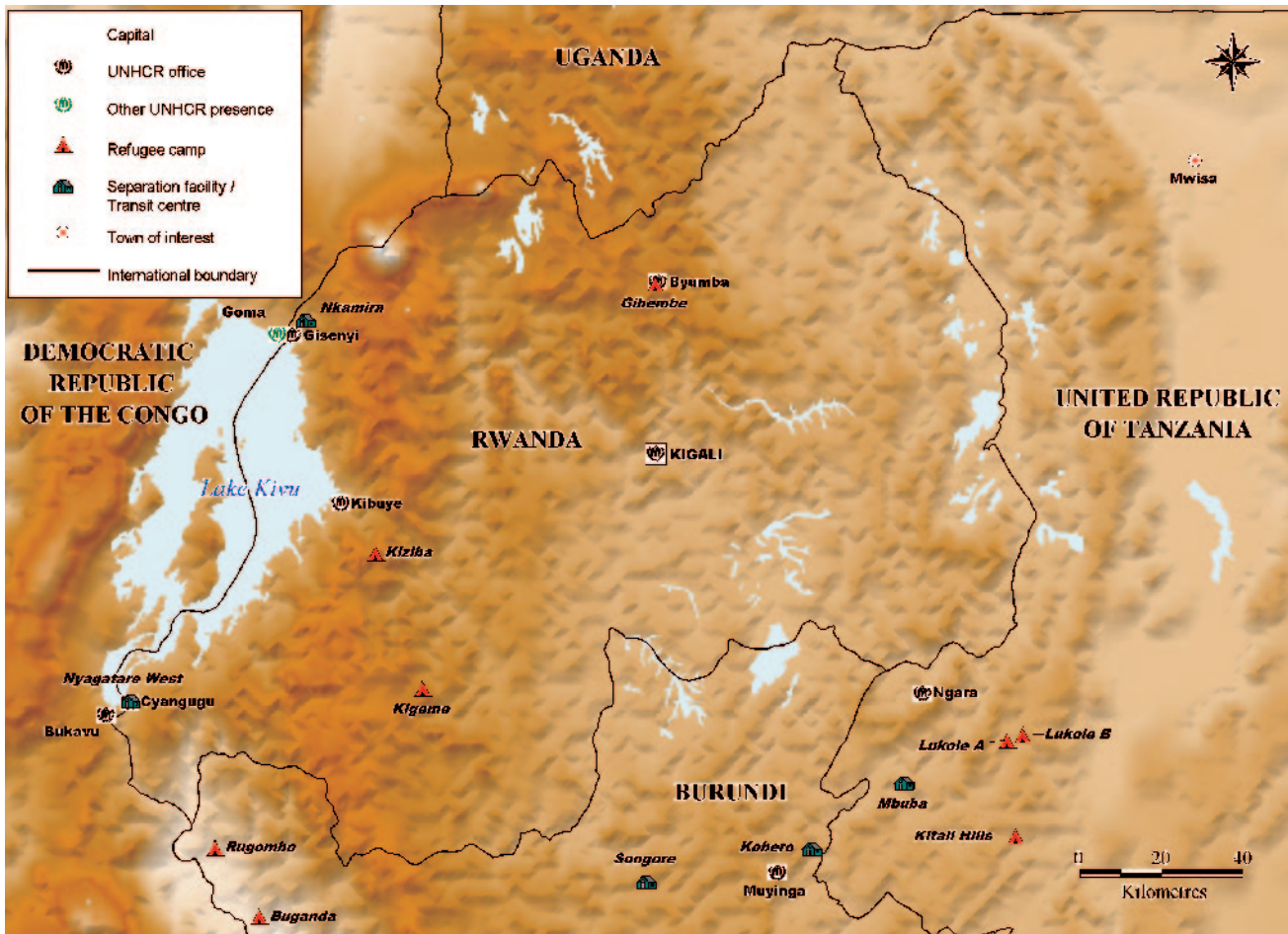


Rwanda



Main Objectives

Assist the Government of Rwanda in adopting rights-based refugee legislation and procedures; ensure the welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers; continue working with partners to strengthen Rwanda's capacity to receive and reintegrate returnees; support the reintroduction of the traditional Gacaca court system. Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of 25,000 Rwandan refugees from neighbouring countries and contribute to the political, economic and social empowerment of Rwandan women.

Impact

- UNHCR's programme contributed to the sustainable and ongoing return of 21,618 Rwandans, mainly from DRC. Over 21,000 returnees went back to their communities of origin and were reintegrated by the local authorities. However, there was no structured reintegration because UNHCR had phased out its reintegration activities in 2000. Shortage of land remained a problem with families required to cultivate very small parcels of land.
- Through the Rwandan Women's Initiative (RWI), UNHCR supported capacity-building projects designed to ensure the sustainable return of Rwandan women returnees.
- The protection and assistance needs of refugees

were generally met: care and maintenance programmes continued and nutritional levels improved.

- In education, a fundamental goal was primary school enrolment for all children. Overall, participation in education increased by 10 per cent; there was a continued trend towards gender equality in school attendance.
- A number of income-generating projects were implemented, especially for women.
- Urban refugees received protection and assistance, including food, healthcare, education (to a limited extent) and vocational training.
- UNHCR contributed to the translation and distribution of the draft of the new refugee legislation.

Working Environment

The Context

Rwanda has been in a period of transition which is likely to persist until the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for 2003 and the subsequent re-writing of the constitution. The harsh living conditions of an estimated 112,000 prisoners – awaiting trial for suspected crimes against humanity – continued to attract criticism. Gacaca judges, who preside over a traditional communal justice system, were elected in October and trials are expected to begin in May 2002. Since the establishment of a national police force in 2000, human

rights violations have decreased drastically. Regionally, tensions with Uganda continued to raise concerns, but diplomatic initiatives in the last quarter of the year renewed hopes that cordial relations would be restored.

The country remained largely free of violence with two exceptions. Armed groups infiltrated the north-western provinces of Gisenyi and Ruhengeri in May and June; the south-west region suffered similar incursions during the second half of the year.

Even before the draft national refugee legislation had completed its passage through parliament (the Transitional National Assembly), UNHCR began to train government officials for the establishment of the Eligibility Committee. UNHCR continued to work closely with officials in the Ministry of Local Government and Social Affairs (MINALOC) and the Joint Commission for Repatriation and Re-integration of Rwandan Refugees (JCRRRR). Their work focused on providing care and maintenance for 32,000 Congolese and 500 Burundian refugees and the repatriation of 21,600 returnees from DRC and Tanzania. Small numbers of Rwandan refugees continued to cross into Tanzania as a result of alleged human rights abuses.

Constraints

UNHCR staff were able to move freely in most parts of the country except for isolated areas in the western provinces of Gisenyi, Ruhengeri, Kibuye and Cyan-gugu due to rebel activities. These provinces remain in UN security phase III, which requires an armed escort for all movements. The UNHCR office in Kibungo was closed as a result of Action 2. This reduced UNHCR's ability to monitor returns or the flight of persons into Tanzania

UNHCR disengaged from reintegration activities in late 1999 and has yet to identify a development partner to take over this area. Approximately 192,000 families still have inadequate shelter, a situation identified by the Inter-

Persons of Concern				
Main Origin/ Type of Population	Total in Country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent Female	Per cent under 18
Burundi (Asylum-seekers)	1,100	1,100	-	-
Burundi (Refugees)	1,100	1,100	48	51
DRC (Asylum-seekers)	1,100	1,100	-	-
DRC (Refugees)	33,100	33,100	54	62
Returnees (from DRC)	16,800	16,800	-	-
Returnees (from Tanzania)	4,700	4,700	-	-

Income and Expenditure (USD) Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds					
	Revised Budget	Income from Contributions ¹	Other Funds Available ²	Total Funds Available	Total Expenditure
AB & TF	8,761,021	2,158,087	6,452,118	8,610,205	8,610,205

¹ Includes income from contributions restricted at the country level.

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

Agency Task Force as a threat to sustainable peace and reconciliation. It is hoped that other agencies will get involved in sustainable settlement in 2002. As a result of funding constraints, no evaluation of the situation of unaccompanied minors (UAMs) was undertaken in the Gihembe camp (contrary to the previous year in the Kiziba camp, the results of which were published in 2001).

Owing to continuing hostilities in Burundi, little progress was made in preparing for the voluntary repatriation of Burundi refugees. Their integration in Rwanda was hampered by their own reluctance to assimilate; besides which, the scarcity of land meant that care and maintenance programmes had to be continued for them. Several Burundi refugees were resettled but others have not yet been given exit visas by the Government. However, it should be noted that the host authorities' stringent approach was relaxed during the reporting period.

Funding

Due to lack of funding, the capacity of the Office to monitor returns or flight into Tanzania could not be

To facilitate the integration of over 20,000 returnees, basic infrastructure had to be rehabilitated. *UNHCR / R. Chalasani*



maintained. Similarly, activities such as the rehabilitation of shelter could not be undertaken.

Achievements and Impact

Protection and Solutions

Camp-based Congolese refugees faced some protection problems: women and children suffered basic rights' violations such as gender-based violence and the widespread practice of initiating marriage through abduction. Unaccompanied minors were, at times, treated harshly by their foster families and denied the right to an education. However, such abuses were on the decline in 2001.

Burundian refugees continued to face substantial challenges in Rwanda. For example, refugees are required to obtain a signed permit from the camp administrator every time they want to leave the camp. As their prospects to return home are still extremely poor, continued efforts will be made to promote both local integration and resettlement. These efforts are likely to necessitate an increased UNHCR presence. Urban refugees and asylum-seekers were vulnerable to abuse and detention because they lacked proof of identity. The implementation of the refugee law in the coming year is expected to alleviate the tension caused by the present situation, whereby refugees are not protected against refoulement and unfair detention (when they lack identity documents).

Generally, returnees faced only minor problems. However, UNHCR put contingency plans in place in case neighbouring countries decided to apply the Cessation Clauses (see glossary) to all Rwandan refugees. Violence against women and girls persisted but no meaningful action could be taken as long as women felt afraid to speak out. Burundian refugee women were fully involved in the running of the camp and were given priority with respect to funding for refugee projects.

Activities and Assistance

Community Services: Activities were aimed at young adults, and others in need of life skills and small-scale income generation. Vocational skills' training was provided for selected urban refugees.

Women's groups were formed and gender-based violence was addressed through awareness training. Awareness and prevention of HIV/AIDS was treated as a top priority. Literacy training was provided to 52 Burundian refugees in Kigeme and to 484 DRC Congolese in the Kiziba camp (more than half of them women) and 327 refugees from the Gihembe camp attended vocational skills training. The literacy classes were attended by adults of all ages (16-60).

Domestic Needs/Household Support: Non-food items, such as blankets, plastic sheets, mats, used clothes, soap and firewood were distributed to the refugees in Gihembe, Kigeme and Kiziba camps and urban refugees. Soap was distributed on a monthly basis. A ration of one kg of firewood per person per week was distributed to camp-based refugees. As a result of reduced resources, sanitary material was distributed to refugee women only once during the year. Refugee girls requested distribution of sanitary pads instead of cloth for greater convenience during class time.

Education: Primary and secondary education was provided to the camp's school-age population. Urban refugees were given primary education but limited funding meant only selected students could be supported through secondary school. The Office's endeavours to improve the quality of asylum were thus seriously impeded. Scholarships to the National University of Butare and the Université Libre de Kigali were awarded to 17 students, who began taking courses in September 2001.

Food: In addition to the WFP rations, vulnerable refugees such as pregnant women, lactating mothers, children under five, the elderly and hospital patients were provided with fresh vegetables and fruit.

Forestry: The presence of refugee settlements increased soil degradation and deforestation. In September, the Government requested that UNHCR find alternative sources of energy for refugees' domestic use. UNHCR planted 500,000 trees near the refugee camps of Gihembe and Kiziba. 200 stoves were built and distributed and an additional 2,700 stoves were ordered for schools, health and nutrition centres.

Health/Nutrition: 69,815 consultations were held at health centres in the refugee camps. 71,518 cases were referred to national hospitals for specialised medical intervention and diagnostic evaluations. Some 694 cases of sexually transmitted infection (STI) were detected and treated. 7,489 children under five were vaccinated against tuberculosis, measles and polio, and vitamin A supplements were provided. Routine vaccination of pregnant mothers continued. 1,101 births and 129 cases of infant mortality were recorded. The main causes of death were malaria, respiratory tract infection and diarrhoea. Family planning services, therapeutic and supplementary nutrition were provided in all camps. Some 355 children under five were admitted to the therapeutic feeding centre, while expectant and lactating mothers benefited from the supplementary feeding programme. Regular health education sessions were held (including practical demonstrations). UNHCR's programmes concentrated on major causes of mortality in the camps; personal and environmental hygiene; nutrition/malnutrition; HIV/AIDS and other STIs; tuberculosis; the proper use of sanitation facilities; and vaccination programmes. Training activities for community health workers, traditional birth attendants and community leaders were organised.

Income Generation: Whilst over 40 self-help associations were created, limited funding meant that very few income-generating activities could be sponsored. Priority was given to widows/widowers and children responsible for their households. In Gihembe camp eight associations involving 394 people (206 men and 188 women) received support for their small business activities. In Kiziba, 10 associations (involving 67 people: 27 men, 40 women) received financial and other support.

Legal Assistance: In the absence of government refugee status determination procedures, UNHCR continued to issue identity documents to recognised asylum-seekers. Comprehensive assistance was provided for the fifty refugees who were resettled during the reporting period. The Office intervened on behalf of refugees who were arrested or detained and promoted training in international refugee law. Significantly fewer incidents of gender-based violence were recorded.

Operational Support (to Agencies): Operational support was provided to the Government, NGO implementing partners and other local associations (working partners), to ensure the smooth implementation of projects for the benefit of returnees.

Sanitation: In the camps, 90 additional latrines were constructed; work commenced on the construction of 72 baths and 80 garbage pits but funding shortages prevented completion. All 226 functioning latrines were cleaned on a daily basis. Sessions were held with refugees on the proper use of public facilities, personal hygiene, contagious diseases and on the health risks posed by certain insects.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: 825 new refugee shelters were built in Gihembe and 913 shelters were renovated. Regular maintenance of the camp infrastructure took place throughout the year in all camps. Some new arrivals in Kiziba camp were not assisted.

Transport/Logistics: Firewood, food and non-food items such as plastic sheets, plastic mats, blankets, jerry cans and soap were regularly transported and distributed to refugees in Kiziba, Gihembe and Kigeme camps. An NGO maintained and managed the UNHCR vehicle fleet. Another implementing partner provided water to Gihembe camp.

Water: An adequate supply of clean drinking water was provided through a piped water system to Gihembe and Kiziba camps at the rate of 12-20 litres per refugee per day. UNHCR continued to transport water to Gihembe camp on a daily basis.

Organisation and Implementation

Management

As a result of funding cuts the total number of staff was reduced by 20, of whom 14 had been based in Kigali and six in field offices. There were 18 international staff, 51 local and eight UNVs. The office in Kibungo was closed on 30 September 2001.

Working with Others

During 2001, UNHCR worked with MINALCO and JCRRRR, its main government counterparts. UNHCR also worked with 18 implementing partners, including six national NGOs.

Overall Assessment

With sufficient funding and continued efforts on the part of development agencies, it is possible to build on accomplishments, to date. The unpalatable alternative is an uncertain future for the thousands of refugees who continue to repatriate, and worsening conditions for the thousands already at home. In the transition from emergency to development the involvement of the Government, NGOs, development agencies and donors is vital. Disengagement by these players now may not prove to be the wisest strategy. An alternative to disengagement needs to be found – until such time as development agencies and donors are able to contribute sufficiently. At the end of the reporting period, 117,000 Rwandan refugees remained in exile, mostly in DRC and Tanzania. The slow progress of the peace process in DRC has made it unlikely that the 32,000 Congolese refugees currently hosted in Rwanda will be able to go home any time soon. UNHCR will continue to follow regional peace building initiatives and ensure that the nationality issue is addressed, especially in the context of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. For Burundian refugees, UNHCR continues to strive for durable solutions in the form of resettlement, and to a limited extent, local integration.

Offices

Kigali
Byumba
Gisengi
Kibuye

Partners

Government Agencies

Joint Commission for Repatriation and Reintegration of
Rwandan Refugees
Ministry of Gender and Women Development
Ministry of Local Government and Social Affairs
National Unity and Reconciliation Commission

NGOs

African Humanitarian Action
American Refugee Committee
Club Mamans Sportives
Duterimbere
Forum for African Women Educationalists
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Norwegian People's Aid
OXFAM (UK)
Population Services International
Profemme Twese Hamwe
Rwandan Rural Rehabilitation Initiative
Urwego/World Relief

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Financial Report (USD)				
Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds				
Expenditure Breakdown	Current Year's Projects	notes	Prior Years' Projects	notes
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,181,711		28,540	
Community Services	276,279		208,626	
Crop Production	0		5,222	
Domestic Needs / Household Support	170,478		143,171	
Education	184,970		147,349	
Food	36,553		30,226	
Forestry	0		39,864	
Health / Nutrition	475,209		355,683	
Income Generation	76,085		71,656	
Legal Assistance	27,520		132,322	
Livestock	0		662	
Operational Support (to Agencies)	513,471		443,877	
Sanitation	141,825		151,629	
Shelter / Other Infrastructure	90,899		101,096	
Transport / Logistics	1,769,878		790,595	
Water	94,870		332,755	
Instalments with Implementing Partners	757,319		(2,457,807)	
Sub-total Operational	5,797,067		525,466	
Programme Support	2,110,519		44,480	
Sub-total Disbursements / Deliveries	7,907,586	(3)	569,946	(5)
Unliquidated Obligations	702,619	(3)	0	
TOTAL	8,610,205	(1) (3)	569,946	

Instalments with Implementing Partners

Payments Made	4,347,799		398,891	
Reporting Received	3,590,481		2,856,697	
Balance	757,318		(2,457,806)	
Outstanding 1st January	0		4,120,975	
Refunded to UNHCR	0		11,811	
Currency Adjustment	0		17,062	
Outstanding 31 December	757,318		1,668,420	

Unliquidated Obligations

Outstanding 1st January	0		956,145	(5)
New Obligations	8,610,205	(1)	0	
Disbursements	7,907,586	(3)	569,946	(5)
Cancellations	0		333,822	(5)
Outstanding 31 December	702,619	(3)	52,377	(5)

Figures which cross reference to Accounts:

- (1) Annex to Statement 1
- (3) Schedule 3
- (5) Schedule 5