

Lushebere IDP Camp, Masisi District,
Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Burundi
Cameroon
Central African Republic
Congo
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gabon
Rwanda
United Republic of Tanzania

Central Africa and the Great Lakes



| OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS |

- Tripartite agreements signed by the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), UNHCR and tripartite agreements with the Republic of the Congo and with Angola, paved the way for the voluntary repatriation of more than 40,000 DRC refugees from these countries.
- UNHCR assisted more than 78,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in 31 spontaneous settlements in the DRC's North Kivu province, providing them with services such as camp management and security, protection monitoring, profiling and documentation.
- All refugees aged 12 and older living in urban areas of the DRC have received refugee identity cards, while all other refugees now possess attestations of status. Only Rwandan refugees living in inaccessible areas in the Kivus have not yet received such documentation.
- The repatriation of Burundian refugees continued in 2011, with over 4,300 returns by the end of the year. UNHCR helped the *Commission Nationale des Terres et Autres Biens* (CNTB) in Burundi to resolve more than 2,400 land-dispute cases. Some 3,400 identity cards were distributed to refugees and more than 2,200 temporary stay permits issued to asylum-seekers.
- Almost 8,600 Rwandan refugees repatriated in 2011, bringing the total of those who have returned home since the start of organized voluntary repatriation in 2002 to some 151,000 by the end of 2011. The cessation of refugee status for Rwandans, who left the country before 1998, will come into effect at the end of June 2013.
- In the United Republic of Tanzania, the Government suspended the relocation of some 162,000 newly-naturalized

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Tanzanians (ex-Burundian refugees), to allow for internal consultations within the Government and with local authorities. The Government extended the date for the closure of Mtabila camp, which hosts some 38,000 Burundian refugees, from 31 December 2011 to 31 December 2012.

- In Cameroon, five years of intensive advocacy bore fruit in 2011, when the Government signed a decree for the application of the Refugee Law, which established an eligibility committee.
- The Government of Gabon implemented the cessation clauses applying to refugees from the Republic of the Congo.

Working environment

Security remained precarious in the subregion, especially in the DRC and Burundi, reducing prospects for repatriation to those countries. Although in the latter country reports of killings, arbitrary arrests and extrajudicial executions gave rise to some tensions, various initiatives nevertheless served to strengthen peace and foster national reconciliation, such as the independent National Commission on Human Rights and the National Commission on Truth and Reconciliation.

Despite the restrictions imposed by its policy on “refugee-free zone”, the Tanzanian Government has allowed asylum-seekers to be registered. It has also agreed to review its refugee legislation as well as ratify the 2009 African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of IDPs in Africa, and the 1954 and 1961 UN Statelessness Conventions.

The suspension of the relocation of the more than 162,000 newly-naturalized Tanzanians has halted their local

integration and left them uncertain as to their status and future in the country.

In the Central African Republic (CAR), the start of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process led to significant improvements in security and resulted in the return of approximately 75,000 IDPs and 11,000 refugees from Chad and Cameroon. The Government pledged to help refugees who settle in the CAR to become self-reliant.

The Government of Gabon ratified the 2009 African Union IDP Convention in February 2011, while the country’s National Commission for Human Rights began work in September.

With UNHCR’s support, the Republic of the Congo established a commission to revise the asylum law that it plans to adopt in 2012. The Congolese Government also took the important decision to resume the adjudication before the Eligibility Commission of all cases of former combatants. Some of these asylum petitions have been pending since 2005.

The Congo has enacted a Child Protection Act and laws to protect indigenous people and those living with the HIV and AIDS. A bill for gender parity in elective and administrative functions is currently under review by the Government before referral to Parliament.

Achievements and impact

UNHCR’s main focus was on durable solutions, again with emphasis on voluntary repatriation for refugees from Burundi, the Congo, the DRC and Rwanda.

By the end of the year the Government of Tanzania had issued 745 naturalization certificates to former Burundian refugees who were granted citizenship in 2009 and 2010 and who reside in Dar es Salaam. The majority of the new

citizens, numbering more than 162,000 and living in settlements, were to receive their cards upon their relocation, but this has been suspended due to opposition to the relocation by local authorities, with whom consultations were undertaken. Costly preparations for the relocation, including registration, sensitization and mass-information campaigns, did not yield the anticipated results. The ensuing uncertainty has had a negative impact on the self-reliance of these new citizens, who were unable to plan their future, not knowing whether they could remain where they were, or whether they would be relocated.

Despite an intensive information campaign, the planned repatriation of 25,000 Burundian refugees from Tanzania did not materialize. A contingency plan was prepared for any eventual forced return of the more than 38,000 Burundian refugees currently in Mtabila camp in Tanzania.

In Burundi, UNHCR assisted more than 4,300 Burundian refugees to return home, bringing the total number to almost 515,000 since the beginning of the voluntary repatriation of this group in 2002. With UNHCR's support, its government counterpart, the *Commission Nationale des Terres et Autres Biens*, decentralized and reinforced its field presence, registering over 5,000 new land conflicts (bringing the total to more than 18,800), of which it has resolved 2,750.

In Cameroon, the decree for the application of the refugee law establishing the Eligibility Committee was signed in 2011, after five years of intensive advocacy. This has facilitated the transfer of responsibility for refugee status determination (RSD) to the Government, whose capacity for the task has been strengthened to ensure that UNHCR will be able to disengage responsibly.

UNHCR continued to work with the Rwandan Government, countries of asylum and relevant stakeholders on the road map of actions leading to the invocation of the cessation clauses for Rwandan refugees. In late December, UNHCR recommended that this should take place by the

end of June 2013, for Rwandan refugees who fled their country before 1998.

A project to issue refugees with identity cards was launched under the auspices of UNHCR and the Government of the DRC in 2011. It came almost eight years after the promulgation of the Refugee Law, establishing the card as proof of identity, status, and residence for refugees in DRC. The cards are issued to all refugees above the age of 12, and are valid for two years.

UNHCR assisted more than 78,000 IDPs in 31 spontaneously set up camps in the DRC's North Kivu province. It ensured that needs were met in areas such as camp management and security, protection monitoring, profiling, documentation and domestic supplies, including by distributing kits of non-food items (NFIs) to 20,400 households and replacing plastic sheeting. Some 4,500 shelters were constructed for vulnerable people in the Kivus and in Equateur and Katanga provinces.

In the DRC's Province Orientale, 890 refugees from CAR fleeing attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) were sheltered, protected and assisted in an extremely remote location by UNCR in collaboration with the *Commission nationale pour les réfugiés*, Caritas Germany and WFP.

In 2011, a total of 14,200 Congolese returned to the DRC, including 600 who were repatriated by UNHCR from Burundi, Tanzania, Zambia and Malawi. The returns were considerably fewer than planned, due to the insecure conditions in the Kivus.

In the Congo, more than 19,000 people benefited from livelihood support for fishing and agricultural activities, which boosted self-employment among people of concern to UNHCR from 45 per cent in 2010 to 80 per cent in 2011. The number of women participating in community structures remained below the 50 per cent threshold, at 35 per cent in rural areas and 38 per cent in urban centres. UNHCR therefore increased its efforts to sensitize the communities on the importance of equal participation by both sexes.

Budget and expenditure in Central Africa and the Great Lakes | USD

Country		PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	Total
Burundi	Budget	34,335,705	285,362	9,180,489	640,016	44,441,572
	Expenditure	20,811,830	283,885	3,496,386	331,538	24,923,639
Cameroon	Budget	22,513,527	1,063,000	0	0	23,576,527
	Expenditure	12,933,777	224,556	0	0	13,158,333
Central African Republic	Budget	12,828,989	910,012	0	10,685,653	24,424,654
	Expenditure	6,831,305	78,208	0	3,309,641	10,219,154
Congo	Budget	27,569,884	0	0	0	27,569,884
	Expenditure	15,676,571	0	0	0	15,676,571
Democratic Republic of the Congo Regional Office¹	Budget	58,460,316	1,984,749	20,183,182	58,983,642	139,611,889
	Expenditure	37,435,575	1,268,697	9,790,711	20,724,485	69,219,468
Gabon	Budget	7,930,082	0	0	0	7,930,082
	Expenditure	3,654,925	0	0	0	3,654,925
Rwanda	Budget	31,713,110	0	2,799,319	0	34,512,429
	Expenditure	12,184,518	0	491,023	0	12,675,541
United Republic of Tanzania	Budget	16,414,297	0	75,184,498	0	91,598,795
	Expenditure	15,037,904	0	8,782,588	0	23,820,492
Total budget		211,765,910	4,243,123	107,347,488	70,309,311	393,665,832
Total expenditure		124,566,405	1,855,346	22,560,708	24,365,664	173,348,123

¹ Coordinates activities in Gabon and the Congo.

Constraints

The security situation remained unstable and seriously hampered the implementation of humanitarian assistance programmes. Violence linked to elections in the DRC affected the return of refugees. In Burundi, the security situation was shaken by reports of political killings, which also reduced the number of returns by Burundian refugees.

Access to people of concern to UNHCR, especially IDPs, was almost made difficult or impossible due to logistical challenges. Many people of concern to UNHCR lived in some of the remotest areas of the region, complicating registration, the distribution of humanitarian aid, and protection activities.

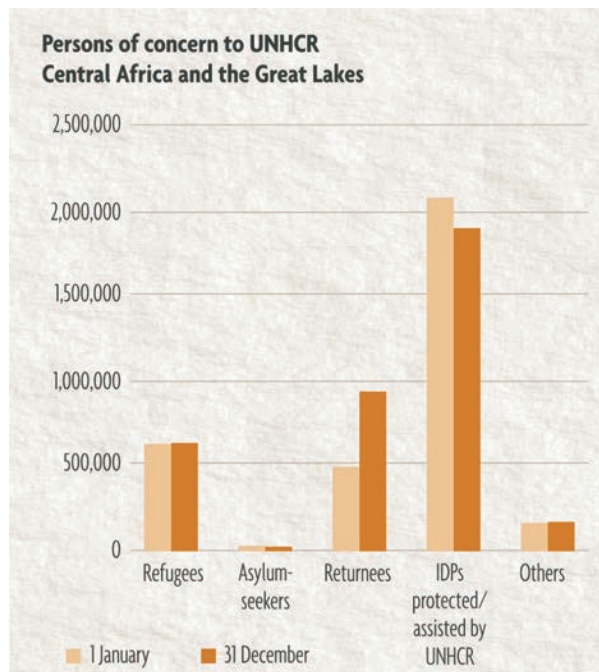
The high dependence of people of concern on protection and assistance and the lack of opportunities for economic self-reliance affected UNHCR's plans for voluntary repatriation and local integration. Scarcity of land undermined efforts to gain self-sufficiency, while abuses of human rights, as well as weak administrative and judicial structures, prevented people of concern from fully enjoying their basic rights.

Widespread poverty and lack of employment affected the smooth integration and reintegration of both refugees and returnees. In Tanzania, the suspension of the relocation of newly-naturalized Tanzanians hampered their local integration and reduced their opportunities to exercise their full rights as citizens. Tanzania's restrictive asylum policies also aggravated the plight of asylum-seekers.

Operations

Operations in **Burundi**, **Cameroon**, the **Central African Republic**, the **Congo**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Rwanda** and the **United Republic of Tanzania** are covered by separate chapters.

Gabon hosted some 13,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from the Congo. The implementation of the cessation clauses by the Government in respect of refugees from the Congo was completed in November 2011, with the return of more than 700 refugees and the local integration of



more than 3,000 refugees. In 2011, UNHCR sponsored 1,462 residency permits, including 98 for extremely vulnerable refugees. Furthermore, 122 refugees from the Congo were accepted for resettlement by the United States and Denmark. More than 250 refugees were still waiting resettlement decisions.

Financial information

UNHCR's overall budget for the Central Africa and Great Lakes subregion amounted to USD 397.4 million in 2011. Adequate resources allowed UNHCR to implement its priority activities in the subregion, expending some USD 170 million, compared to expenditures of USD 186 million in 2010. While the most crucial life-saving activities were implemented, but many other needs remained unmet. Savings from reduced budgets for repatriation and naturalization operations allowed some increases elsewhere in order to cover critical, unmet needs.

Voluntary contributions to Central Africa and the Great Lakes | USD

Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
CENTRAL AFRICA AND THE GREAT LAKES SUBREGION						
Canada					1,274,210	1,274,210
Finland					2,747,253	2,747,253
Luxembourg					657,030	657,030
Central Africa and the Great Lakes subtotal	0	0	0	0	4,678,493	4,678,493
BURUNDI						
Belgium	682,128					682,128
CERF	500,000					500,000
European Union	2,136,752					2,136,752
Germany	1,313,241		655,615			1,968,856
Japan	1,297,368		502,632			1,800,000
Luxembourg					177,398	177,398
Switzerland					537,634	537,634
UN Peacebuilding Fund	85,000		67,530	98,225		250,755
United States of America					1,500,000	1,500,000
Burundi subtotal	6,014,489	0	1,225,777	98,225	2,215,033	9,553,524

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Earmarking / Donor	PILLAR 1 Refugee programme	PILLAR 2 Stateless programme	PILLAR 3 Reintegration projects	PILLAR 4 IDP projects	All pillars	Total
CAMEROON						
Private donors in the Netherlands	63,380					63,380
Cameroon subtotal	63,380	0	0	0	0	63,380
CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC						
CERF	589,300			10,700		600,000
Common Humanitarian Fund for CAR				283,000		283,000
International Olympic Committee				40,000		40,000
Japan	1,025,680	80,000		894,320		2,000,000
Switzerland					430,108	430,108
UN Peacebuilding Fund				500,000		500,000
United States of America					800,000	800,000
Central African Republic subtotal	1,614,980	80,000	0	1,728,020	1,230,108	4,653,108
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO REGIONAL OFFICE						
Australia for UNHCR				270,777	5,219	275,996
Belgium	2,666,667			1,367,989		4,034,656
Canada					2,038,736	2,038,736
Charities Aid Foundation					41,453	41,453
Common Humanitarian Fund for DRC				1,798,901		1,798,901
European Union	1,430,615					1,430,615
France	686,813			137,362		824,175
Germany	786,268		534,289	392,755		1,713,313
Japan	2,355,897		1,324,515	4,319,588		8,000,000
Spain	1,346,682		1,144,774			2,491,456
DRC Stabilization and Recovery Fund	270,000					270,000
Stichting Vluchteling				30,342		30,342
Switzerland	645,161			430,108		1,075,269
UN Peacebuilding Fund	496,744					496,744
UN Population Fund	9,225					9,225
UN Programme on HIV and AIDS	279,076					279,076
United States of America					4,650,000	4,650,000
USA for UNHCR				53,120		53,120
Democratic Republic of the Congo Regional Office subtotal	10,973,149	0	3,003,578	8,800,942	6,735,408	29,513,077
GABON						
UN Trust Fund for Human Security	481,550					481,550
Gabon subtotal	481,550	0	0	0	0	481,550
RWANDA						
Brazil					100,000	100,000
Private donors in Italy	41,333					41,333
UN Delivering as One	1,101,750					1,101,750
United States of America	404,002				1,200,000	1,604,002
Rwanda subtotal	1,547,085	0	0	0	1,300,000	2,847,085
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO						
Charities Aid Foundation					1,487	1,487
France	274,725					274,725
United States of America					1,050,000	1,050,000
Republic of the Congo subtotal	274,725	0	0	0	1,051,487	1,326,212
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA						
Belgium			1,364,256			1,364,256
European Union	3,778,961		1,764,586			5,543,547
Germany	386,253		660,066			1,046,318
Japan	1,086,800		1,913,200		1,231,072	4,231,072
UN Delivering as One	25,000				76,565	101,565
United States of America					1,600,000	1,600,000
United Republic of Tanzania subtotal	5,277,014	0	5,702,108	0	2,907,637	13,886,759
Total	26,246,372	80,000	9,931,463	10,627,187	20,118,165	67,003,188