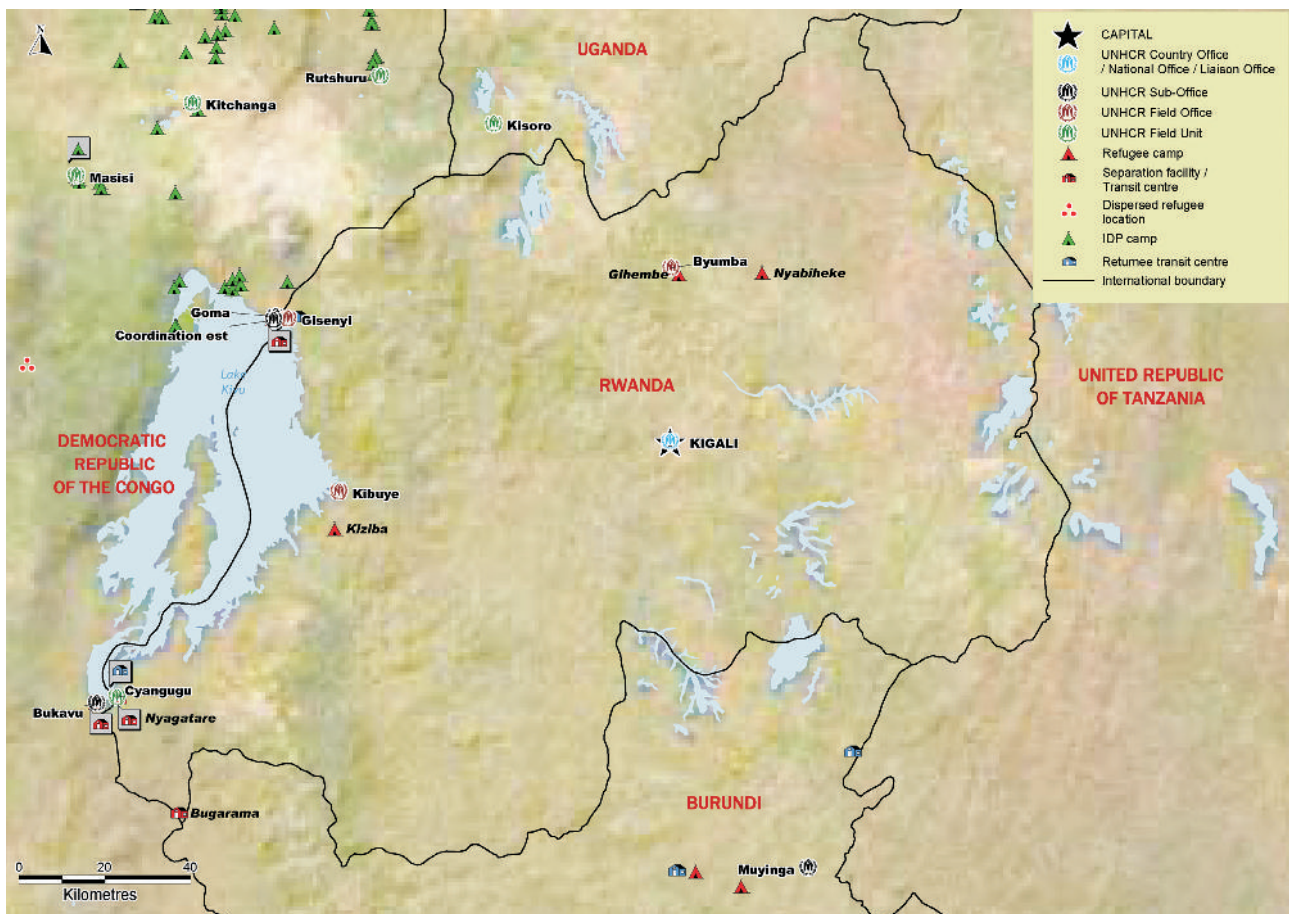


RWANDA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR protected and assisted more than 54,000 refugees in Rwanda, the vast majority from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), followed by small numbers from Burundi, Chad and Somalia. Some 2,000 urban refugees and 280 asylum-seekers, mainly from the DRC, were also assisted.
- Approximately 20,600 Rwandan refugees who repatriated from the DRC and Uganda were assisted to travel to their places of origin or preference in Rwanda. UNHCR provided returnees with non-food items (NFIs) to help with their initial reintegration.
- During the first quarter of the year, 440 Burundian refugees living in Kigeme camp were forcibly expelled from Rwanda. The Government also withdrew refugee status from the remaining urban refugees. This group of urban refugees, together with the remaining Burundian refugees in Kigeme camp, a total of 2,700 people, repatriated to Burundi in May and June 2009. UNHCR helped 2,030 of these people to repatriate.
- Some 300 refugees were helped to resettle in third countries.
- An agreement was reached with the Rwandan Government to issue individual identity cards to refugees.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	53,600	53,600	55	60
	Various	370	370	50	41
Asylum-seekers	DRC	250	-	55	61
	Various	30	-	50	47
Returnees (refugees)*	DRC	14,800	14,800	57	52
	Uganda	5,700	5,700	57	52
	Various	120	110	57	52
Total		74,870	74,580		

* Demographic breakdown of returnees refers to all returnees

| Working environment |

The political and security situation in Rwanda was stable in 2009, despite tensions caused by the flight of some key opposition politicians from the country. A number of those who fled had been charged by the *Gacaca* courts (local community justice courts) with offences related to the 1994 genocide. Some of these courts were closed in 2009, but others remained active and their jurisdictions were expanded to ease pressure on the civil courts.

Diplomatic relations between Rwanda and the DRC, restored in 2008, were strengthened in 2009, leading to a successful joint military operation by the two Governments in January to root out the Congolese rebel group, *Forces Démocratiques pour la Libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) from the eastern DRC. The two countries held bilateral meetings to address issues related to security, justice and foreign relations.

During his November 2009 visit to Rwanda, the High Commissioner held discussions with the Government on peace efforts and arrangements for the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees from the DRC, as well as on the conditions necessary for invoking the cessation clause for Rwandans abroad.

According to Government figures, in 2009 some 11,000 jobs were created in Rwanda. However, the overall standard of living in the country remained low, with acute poverty in the interior of the country. Reforms were bolstered with the passing of 58 new laws, the majority of them concerning the economy. Rwanda worked to expand economic partnerships beyond the subregion, for instance through bilateral discussions with Egypt and Nigeria to establish embassies in these countries.

The Rwandan Parliament also passed a new law on the prevention of gender-based violence and the punishment of its perpetrators.

The National Council for Refugees (CNR), the State organ responsible for eligibility determination, did not meet in 2009, contributing to a build-up of a backlog of asylum applications. The Immigration Department in Kigali, charged with registering newly arrived asylum-seekers in urban areas, did not do so systematically, giving rise to uncertainty about the number of newly arrived asylum-seekers in the capital.

The repatriation of Rwandan refugees and asylum-seekers from countries of asylum was the highest priority for the Rwandan Government, which called upon UNHCR to invoke the cessation clause for Rwandans. A roadmap of actions leading to a possible consideration of cessation by the end of 2011 was agreed on. To this end, meetings and working group discussions were held with officials of Burundi, the DRC, Kenya, Uganda and Zambia.

The Government continued to reform its judicial system. However, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in the United Republic of Tanzania declined to transfer cases to Rwanda, citing concerns about the fairness of trials and the protection of witnesses. In April 2009, the High Court in the United Kingdom denied the extradition of four Rwandan genocide suspects, indicating that they could not receive fair trials in Rwanda. Sweden consented to an extradition request in July 2009, although an appeal lodged before the European Court of Human Rights halted the extradition. The case is yet to be decided.



Congolese refugee women at a transit centre in south-western Rwanda.

UNHCR / C. ALFREY

In November 2009, Rwanda was accepted into the Commonwealth, despite controversy over its human rights records. Human rights advocates have criticized Government restrictions on free speech, reproductive health, homosexuality and political association.

| Achievements and impact |

○ Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives for 2009 were to ensure protection and assistance for all refugees in Rwanda; promote the voluntary repatriation of Rwandans in exile; facilitate reintegration of returnees in Rwanda; and pursue resettlement for refugees with specific protection and health concerns. Furthermore, UNHCR sought to build the Government's capacity to clear refugee status determination (RSD) backlogs, and also to strengthen its partners' ability to provide international protection and manage programmes.

○ Protection and solutions

In late 2009 UNHCR and the Government agreed that identity cards would be issued to refugees in Rwanda. Preparatory work began late in the year, and it is expected that the cards will be issued by mid-2010. A total of 2,700 Burundian refugees were assisted to voluntarily repatriate from Rwanda, leading to the closure of the Kigeme camp in July 2009. A verification and profiling exercise in 2008 showed that some refugees from the DRC were willing to repatriate, but were still unable to do so due mainly to insecurity in their areas of origin.

Land shortages in Rwanda limited opportunities for local integration, and resettlement remained the main durable solution for refugees who met the required criteria. Some 300 refugees benefited from resettlement assistance in 2009. Comprehensive reintegration-assistance programmes for returnees could not be implemented because of budgetary limitations.

○ Activities and assistance

REFUGEES

Community services: Training and sensitization activities aimed at curbing sexual and gender-based violence were conducted, and survivors received assistance and counselling. UNHCR identified and registered unaccompanied and separated children, while 37 urban youth were trained in catering, mechanics, the use of computers, driving, textile printing and jewelry making. The Office also trained implementing partners in all camps on voluntary HIV and AIDS counselling and testing, and in the prevention of mother-to-child transmission.

Domestic needs and household support: Non-food items and firewood were distributed in all camps and transit centres.

Education: All refugee children passed national exams, an increase from the pass rates in 2008 of 67 per cent for primary students and 86 per cent for lower secondary

students. Access to computers and modern technology improved in 2009 with the construction of a computer lab in Kiziba camp. Thirty computers in the lab provided refugees with internet access.

Some 308 children representing 89 per cent of urban refugee children between 6 and 11 years of age were enrolled in primary school. However, in the camps the enrolment of children of the same age group fell from 99 per cent in 2008 to 73 per cent in 2009. The drop-out rate for the same age group varied in the different camps, ranging from 2.9 per cent in Kiziba and 1.7 per cent in Gihembe, to 22.6 per cent in Nyabiheke. A total of 100 refugee students benefited from DAFI scholarships.

Forestry: 15 refugees were trained in environmental protection and advocacy skills. More than 50 refugees, UNHCR and partners' staff received training on environmental planning, cropping and land use. Environment Action Plans were developed for all camps, and 12 environment clerks were hired and trained to coordinate environment activities. Some 49,000 forest trees were planted in the camps and in communities hosting refugees. Over 8,500 fruit trees were also planted in the camps.

Health and nutrition: All camp-based refugees in Nyabiheke, Gihembe and Kiziba had access to primary health care. Those in need of anti-retroviral treatment received it. People living with AIDS among the refugee populations received psycho-social counselling. Some 658,800 male condoms were distributed. UNHCR organized training in basic health delivery for refugees. More than 90 per cent of refugee children in the camps were vaccinated against major childhood diseases. Anti-AIDS groups in the camps increased awareness on HIV and AIDS. All camp-based refugees received food assistance, but the standard of 2,100 kilocalories per refugee per day was not always met in Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps due to temporary shortages of some food items.

Legal assistance: Refugees received some legal support with asylum claims, as well as training, sensitization and counselling on child protection and sexual and gender-based violence. Some 90 per cent of refugees were registered, and registration will continue for the remaining refugee population in 2010. The camp-based refugee data was regularly updated through the sharing of information by UNHCR and the Government.

Operational support (to other agencies): Financial support was provided to UNHCR's partners, and training sessions were organized to build their capacity as well as that of Government staff.

Sanitation: The number of persons per latrine was improved, though with variations from one camp to another. In Kiziba camp, the number dropped from 23 in 2008 to 19 in 2009. In Nyabiheke and Gihembe camps, the numbers were 23 and 25, respectively. In Nyabiheke camp, the number of people per communal refuse pit improved from 920 in 2008 to 273 in 2009. Due to lack of space, family latrines could not be constructed. Most communal buildings (75 per cent in Gihembe, 92 per cent in Kiziba and 100 per cent in

Nyabiheke) maintained adequate water and sanitation facilities. Regular cleaning and maintenance was organized by refugee committees.

Shelter and infrastructure: Efforts to improve shelter in Kiziba, Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps were hindered by a lack of land. In 2009 the standard of 45 square metres of land per person could not be met and refugees averaged 16.2 square metres of space.

Transport and logistics: Transfers of refugees and the delivery of assistance continued without interruption.

Water: The water supply in the camps improved from 15 litres of water per refugee per day in 2008 to 15.7 litres in 2009. The situation varied between the camps. The standard of 20 litres per refugee per day was reached in Kiziba camp, but other camps fell short. Nonetheless, the water supply in the camps was better than that available for the local communities. The provision of energy and water in the camps did not meet the standards due to problems with the national gas and water supply systems. New water reservoirs and generators were installed in the camps.

RETURNEES

Domestic needs and household support: Some 20,600 returnees received domestic items and standard three-month food packages.

Health and nutrition: Returnees were medically screened on arrival at the transit centres and received basic health assistance. Those with serious medical conditions were referred to hospitals. One health post was constructed at Nyagatare transit centre.

Shelter and infrastructure: Shelters and infrastructure at the transit centres were maintained on a regular basis.

Sanitation: Transit centres were cleaned and maintained daily.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR provided transport for returning Rwandan refugees.

Water: Water was regularly provided to returnees and one storage facility with a capacity of 60 cubic metres was constructed.

○ Constraints

The Government's tolerance of refugees and asylum-seekers appeared to wane as demonstrated by the forced repatriation of Burundian refugees. As the Eligibility Committee failed to meet, the processing of asylum applications came to a halt. The reluctance of the Government to issue birth certificates and identity documents to refugees hindered UNHCR's protection and assistance activities. The provision of additional land to expand the camps also proved contentious, and as a result, overcrowding in the camps continued. The scarcity of land in Rwanda meant that local integration and

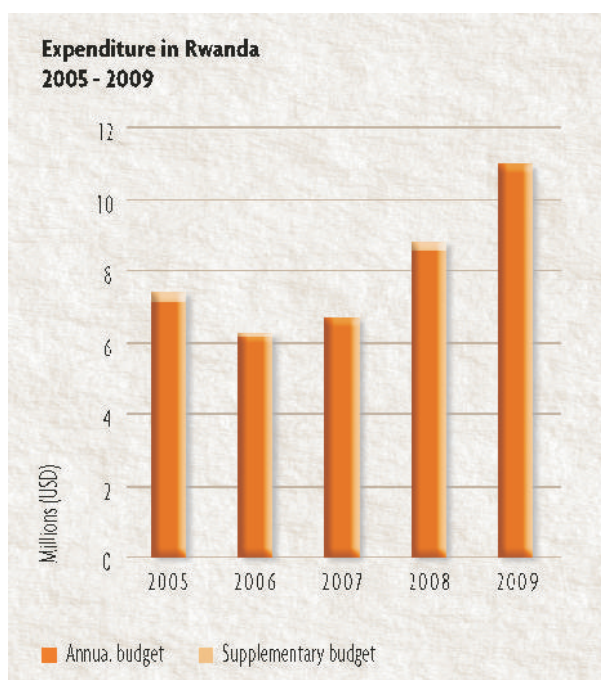
self-reliance were not viable options for refugees in the country.

Military operations and political uncertainty in the eastern parts of the DRC and in Burundi, continued to hamper the voluntary repatriation of refugees from Rwanda.

Financial information

Though the operation in Rwanda reached its highest level of funding in five years in 2009, resulting in the smooth implementation of planned activities, not all needs could be met fully. Limited funding for the reintegration of some 20,600 returnees who arrived in 2009 meant that they received food rations for only three months. The additional food rations needed to sustain the returnees until the next harvesting season could not be provided. No community-based reintegration projects were implemented in the major return areas, and it was not possible to construct or rehabilitate shelter for nearly 90 per cent of the new returnees who did not have it. Assistance for persons with special needs, including those living with disabilities, unaccompanied or separated children, and the elderly, was also constrained.

An amount of USD 946,000 was allocated for the GNA pilot project. This was mainly used for the provision of firewood, water, arrangements for issuance of ID cards to refugees as well as to support access to education for refugee children. The water supply was increased from an average of 15 litres/refugee/day in 2008 to 15.7 litres/refugee/day in 2009 in the three refugee camps. Firewood was provided at a rate of 30kg/refugee/month in the refugee camps. Through this intervention, violent incidents against refugee women and children when collecting firewood was prevented and tensions with host communities and authorities over forest resources lessened. Refugees refrained from cutting trees in the villages around camps thereby preventing conflicts with the local population and authorities. School uniforms were



provided to some 3,900 refugee students in Nyabiheke camp and school fees were paid for urban refugee students. Sensitization was conducted in the camps on the issuance of ID cards for refugees. Initial arrangements were made and a contractor was engaged to issue the cards in 2010.

Organization and implementation

Management

In 2009, the operation was managed by the country office in Kigali, two field offices in Byumba and Kibuye, and two field units in Cyangugu and Gisenyi. The staff included a team of 61, including 48 local staff (37 general service staff, three national officers, seven UNVs and one consultant), and 17 international staff (including two consultants and three international UNVs).

Working with others

UNHCR worked closely with the national authorities as well as implementing and operational partners. The Government and UNHCR co-chaired the Disaster Management Task Force on behalf of the UN Country Team.

In the context of the UN Delivering as One initiative, UNHCR was engaged in four core areas: protection, health, HIV and AIDS, and education.

Overall assessment

Relations between UNHCR and the Government remained constructive. UNHCR benefited from its partnerships with other UN agencies and NGOs, especially in the sectors where the partners had more expertise and resources, such as education, health/nutrition, disaster preparedness, environmental management and food storage.

The Government improved its regional relationships and became a member of the EAC and the Commonwealth. UNHCR encouraged the Government to continue to be hospitable to refugees and observe international refugee law. The Office also sought improvements in the reception and reintegration of returnees in local communities.

Partners	
Implementing partners	
Government:	Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs, National Council for Refugees
International NGOs:	African Humanitarian Action, American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Relief Service, Adventist Development Relief Agency
National NGO:	Forum for Activism against Torture
Others:	<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)/BMZ</i>
Operational partners	
UNICEF	

Budget, income and expenditure in Rwanda (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual budget	13,261,154	4,600,000	7,258,090	11,858,090	10,960,879
Avian and human influenza preparedness SB	19,408	0	19,408	19,408	19,408
Total	13,280,562	4,600,000	7,277,498	11,877,498	10,980,287

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Rwanda (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current years' project			Previous years' project
	Annual budget	Supplementary budgets	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,614,444	0	1,614,444	0
Community services	109,960	0	109,960	10,963
Domestic needs and household support	855,242	0	855,242	5,916
Education	437,559	0	437,559	164,981
Forestry	9,151	0	9,151	0
Health and nutrition	1,238,757	0	1,238,757	407,081
Legal assistance	500,973	0	500,973	11,397
Operational support (to agencies)	740,200	0	740,200	212,543
Sanitation	227,805	0	227,805	68,968
Shelter and infrastructure	190,469	0	190,469	167,322
Transport and logistics	1,857,797	0	1,857,797	32,347
Water	261,998	0	261,998	124,168
Instalments to implementing partners	1,575,565	19,408	1,594,973	(1,205,686)
Subtotal operational activities	9,619,920	19,408	9,639,328	0
Programme support	1,340,959	0	1,340,959	0
Total expenditure	10,960,879	19,408	10,980,287	0
Cancellation on previous years' expenditure				(108,362)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	4,146,831	19,408	4,166,239	
Reporting received	(2,571,266)	0	(2,571,266)	
Balance	1,575,565	19,408	1,594,973	
Previous year's report				
Instalments with implementing partners:				
Outstanding 1st January				1,380,751
Reporting received				(1,205,686)
Refunded to UNHCR				(81,816)
Currency adjustment				3,428
Outstanding 31st December				96,677