

# Foreword



The High Commissioner visited East Timor in May 2002. UNHCR / J. Morland

The 2003 Global Appeal provides an overview of UNHCR's operations and funding requirements for the coming year. It describes our planning assumptions, objectives and priorities.

During 2003, my Office will focus on the effective implementation of the Agenda for Protection, recently endorsed by the Executive Committee. Indeed, the 2003 budget and its stated objectives already contain many elements to further the Agenda.

Another major focus in 2003 will be to ensure the smooth reintegration of refugees and internally displaced persons who return to their homes. Without this, returns may not be sustainable and the whole cycle of instability and displacement may once again begin.

In Africa, large numbers of displaced persons have returned to their homes in Eritrea and Sierra Leone over the last year, and in Angola, there are hopeful signs that many more will soon be able to return. Ensuring their effective reintegration and helping them to rebuild their lives will not be an easy task.

Elsewhere in Asia, there are also new prospects for durable solutions. Most of the refugees who fled from East Timor have now returned, and in Sri Lanka there is cause for optimism that a long and bitter conflict may finally be ending, paving the way for large-scale returns.

In South-Eastern Europe, my Office is continuing to consolidate its activities. This will help free up scarce resources for use elsewhere in the world – particularly Africa.

Afghanistan will continue to remain a challenge. More than two million people have gone home since the UNHCR-assisted repatriation operation began in March 2002 – including some

1.7 million refugees – and an estimated 1.2 million more refugees are expected to return in 2003. The process of transition from reintegration to rehabilitation and reconstruction must be accelerated now if those who have gone home are to stay, and others are to follow.

To enhance our effectiveness in achieving durable solutions, and taking into consideration the funding aspects, I have taken the initiative of launching an integrated approach in the form of “4Rs” programmes: Repatriation, Reintegration, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in post-conflict situations. In partnership with the World Bank, UNDP, and through country teams and UN Agencies, as well as bilateral partners, we have begun implementing pilot 4Rs programmes in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka. Likewise, in countries hosting large refugee populations, I have advocated a new approach, called “Development through Local Integration” (DLI). The Zambia Initiative is a model for this approach and I hope that more countries will follow.

In spite of the positive progress that has been made in finding lasting solutions for some groups, we nevertheless face many ongoing challenges for others. The turmoil in Liberia has resulted in new refugee flows, and recent events in Côte d’Ivoire have also reminded us of the fragile situation in West Africa. Other areas that will continue to require our attention in 2003 include the increasingly worrying situation in Colombia and in the Northern Caucasus.

In 2002, my Office once again faced severe funding problems. This made it difficult for us to plan and manage our programmes, and it had a negative impact on refugees and others of concern. For 2003, I consider that our Annual Budget of USD 837 million is the minimum acceptable level given the current scope of activities of my Office based on our mandate. I hope that we will be able to count on our friends and supporters to ensure that this budget is fully funded.

But still, I have to be realistic. In 2002, I was obliged to reduce the Annual Budget of USD 828 million by just over USD 100 million. Our Supplementary Programmes in 2003 are likely to add up to at least as much as they did this year.

I hope that these important Supplementary Programmes will receive the same generous funding as did our Supplementary Programmes in 2002, and that these funds will indeed be “additional”. However, based on the experience of the last few years, it is clear that we have to be prepared for a situation where the Annual Budget is not fully funded. Last year we received some USD 100 million less than we needed under the EXCOM approved budget. I have therefore asked my colleagues to take a critical look at all country programmes and general costs and to apply the parameters of Action 1 more rigorously. In particular, we will reassess our involvement in those programmes for IDPs which are not well funded, and we shall have to identify reductions in administrative and support costs including at Headquarters.

I hope that this Global Appeal will not only put our work in perspective, but also motivate you to fully fund the approved budgets for all our programmes.

I thank you in advance for your generosity.



Ruud Lubbers