the UNDAF Task Force on Resettlement Activities, nothing was accomplished in 2002, in terms of improving access to shelter or to land. At the end of 2002, UNHCR faced a backlog of some 500 claims for refugee status. Government forces were allegedly responsible for the forced repatriation between August and October, of some 10,000 Congolese refugees from the Kiziba and Gihembe camps. The Office negotiated at length with the authorities in Kigali, and following the mission of a senior UNHCR staff to Rwanda, the forced repatriations slowed. The Rwandan authorities have insisted that the inhabitants of Gihembe camp should be relocated and the camp closed. Accordingly, no new construction been allowed in Gihembe. The Government suggested that Kiziba could absorb the 13,000 refugees currently housed at Gihembe.

## Funding

The overall funding situation was generally positive, and there was sufficient funds to cover 90 per cent of the operational needs of the country programme, but reintegration and other activities for Rwandan returnees could not be undertaken.

## Achievements and impact

### Protection and solutions

#### Refugees

Several Congolese refugees were detained during 2002, for "crimes" ranging from tree cutting to refusal to move out of camps in accordance with the directives of the authorities. Urban refugees were also regularly detained for police investigations.

Refugee girls have been victims of a traditional marital practice called "rapt", whereby a suitor kidnaps a girl, rapes her, and then asks her family for her hand in marriage. This is explained as an option for suitors who do not have the money to pay for a bride's dowry, as it forces the girl's family into accepting the marriage proposal. Although this practice is against Rwandan law, it continues. During sensitisation sessions, efforts have been undertaken to inform the refugees of the law and the illegality of such a practice.

By the end of the year, the Rwandan authorities had stopped the forcible returns of Congolese refugees to DRC after the intervention of UNHCR and some members of the donor community.

#### Asylum-seekers

The office received 783 requests for asylum in 2002, mainly Burundians and Congolese. Given the in-

### Persons of Concern

Main Origin / Type of Population	Total In Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
DRC (Refugees)	29,300	29,300	58	62
Tanzania (Refugees)	23,800	23,800	-	-
Returnees (from DRC)	14,300	14,300	-	-
Asylum-seekers	1,580	1,580	45	55
Burundi (Refugees)	1,550	1,550	40	46

### Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds

Revised Budget	Income from Contributions <sup>1</sup>	Other Funds Available <sup>2</sup>	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
7,930,821	2,305,433	4,788,207	7,093,640	7,074,213

<sup>1</sup> Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

<sup>2</sup> Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments. The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.



A returnee woman in Gisenyi. UNHCR / R. Chalasani

creasing number of asylum-seekers and the limited resources available to the Office, UNHCR could not proceed with planned RSD.

### Returnees

Rwanda has made the return of its citizens from neighbouring countries a top priority. In 2002, UNHCR repatriated 38,145 Rwandans - the majority from Tanzania (23,800) and the DRC (14,266). The repatriation from Tanzania took place under the auspices of a tripartite commission. It is foreseen that more tripartite arrangements will be signed with other countries in the region.

The demobilisation process began in October 2002, and is part of a strategy to bring Rwandans home. So far, a relatively small number of ex-combatants and civilian dependants have benefited from the process, which involves a six-week "re-education" or "solidarity" camp, run by the Rwandan authorities.

Due to a lack of personnel, the Office was not able to carry out any substantial monitoring activities in 2002. The major problem faced by the returnees, and Rwandans generally, was widespread poverty, which makes it difficult for families to provide for their basic needs.

### Durable solutions

Resettlement remains the most suitable solution for the majority of refugees. Severe land shortages and poverty make local reintegration impracticable for many, and on-going conflicts in Burundi and DRC make repatriation equally difficult. A substantial number of resettlement cases were identified among the urban refugee groups and in Kiziba and Kigeme camps. These cases were prepared for submission to USA, Canada, Australia, Norway and Sweden. The Office will continue to pursue resettlement activities in 2003.

## Activities and assistance

### Refugees

Material assistance was provided to 29,802 refugees, of whom 28,270 were Congolese, 532 Burundians, and 1,000 urban refugees and asylum-seekers of various nationalities.

**Community services:** Vocational training and literacy activities were organised and small-scale income-

generation opportunities explored for those in the camps. Food and non-food items were distributed to 1,000 vulnerable urban refugees in Kigali, while some 484 refugees received training in sewing, weaving, crochet, carpentry, embroidery, tailoring, masonry, mechanics and shoemaking.

**Crop production:** UNHCR supplied various agricultural implements as well as fertilisers and seeds to returnees. Financial support was given to assist some refugee households in their farming endeavours.

**Domestic needs/household support:** Non-food items including blankets, soap, plastic mats, plastic sheeting, jerry cans, sleeping mats and kitchen sets were provided to needy refugees and new arrivals in the camps. Firewood was also distributed to refugees in the camps. Improved cooking stoves were purchased and distributed to 3,500 families in the Congolese refugee camps. Sanitary materials were distributed to women.

**Education:** Basic primary education was provided for over 8,400 Congolese refugee children in Gihembe and Kiziba camps and 167 Burundian refugee children based in Kigeme camp. Secondary education assistance was provided for over 4,200 Congolese refugees. DAFI scholarships to the National University of Butare were awarded to 17 eligible candidates.

**Food:** In addition to the ration provided by WFP, fresh vegetables and fruit were provided to refugees in camps and towns. Special emphasis was placed on the needs of vulnerable refugees such as pregnant women, breastfeeding mothers, children under five, the elderly and hospitalised refugees.

**Forestry:** Reforestation activities continued in 2002. Local communities were encouraged to participate in awareness raising on environmental issues undertaken simultaneously for them and the refugees. Over two million plants were raised, of which some one million were planted in and around the refugee camps, covering 1,079 hectares in Byumba province and 965 hectares in Kibuye province.

**Health/nutrition:** Preventive and curative health care services were delivered to the camp-based refugees and to urban refugees. Cases requiring

special treatment were referred to local hospitals. Over 77,000 consultations were held at the health centres in the refugee camps, of which some 1,500 resulted in referrals to national hospitals. 586 cases of sexually transmitted diseases in Kiziba, and 83 in Gihembe camp, were detected and treated. Refugees were encouraged to take HIV tests and counselling was provided. Of 69 refugees tested, 36 were HIV-positive, most of them women. Over 1,100 births were recorded and 76 deaths were reported. The main causes of death were malaria, respiratory tract infection, and diarrhoea.

Programmes concentrated on major causes of mortality and morbidity in the camps, personal and environmental hygiene, nutrition, STD, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, proper use of sanitation facilities and vaccination. However, the response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic was inadequate due to lack of funding. There was a shortage of condoms in the camps after April 2002.

**Income generation:** Small-scale income-generating activities were supported. In Gihembe camp, 10 associations with 67 members received support for small business activities. In Kigali, 40 vulnerable refugee women were given financial assistance. In Kigeme camp, six groups of 30 women received support. The demand for small business assistance is relatively high, both in the refugee camps and in Kigali.

**Sanitation:** Hygiene was maintained in the refugee camps through the construction and rehabilitation of latrines, showers, garbage disposal pits, and the management, cleaning and maintenance of public areas. The target of one latrine for 20 people has not yet been reached in all camps - the current ratio is 1:25. However, in Byumba camp, the ratio is 1:19.

**Shelter/other infrastructure:** Rehabilitation/maintenance of existing infrastructure continued in the camps throughout 2002. To alleviate overcrowding, more than 3,000 shelters were constructed in Gihembe and Kiziba camps, using local materials. However, at the time of the forced repatriation of Congolese refugees in August and September over 1,190 houses and other common infrastructure in Gihembe refugee camp were completely destroyed.

**Transport/logistics:** Firewood, plastic sheeting, plastic mats, blankets, jerry-cans and soap were

transported and distributed to refugees in Kiziba, Gihembe and Kigeme camps on a regular basis. An implementing partner maintained and managed the UNHCR light vehicle and heavy-duty vehicle fleets. Water was tankered to Gihembe camp by GTZ.

**Water:** An average of 12 to 20 litres of potable water per refugee, per day, was made available through a piped water system to Gihembe and Kiziba camps. In addition, UNHCR tankered water to Gihembe camps on a daily basis to meet the standard level of water distribution.

### Returnees

During the reporting period, 38,145 persons were repatriated under the auspices of UNHCR through the Transit Centres of Nyagatare (Cyangugu), Nkamira (Gisenyi), Nyakarambi (Kibungo), and Kanombe Airport (Kigali).

**Community services:** "Imagine Co-existence", the pilot project to promote co-existence between refugees and local communities, came to an end in June 2002. During the last six months of the year, regular meetings on co-existence were organised and a co-existence network was set up and coordinated by UNHCR. Through this project, grants were provided to support four local groups for women and youths in Butare province. The Co-existence Network was handed over to Care International.

**Domestic needs/household support:** Plastic sheeting, blankets, jerry cans and soap were distributed to returnees upon arrival. Firewood was also distributed to returnees staying at transit centres for more than a week.

**Health/nutrition:** Generally, the returnees were in good health. Medical assistance was provided to returnees at the Nyagatare, Nkamira, and Nyakarambi transit centres. All serious medical cases were referred to main hospitals.

**Legal assistance:** UNHCR ensured smooth reintegration of returnees and worked closely with the Government in creating conditions conducive to return. For those returning from Tanzania, hoes and seeds were distributed at Nyakarambi Transit Centre, in addition to the regular repatriation package.

Monitoring was conducted through the Joint Commission for Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (JCRRR), the Ministry of Local Government and Social Affairs (MINALOC), and the National Commission on Unity and Reconciliation.

**Operational support (to agencies):** Operational support was provided to the Government, NGOs and other associations to ensure smooth implementation of projects benefiting returnees. Financial support was also provided for the tripartite meetings to promote the voluntary return of Rwandan refugees in neighbouring and other African countries of asylum, as well as for participation of Rwandan representatives in ExCom.

**Sanitation:** Sanitation facilities in the transit centres such as latrines, showers, and garbage disposal pits were cleaned on a daily basis.

**Shelter/other infrastructure:** All facilities were maintained and regularly rehabilitated in order to accommodate returnees for at least 48 hours before their onward transportation to their communities of origin. Facilities for receiving returnees from Tanzania were constructed and maintained at the Nyakarambi Transit Centre.

**Transport/logistics:** Returnees arrived from three different border entry points (Gisenyi, Cyangugu, and Kibungo) and were assisted with transportation to twelve different provinces. A major implementing partner, and UNHCR maintained direct responsibility for the transport of relief items from the airport to warehouses in Kigali and other warehouses throughout the country.

**Water:** The water systems in the transit centres (Nyagatare, Nkamira and Nyakarambi) were maintained on a regular basis.

## Organisation and implementation

### Management

UNHCR maintained a branch office in Kigali, with field offices in Byumba, Kibuye and antenna (subsidiary) offices in Gikongoro, Cyangugu, Gisenyi, and Kibungo.

In Kigali, there were seven international staff, 18 general services staff, three national officers, and five UNVs.

### Working with others

In 2002, UNHCR provided funding to seven implementing partners including five international NGOs.

## Overall assessment

Rwanda remained stable despite the fact that it is surrounded by countries in conflict. Contingency planning for potential large population displacement cannot be neglected. In Rwanda, relations with government authorities can be unpredictable, ranging from confrontation (during the forced return of Congolese refugees, with the expulsion of UNHCR officials), to close co-operation (during Tripartite Meetings and repatriation operations). Continuous capacity-building efforts should be maintained as a vital prerequisite to any responsible exit strategy.

Offices
Kigali
Byumba
Cyangugu
Gikongoro
Gisenyi
Kibungo
Kibuye

Partners
<b>Government Agencies</b>
Joint Commission for Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration
Ministry of Local Government and Social Affairs (MINALOC)
<b>NGOs</b>
African Humanitarian Action
American Refugee Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Norwegian People's Aid
<b>Others</b>
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
UN Country Team

## Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure Breakdown	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds			
	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,420,303		64,450	
Community Services	66,293		226,964	
Crop Production	14,255		0	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	115,851		57,403	
Education	166,876		577,860	
Food	32,773		11,912	
Forestry	39,436		4,369	
Health / Nutrition	298,248		200,722	
Income Generation	21,828		39,353	
Legal Assistance	68,132		194,208	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	483,649		642,981	
Sanitation	99,072		156,510	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	122,082		280,609	
Transport / Logistics	1,203,636		673,788	
Water	74,067		81,860	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	1,227,159		(2,619,588)	
<b>Sub-total Operational</b>	<b>5,453,658</b>		<b>593,403</b>	
Programme Support	1,471,449		17,550	
<b>Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries</b>	<b>6,925,107</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>610,953</b>	<b>(5)</b>
Unliquidated Obligations	149,106	(3)	0	
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,074,213</b>	<b>(1) (3)</b>	<b>610,953</b>	
<b>Instalments with Implementing Partners</b>				
Payments Made	3,485,188		470,384	
Reporting Received	2,258,029		3,089,973	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>1,227,159</b>		<b>(2,619,588)</b>	
Outstanding 1st January	0		2,425,738	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		178,409	
Currency Adjustment	0		372,259	
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>	<b>1,227,159</b>		<b>0</b>	
<b>Unliquidated Obligations</b>				
Outstanding 1st January	0		754,996	(5)
New Obligations	7,074,213	(1)	0	
Disbursements	6,925,107	(3)	610,953	(5)
Cancellations	0		144,043	(5)
<b>Outstanding 31 December</b>	<b>149,106</b>	<b>(3)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(5)</b>
Figures which cross-reference to Accounts: (1) Annex to Statement 1 (3) Schedule 3 (5) Schedule 5				