

SPCP - TANZANIA

Update, October 2007



Repatriation Convey to Burundi from Kasulu (August 2007)



Registration at Lugufu Camps (2006)

Background

The SPCP- Tanzania is now entering its third year. From an initial analysis of gaps in protection capacity, and a collaboratively agreed upon plan of action, the Project has been working with all stakeholders in the implementation of initiatives covering a wide range of sectors.

This update canvasses the main areas of activity of the SPCP- Tanzania which have been made possible both by the collaborative spirit in which they have been implemented and the generous financial support provided by the European Commission and the Governments of Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

Activities

a) Enhancing Legal and Administrative Framework

The SPCP-Tanzania has contributed to enhancing Tanzania law and practice regarding refugees in diverse ways. Technical advice has been provided regarding revisions of the Refugee Bill to

ensure compliance with international standards, and a number of key refugee instruments translated from English to Swahili. Standard operating procedures have been developed for district refugee status determination committees. A wide range of workshops and training activities have taken place on refugee protection principles and their application in Tanzania for government officials including border personnel, village executive officers, senior and mid level ministry personnel, refugee administrators, immigration, police and security officers.

SPCP-Tanzania has also supported continuous registration and verification as well building technical expertise to ensure the ongoing registration in the camps.

Responding to the need for improved material capacity to protect refugees and enhance security for hosting areas, the SPCP-Tanzania has supported the rehabilitation of some government administrative buildings, the provision of transport for refugee department officials, the procurement of radio communication

equipment and improvements to prisons (solar and bio-gas facilities)

Local authorities have expressed their appreciation for these enhancements which have led to increased conservation, improved communication, heightened awareness of refugee rights and improved refugee status decision making.

Equal Benefit and Protection of the Law

To respond to the acute shortage of legal assistance for refugees, the SPCP-Tanzania has introduced legal services in refugee hosting districts through a legal aid organization known as the National Organization for Legal Assistance (NOLA). A full time presence of NOLA personnel has now been established in north western Tanzania. NOLA's activities include legal assistance to refugees and monitoring of refugees in prison. In addition NOLA has trained judicial officers in the Tabora and Rukwa regions.



Nyarugusu Camp Verification (Oct 2006)

Public Information

Radio information campaigns have been undertaken to help educate the public on refugee issues.

Since the beginning of the SPCP in Tanzania many thousands of refugees have returned to Burundi in safety and dignity. This process is being further supported through the provision of reliable mass information on conditions in Burundi, the availability of assistance there and repatriation procedures. Information is

communicated over the radio and by other mass communication means.



Training to the Government Officials in Kibondo (June 2007)

Durable solutions

In the old settlements hosting 1972 Burundian refugees, a strategy of comprehensive durable solutions is being pursued with the Governments of Tanzania and Burundi and UNHCR. As part of this strategy, voluntary repatriation and naturalisation will be pursued as possible options. In pursuit of this strategy an individual registration is being undertaken. Moreover, a study in the old settlements is being commissioned to highlight the key policy issues and challenges linked to final integration of those refugees opting to remain in Tanzania through naturalisation.

Voluntary repatriation activities are also ongoing for Congolese refugees. SPCP-Tanzania has supported this through profiling exercises which also identify those with significant protection risks for which resettlement is the preferred solution.

Future Directions

Since the introduction of the SPCP in 2004, the refugee landscape in Tanzania has changed dramatically. The refugee populations in the camps have dropped by nearly 50 percent. The focus of UNHCR therefore has moved from care and maintenance to promotion of return.

This has impacted on the implementation of projects. For example, those aimed at-

Future Directions (Contd.)

-improving health and community services in the camps have had to be re-conceptualised to respond to present realities. In addition there has been renewed focus on the old settlements and an interest expressed on the part of the Government to consider extending more robust SPCP to those areas. As well there have been delays in addressing other key gaps. The provision of documentation has been delayed due to the absence of consensus on how to remedy that problem.

UNHCR is therefore constantly re-examining the priorities of the SPCP to ensure its ongoing relevance to current conditions in Tanzania and in refugee source countries. This continues to be undertaken in the same collaborative spirit in which the SPCP was initially launched and which has been central to the achievements to date.

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For more information please see the following
Web pages: www.unhcr.org or www.untanzania.org

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