



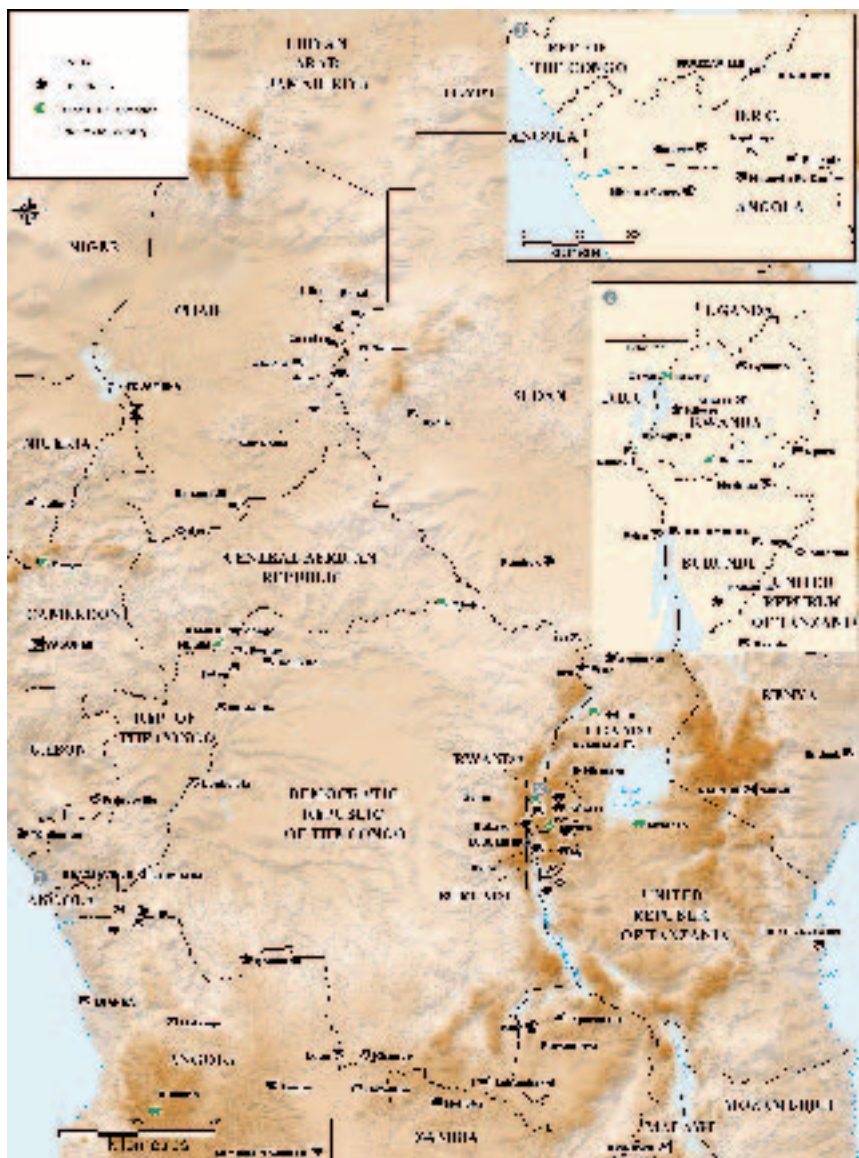
Central Africa and the Great Lakes

Major developments

The optimism that has characterized political developments in the subregion in general since 2003, persisted into 2004 as the peace processes and transitional governments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi remained on track. Democratization efforts in Rwanda continued to make headway. In the Central African Republic (CAR), the Government of General Bozize moved towards democratic elections, resolving to bring stability to a country that has been affected by a series of military power struggles. Elsewhere, in neighbouring countries such as the Republic of the Congo (RoC) or in Angola, the political environment was stable. All these developments favoured UNHCR's work in general and the repatriation programmes in particular. By the end of the year UNHCR had been able to assist almost 130,000 people to return to their countries.

Despite the positive developments, however, a significant number of new refugees sought asylum in the region. The instability in eastern DRC and the insurrection by some elements of the Congolese

Burundi
Central African Republic
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Gabon
Republic of Chad (see under
Chad/Sudan Operation)
Republic of the Congo
Rwanda
United Republic of Tanzania



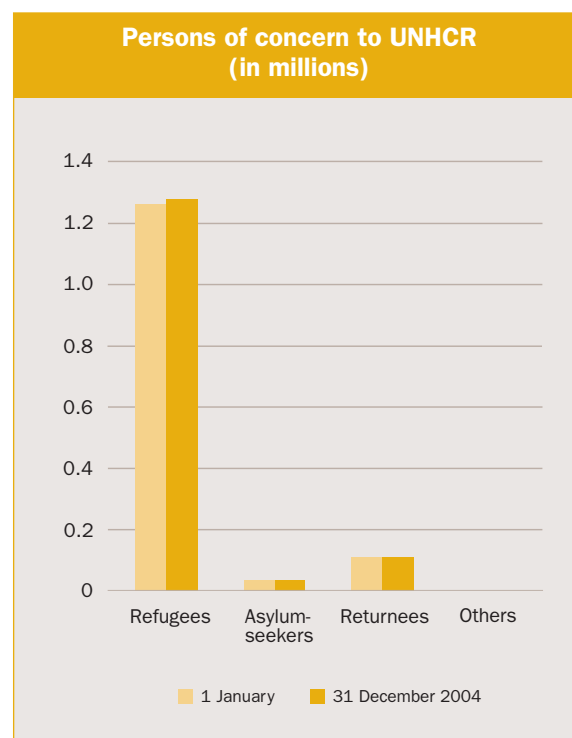
Development in the Great Lakes Region held in November 2004 in the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania). It is in this regional context that UNHCR carried out its mandate on behalf of well in excess of one million refugees, returnees and other persons of concern.

Challenges and concerns

In general, operations in the Central Africa and Great Lakes region focused on repatriation movements. The election processes in both DRC and Burundi are expected to engender greater stability. The UN peacekeeping missions – MONUC in DRC and ONUB in Burundi – must continue to support the disarmament and reintegration of combatants in both countries. A sustainable, successful reintegration of returnees in DRC and Burundi necessitates greater involvement by development actors, especially in difficult areas such as Equateur province (DRC), where very few NGOs or UN agencies are represented.

army in Bukavu in May/June 2004 led to an exodus of refugees into Rwanda and Burundi. As UNHCR negotiated the relocation of the refugees in Burundi from the borders to safer locations, some militia groups, reportedly operating from the DRC, attacked the refugee site in Gatumba and killed more than 160 refugees. Rapid diplomatic intervention by Heads of State in the region – denouncing the actions of the militia groups involved, such as the *Front national de libération* (FNL) – helped to reduce tension and the risk of renewed conflict involving Rwanda, Burundi and DRC.

Diplomatic efforts throughout 2004 by the United Nations, the African Union, South Africa and other members of the international community ensured that no major upheaval was witnessed in the Great Lakes region. A major effort on peace in the subregion, initiated by the United Nations and supported by the African Union, culminated in the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and



UNHCR welcomes the likelihood that the Sudan peace process will lead to the repatriation of Sudanese refugees who have been in exile in CAR and DRC for more than two decades. However, the Office remains acutely aware that for all the major refugee situations in Central Africa and the Great Lakes Region to be resolved and hold firm in the medium term, it is imperative that the international community become more involved in the transition phase from humanitarian assistance to development activities.

Progress towards solutions

At the International Conference on Peace, Security, Democracy and Development in the Great Lakes Region, the international community demonstrated its interest in sustainable peace in the region. Ongoing efforts to ensure effective peacekeeping in the DRC and Burundi could begin to break a seemingly endless cycle of violence and put in place a fundamental basis for sustainable development for the many populations of the region. The need for post-conflict transitional and developmental measures cannot be over-emphasized.

Operations

Operations in **Burundi, DRC, RoC, Rwanda** and **Tanzania** will be covered in the individual country chapters. Operations in **Chad** will be described in the chapters covering the Chad/Sudan subregion.

In **CAR**, UNHCR, at the end of the year, continued to provide protection and assistance to some 23,000 refugees and asylum-seekers including some 20,000 Sudanese and 3,000 DRC refugees. 2004 was marked by the organized repatriation of more than 2,000 Congolese returnees to Equateur province in DRC. Some 500 refugees who registered for repatriation to other provinces are expected to repatriate in 2005. In addition, preparatory activities in the form of information and registration were undertaken for the repatriation of Sudanese refugees living in settlements in Mboki. The draft refugee legislation, to which UNHCR made a significant contribution, is still pending submission to Parliament.

UNHCR's population of concern in **Gabon**, two-thirds of whom are from RoC, only slightly decreased to some 19,000 refugees and asylum-seekers by the end of 2004. Despite UNHCR's efforts to enhance



repatriation by opening up new roads, only approximately 750 refugees (630 of them Congolese) repatriated to their country of origin. UNHCR therefore began increasingly to pursue local economic integration as the most durable solution. Very significant progress was achieved on this issue with the Government agreeing to provide identity cards to refugees as soon as a revalidation exercise is completed. This should drastically reduce the incidence of arrest and other harassment and enable refugees to take up employment.



Chad: Refugees from Sudan - a refugee woman and her child as they get ready to join the convoy to the newly opened camp Oure Cassoni. Bahai, July 2004. *UNHCR/H. Caux*

Funding

A significant acceleration of the return of Burundian refugees was noted towards mid-year, prompting UNHCR to launch a supplementary appeal for a return and reintegration operation in July 2004. Donors responded during the latter part of the year. The supplementary programme continues in 2005.

In coordination with other UN agencies, UNHCR participated with its programmes and presented its

budgetary requirements in the Consolidated Appeals Processes for Burundi, DRC and Tanzania as well as for the Great Lakes region as a whole.

Donors responded very well to UNHCR's annual programme budget in the Central Africa and Great Lakes region. Contributions earmarked for the region resulted in funding levels of over three-quarters for the annual programme as well as two-thirds for the supplementary programme in Burundi. This was a welcome reflection of continued donor interest in the region.

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)

Earmarking ¹	Donor	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget
Burundi			
	Belgium	717,550	601,685
	Canada	526,316	0
	European Commission	5,586,513	0
	Finland	0	508,906
	Germany	0	127,226
	Italy	0	127,226
	Japan	1,000,000	0
	Luxembourg	265,252	0
	Netherlands	390,000	2,220,000
	Norway	0	2,737,560
	<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (NED)	0	397,878
	Sweden	0	666,667
	Switzerland	0	416,667
	United Kingdom	932,836	0
	United States of America	1,764,225	0
	USA for UNHCR	1,000	0
Sub-total		11,183,692	7,803,815
Central Africa and the Great Lakes			
	Belgium	3,745,318	0
	Canada	381,679	763,359
	Denmark	4,009,632	0
	Germany	0	300,842
	Finland	1,243,781	0
	France	594,787	0
	Luxembourg	975,610	0
	Japan	4,500,000	0
	Norway	3,053,793	0
	Sweden	6,456,044	0
	United States of America	0	5,250,000
Sub-total		24,960,643	6,314,201
Central African Republic			
	United States of America	211,989	0
Sub-total		211,989	0
Chad, (Rep. of)			
	African Union	0	60,000
	<i>Association française de soutien à l'UNHCR</i>	0	386,512
	Australia for UNHCR	0	113,363
	Austria	0	121,803
	Canada	0	1,484,856
	Czech Republic	0	357,676
	<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe</i>	0	437,133
	Denmark	0	2,527,696
	El-Eslah Society of Bahrain	0	10,013
	Estonia	0	39,160
	European Commission	0	2,405,061
	Finland	0	248,756



Earmarking ¹	Donor	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget
	France	0	3,266,872
	Germany	0	6,389,287
	HQ online donations	0	10,449
	Italy	0	957,229
	Japan	0	5,000,000
	Japan Association for UNHCR	0	477,870
	Liechtenstein	0	80,000
	Luxembourg	0	784,933
	Microsoft Corporation, United States	0	25,000
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Canada	0	191,823
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in France	0	126
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Greece	0	160,112
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Italy	0	1,226,258
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Switzerland	0	167
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in the USA	0	22,073
	Netherlands	0	5,554,550
	New Zealand	0	636,943
	Norway	0	2,566,771
	Poland	0	24,067
	Portugal	0	300,842
	Spain	0	2,847,077
	<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (NED)	0	548,483
	Sweden	0	2,476,146
	Switzerland	0	1,190,476
	The Qaddafi International Foundation	0	9,140
	UK for UNHCR	0	19,134
	United Kingdom	0	5,488,860
	United States of America	400,000	30,348,249
	USA for UNHCR	0	437,626
Sub-total		400,000	79,232,592
Republic of the Congo			
	United States of America	1,218,057	0
Sub-total		1,218,057	0
Countries in Central Africa			
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Italy	155,928	0
Sub-total		155,928	0
Democratic Republic of the Congo			
	Belgium	1,143,201	0
	Italy	428,922	0
	Japan	2,000,000	0
	Luxembourg	530,504	0
	Netherlands	500,000	0
	Norway	582,242	0

Earmarking ¹	Donor	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget
	United States of America	4,228,349	0
Sub-total		9,413,217	0
Gabon			
	United Kingdom	33,663	0
Sub-total		33,663	0
Rwanda			
	Japan	600,000	0
	USA for UNHCR	1,175	0
	Norway	491,803	0
	United States of America	1,050,000	0
Sub-total		2,142,978	0
United Republic of Tanzania			
	Australia	49,243	0
	Austria	124,844	0
	Belgium	601,685	0
	Canada	763,359	0
	Denmark	362,318	0
	European Commission	13,848,646	0
	Germany	609,756	0
	Italy	551,471	0
	Japan	2,400,000	0
	Netherlands	3,117,020	0
	South Africa	80,695	0
	Switzerland	793,651	0
	United Kingdom	51,824	0
	United States of America	5,138,070	0
Sub-total		28,492,581	0
Total		78,212,747	93,350,607

¹ For more information on earmarking, please refer to the donor profiles.

Budget and expenditure (USD)

Country	Revised budget			Expenditure		
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget ¹	Total	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget ¹	Total
Burundi	18,736,081	15,926,350	34,662,431	18,654,178	10,337,496	28,991,674
Central African Republic	2,571,711	2,068,859	4,640,570	2,571,711	182,151	2,753,862
Chad, (Republic of)	4,039,251	97,954,253	101,993,504	3,956,529	69,707,126	73,663,655
Congo, (Republic of the)	7,112,900	0	7,112,900	7,074,332	0	7,074,332
Democratic Republic of the Congo	25,083,312	3,265,151	28,348,463	25,073,147	651,346	25,724,493
Gabon	3,565,646	0	3,565,646	3,519,069	0	3,519,069
United Republic of Tanzania	28,082,061	2,567,321	30,649,382	28,081,457	947,214	29,028,671
Regional projects ²	7,978,812	0	7,978,812	7,942,118	0	7,942,118
Total	97,169,774	121,781,934	218,951,708	96,872,541	81,825,333	178,697,874
Rwanda	6,829,914	0	6,829,914	6,703,683	0	6,703,683
Total	103,999,688	121,781,934	225,781,622	103,576,224	81,825,333	185,401,557

¹ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for the Return and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees, the Supplementary Appeal for Eastern Chad and Darfur and the Supplementary Appeal for the Return and Reintegration of Sudanese refugees in Southern Sudan.
Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent charge (support costs) that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

² Includes assistance to various refugees in the Great Lakes region, such as resettlement and care and maintenance, as well as support costs for UNVs and consultants, light aircraft charter costs and scholarships for refugee students.