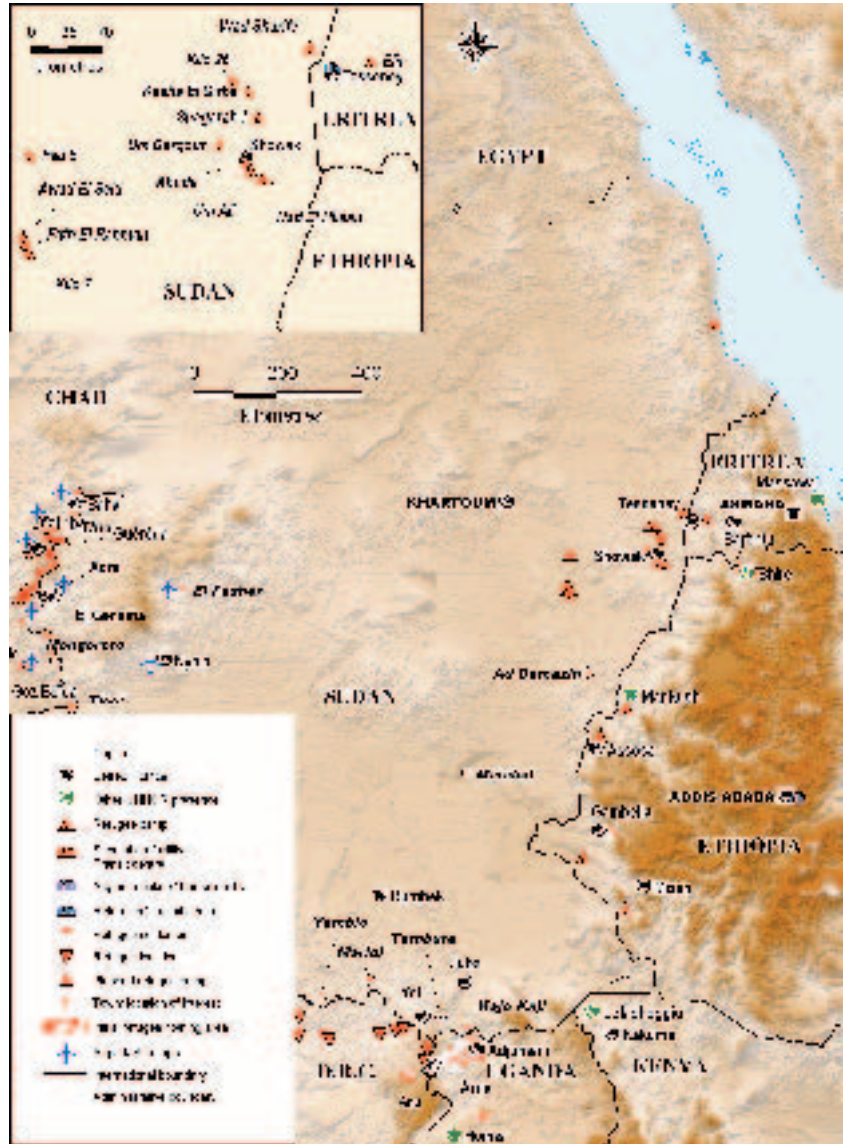


Sudan (AB)

Main objectives

Promote and facilitate the voluntary repatriation of 35,000 Eritreans and other smaller groups of refugees; provide humanitarian assistance to the remaining refugees and asylum-seekers; pursue resettlement opportunities for refugees who cannot return for well-founded reasons; promote gender equality and focus on priority policy issues for refugee and returnee populations, especially refugee women, older refugees and adolescents; pursue environmental rehabilitation in areas affected by the presence of refugees and/or conflict, including the cleaning and rehabilitation of infrastructure in vacated and closed camps.



Impact

- A total of almost 9,900 Eritrean refugees (over 1,600 from camps and some 8,300 from urban areas) were repatriated to Eritrea in 33 convoys organized by UNHCR.
- Four camps were closed, cleaned, rehabilitated and handed over to the State authorities in eastern Sudan.
- Eighty-two Ugandans, four Ethiopians and four Somalis were repatriated to their countries of origin.
- The Office assisted some 500 refugees who were about to be resettled.
- The Sustainable Options for Livelihood Security in Eastern Sudan (SOLSES) programme was launched to build sustainable livelihoods in and around former refugee camps and to rehabilitate essential infrastructure in former refugee hosting areas (in the sectors of water, sanitation, health and education).
- Refugees relocated to the consolidated refugee camps had quicker access to protection interventions and basic services.

Working environment

The context

In 2004, the operational environment in Sudan changed drastically. The UNHCR office, which was established mainly to deal with the refugee situation in eastern Sudan suddenly had to cope with the Darfur crisis in the west and preparations for the return of Sudanese refugees and IDPs to their places of origin in the south.

In eastern Sudan, following the official end of the war between Eritrea and Ethiopia in 2000, Eritrean refugees returned home in large numbers. Nevertheless, at the end of 2004, there were still 110,000 camp-based refugees who did not wish to return. When the cessation clause for Eritrean refugees took effect in December 2004, UNHCR and the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) jointly started Refugee Status Determination (RSD) for the remaining

refugees. The political developments in Eritrea have resulted in a relatively small number of refugees willing to repatriate, and an upsurge of new arrivals with a very high RSD recognition rate.

The general socio-economic problems and daily hardships endured by the Sudanese in the east continued to play into the hands of numerous opposition groups. Internal political tensions in east Sudan persisted throughout 2004 and had a considerable effect on the operational environment.

Constraints

One of the main constraints to the implementation of programmes was UNHCR's simultaneous involvement in three operations (in the east, west, and south) overstressing existing resources. In addition to the established programme in eastern Sudan, UNHCR was involved in the Darfur crisis, and preparations for the return of refugees and IDPs in South Sudan. In eastern Sudan, RSD was temporarily suspended as of mid-July 2004, due to budgetary constraints. RSD was resumed in November 2004 with an allocation from the operational reserve. Of the planned assistance activities, only limited rehabilitation of hospitals, education facilities and water systems was possible. Due to the protracted nature of the operation in the east, it was difficult to attract competent international NGOs as implementing partners. The programme relied heavily on national implementing partners, fully funded by UNHCR. The World Food Programme (WFP) experienced funding difficulties and was not able to deliver the required

quantities of food to beneficiaries throughout the year. In eastern Sudan, minimal rainfall and a poor subsequent harvest made it extremely difficult for the refugees to cope. It is UNHCR's aim to empower the Government of Sudan to assume direct responsibility for protection management of its refugee policy through the creation of a National Asylum System, but in 2004 this remained at the conceptual stage.

Funding

To cover the costs of the repatriation operation from June to December and the RSD exercise from June to October, the office in Khartoum requested additional funds. By the end of November less than half of the requested funds had been made available, with inevitable consequences for the operation.

On the positive side, towards the end of 2004, the Government of Norway made a substantial contribution for the SOLSES programme in eastern Sudan.

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

UNHCR is assisting the Government of Sudan in establishing a national asylum system. The initiative entails legislation and procedures that will provide for efficient and fair procedures, including RSD for newly arrived refugees, the issuance of documentation and residence permits and the opportunity to locally

Persons of concern				
Main origin/Type of population	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
IDPs	662,300	-	-	-
Eritrea (refugees)	110,900	69,300	40	-
Former Eritrean refugees	37,400	-	-	-
Ethiopia (refugees)	14,800	-	47	-
Uganda (refugees)	7,900	-	40	-
Chad (refugees)	5,000	-	-	-
Various countries (asylum-seekers)	4,000	-	-	-
DRC (refugees)	1,600	-	39	-
Various countries (refugees)	1,300	-	40	-
Ethiopia (asylum-seekers)	200	-	-	-

integrate with full rights and responsibilities. Throughout the year, UNHCR assisted refugees in Khartoum by offering counselling services and basic humanitarian assistance. Counselling and assistance was also provided to camp-based refugees which included mandate RSD assessments to those who claimed serious protection needs.

Activities and assistance

Community services: A Joint Assessment Mission report prepared by WFP confirmed that women's participation in committees of elders in the camps in eastern Sudan increased from 13 per cent in 2003 to 29 per cent in 2004. UNHCR took the lead and worked with government officials, UN partners, the Ahfad University for Women and NGOs in introducing the *16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence and HIV/AIDS* in Sudan. An action plan was drafted in collaboration with the refugees and other stakeholders. UNHCR provided sanitary materials to 20 per cent of the refugee girls and women of reproductive age in the refugee camps.

Domestic needs/Household support: One blanket per person and one jerry can per family were provided at the transit centre to almost 10,000 persons assisted by UNHCR to repatriate to Eritrea. New arrivals in the refugee camps received one blanket and one kitchen set following RSD.

Education: More than 10,000 children were enrolled in 23 primary schools in the camps (50 per cent girls). A total of 84 students (the majority females) received DAFI scholarships. Thirty Eritrean students received vocational training in computer science and accounting.

Food: While food distribution to the camp-based refugees in the east was taken care of by WFP, UNHCR provided hot meals to over 3,000 Eritreans upon arrival in the refugee camps. Food rations were provided to unaccompanied minors.

Forestry: In eastern Sudan, over 1,800 hectares of degraded land was converted to forest land. As a result of improved soil fertility on agro-forestry farms, a total of 14.5 tons of food was produced. Some 33,400 persons were trained in environmental management activities. Women's groups in the camps raised over 73,000 tree seedlings.

Health/Nutrition: To ensure continuous awareness-raising on HIV/AIDS and reproductive health information in the camps, UNHCR engaged an international NGO to provide training to refugee youth and opinion leaders (sheikhs, elders, mosque leaders), both male and female. The health of refugees remained stable, with the crude mortality rate usually below 1.0/1,000/month. Acute malnutrition ranged between 11.6 per cent (in March) and 16.9 per cent (August). Because of WFP funding constraints, refugees received irregular rations, sometimes providing less than 50 per cent of the standard energy requirement. Diseases such as diarrhoea, malaria and pneumonia, aggravated by food shortages, accounted for increased mortality rates well in excess of the standard benchmark figure, especially for under-fives. Basic health care was provided to camp residents as well as to repatriating refugees.

Income generation: A modest income generation programme to upgrade technical skills, management training and entrepreneurship development, combined with initial support to women in sewing, handicraft and small-scale vending was implemented in the refugee camps. In total, 980 refugee women received training and 725 refugee women were provided with material and starting up assistance. A small apprenticeship programme combined with assistance towards employment was also implemented benefiting 57 persons, the majority then successfully employed.

Legal assistance: UNHCR regularly visited the state prisons in Gedaref, Kassala, Port Sudan and Wad Medani to identify refugees held in detention. Legal assistance was provided in cooperation with local lawyers and the authorities. The Office intervened in 14 detention cases, of which four involving deportation due to illegal entry into Sudan were accepted as refugees through the RSD exercise.

Legal assistance was provided to refugee women and girls who were victims of rape, domestic violence or illegal pregnancies. Five women were provided with legal representation in the courts. A comprehensive SGBV programme was promoted and a working group comprising representatives from refugee communities, UNHCR, WFP, the Government and NGOs was created. Legal, medical and psychosocial reporting and assistance procedures were established in the refugee camps.

UNHCR was involved in family tracing and reunification activities. Forty newly arrived unaccompanied minors were reunited with family members in Sudan or Eritrea.

Operational support (to agencies): Administrative support was provided to all implementing partners in the form of staff costs, maintenance and repair of vehicles and other equipment, insurance of vehicles, rental of premises, communications equipment, utilities and office supplies.

Sanitation: In eastern Sudan, funds were insufficient to finance the targeted increase of family latrine coverage to 50 per cent. Nevertheless, efforts were made to increase the number of family latrines in the Um Gargour camp. All refugees relocated to this camp had their own family latrine. Insecticide was sprayed regularly during the rainy season. Regular camp clean-up campaigns were undertaken throughout the year to train the refugees on the proper disposal of their household waste.

Shelter/Other infrastructure: Each family in the camps was provided with a 400m² plot and one shelter (*tukul*). Temporary shelter (UNHCR tents) was provided to relocated refugees until their own *tukuls* were ready for occupancy. *Tukuls* were also provided to newly arrived refugees in Kilo 26 refugee camp. Rehabilitation of infrastructure was undertaken in the camps prior to handover to the local authorities.

Transport/Logistics: A fleet of 46 trucks and 78 light vehicles was used to support the Eritrean voluntary repatriation, the relocation of refugees and camp consolidation. Medical supplies were stored in the warehouse managed by the Commissioner for Refugees, while the non-food items for the returnees and refugees were stored in warehouses managed by UNHCR.

Water: Each person had access to at least 20-25 litres of clean drinking water per day in the eastern refugee camps. The water supply system in Kilo 26 camp improved following the installation of distribution pipelines to supply 18 stand posts each with at least two taps. All other refugees living in designated refugee settlements as well as their livestock had access to clean drinking water from boreholes and treated surface water.

Organization and implementation

Management

UNHCR maintained a branch office in Khartoum and a suboffice in Es-Showak. A temporary presence at Port Sudan and Kassala effectively handled the RSD exercises and repatriation of Eritrean refugees. The presence in Port Sudan was closed at the end of the year. The Office maintained 282 staff, of which 123 staff (28 international and 86 national staff, eight UNVs and one JPO) were directly involved in the implementation of the programme in eastern Sudan.

Working with others

To implement the country programme, UNHCR concluded agreements with the Commissioner for Refugees and several national and international NGOs. Implementing agreements were signed with the National Forestry Corporation. UNHCR and UNFPA implemented a special programme for reproductive health. The SOLSES programme was jointly managed by UNHCR, UNDP, FAO, GOAL-Ireland, COR, UN-Habitat, GTZ and IUCN (The World Conservation Union) among others. The state authorities in Kassala, Gedaref and the Red Sea were closely involved in the rehabilitation of infrastructure in refugee-affected areas.

Overall assessment

Amidst operational challenges, UNHCR proceeded with camp closure and consolidation of remaining camps, while continuing assistance to refugees through the provision of care and maintenance activities, rehabilitation of refugee-affected areas, the search for durable solutions (RSD and repatriation) and an exit strategy through the SOLSES initiative. Despite delays due to limited resources, four refugee camps were officially handed over to state authorities after rehabilitation of key infrastructure. The organized repatriation exercise officially ended on 31 December 2004. Arrangements for the remaining refugees who wish to return will henceforth be facilitated on an individual basis. In collaboration with the Sudanese Government, the RSD programme was concluded in 2004. Rehabilitation of refugee-affected areas entailed assiduous attention to the environment and key service infrastructure. The SOLSES programme was created as part of UNHCR's exit strategy from eastern Sudan and in an effort to move towards self-reliance and local integration for the remaining refugees. The creation of a national asylum system should enable COR to progressively assume responsibility for RSD and protection of refugees. The emphasis on community participation, women's representation in management and SGBV met with considerable success

The accomplishments of 2004 will help to refocus the 2005 programme on self-reliance and local integration of the remaining refugees in eastern Sudan. This will be achieved through the SOLSES programme, in collaboration with the Government, refugees and the local population as well as the regional state authorities, United Nations agencies and donors. It is anticipated that full implementation of SOLSES will prepare the ground for UNHCR's eventual exit.

Offices

Khartoum: Representative's office and the office of the Director of Operations for the Sudan Situation
Es-Showak

Partners

Government agencies

Commissioner for Refugees
National Forestry Corporation
Refugee Counselling Service

NGOs

Global Health Foundation
Human Appeal International
INTERSOS
Islamic African Relief Agency
Ockenden International
Save the Children (USA)
Sudan Open Learning Organization
Sudanese Red Crescent
Swedish Free Mission

Others

ILO
UNESCO-PEER
UNFPA
UNV
WFP

Income and expenditure (USD) Annual and Supplementary programme budgets

	Revised budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
AB	17,739,918	6,180,654	11,387,721	17,568,375	17,568,375
SB³	19,959,690	4,484,920	883,656	5,368,576	4,995,067
Total	37,699,608	10,665,574	12,271,377	22,936,951	22,563,442

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.

³ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for Eastern Chad and Darfur, as well as for 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.

The above figures do not include costs at Headquarters.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and Supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,588,449	2,898,402	6,486,851	0
Community services	138,859	0	138,859	13,657
Domestic needs / household support	785,229	0	785,229	14,795
Education	413,305	20,020	433,325	550,665
Food	78,626	0	78,626	59,739
Forestry	1,062,171	0	1,062,171	443,125
Health and nutrition	922,543	402	922,945	814,965
Income generation	16,694	0	16,694	3,245
Legal assistance	2,217,756	116,817	2,334,572	1,065,887
Operational support (to agencies)	1,979,037	33,441	2,012,479	1,039,703
Sanitation	71,141	0	71,141	277,154
Shelter and infrastructure	71,379	28,993	100,372	291,322
Transport and logistics	1,789,399	613,142	2,402,541	756,720
Water	203,242	0	203,242	202,077
Instalments with implementing partners	2,318,945	169,492	2,488,437	(5,533,055)
Sub-total operational activities	15,656,775	3,880,709	19,537,484	0
Programme support	1,911,600	1,114,358	3,025,958	0
Total disbursements	17,568,375	4,995,067	22,563,442	0
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	6,168,185	214,877	6,383,062	
Reporting received	(3,849,240)	(45,385)	(3,894,625)	
Balance	2,318,945	169,492	2,488,437	
Prior years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1 January				5,251,358
Payments made				536,345
Reporting received				(5,533,055)
Refunded to UNHCR				(191,224)
Balance				63,424
Unliquidated obligations				
Outstanding 1 January				1,494,380
Disbursements				(1,387,348)
Cancellations				(107,032)
Outstanding 31 December				0