



# East and Horn of Africa

## Recent developments

During the reporting period, the East and Horn of Africa has enjoyed relative political stability. The Algiers Peace Accord was respected by both Eritrea and Ethiopia, despite delays in implementation arrangements. The stalemate on boundary demarcation remains a cause for concern, but many experts believe that with the support of the United Nations and the international community, the dispute can be resolved peacefully.

In the meantime, greater efforts have been made to try resolve inter-state and civil conflicts through enhanced peace-building and conflict resolution initiatives. The renewed peace talks on the Southern Sudan conflict, launched in Machakos, Kenya, under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), resulted in the signing in Naivasha, Kenya of important protocols which cover the Southern Blue Nile and Nuba mountain regions: the contested areas of Abyei; and power-sharing. This remarkable achievement has created sufficient momentum to carry the parties through to the final phase of the peace process. In this context, UNHCR has initiated preparatory activities aimed at facilitating the initial voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees to these areas in Southern Sudan.

Djibouti

Eritrea

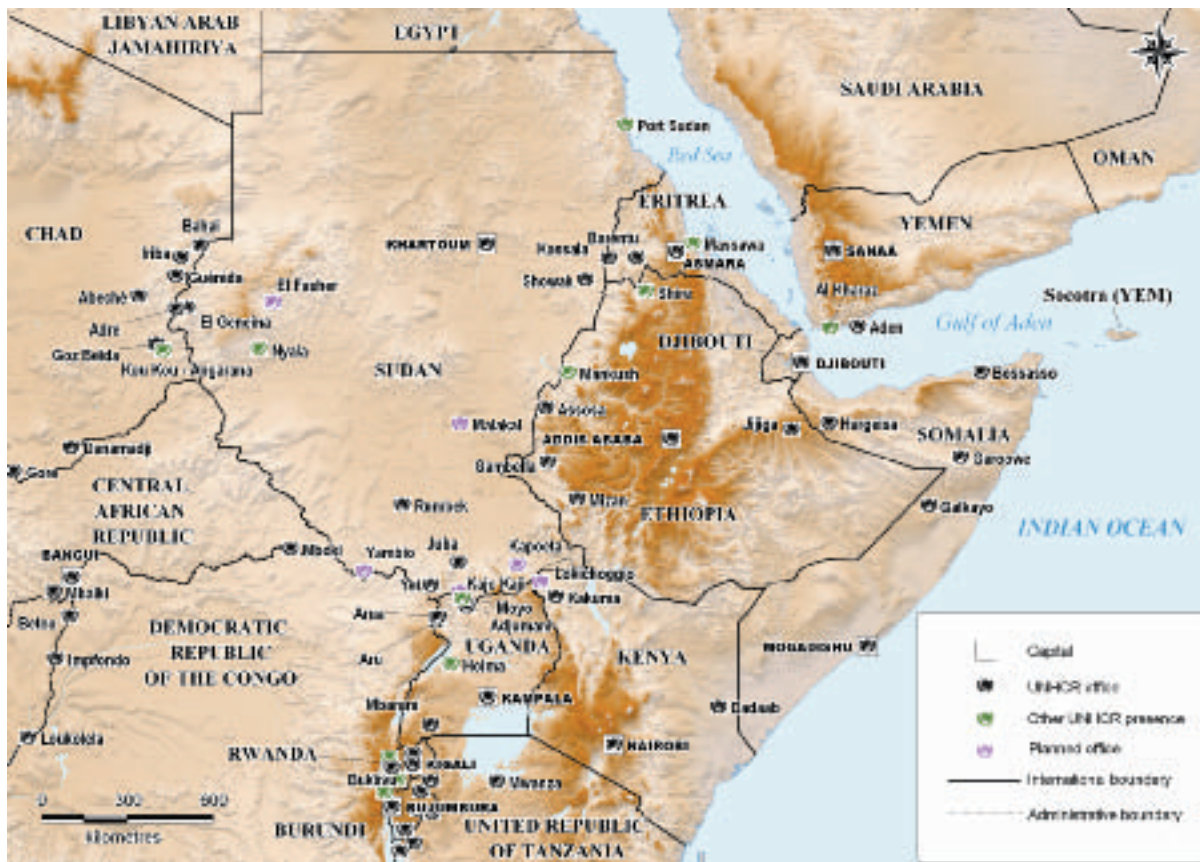
Ethiopia

Kenya

Somalia

Sudan (see under Chad/Sudan Operation)

Uganda



Another notable achievement was the inauguration of the Transitional Federal Parliament for Somalia at the Somalia National Reconciliation Conference (SNRC) which took place in Kenya under the auspices of IGAD. This arduous process which started in October 2002 has recently resulted in the election of the Somali Parliament as well as the Speaker of Parliament. The new parliament then elected Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed, leader of the autonomous region of 'Puntland' as President of Somalia. He is expected to install the required governance structures for the country. However, while recent developments in the Somali peace process justify a measure of optimism, the plight of Somali refugees and others of concern continues to present enormous challenges. UNHCR has therefore initiated a comprehensive review of the Somali refugee situation and is launching an innovative Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), jointly devised with interested parties, including the hosting States. The objective of the CPA will be to further promote and support durable solutions for Somali refugees both in the countries of asylum and origin. It is hoped that the ongoing peace process will lead to a comprehensive peace settlement and facilitate the return of

thousands of refugees to Somalia. While this prospect is welcome, the challenges of reintegration will nevertheless continue to place an enormous burden on local authorities and existing communities. To date, more than one million Somali refugees have already returned home, half of them with UNHCR assistance.

The signing of a tripartite agreement by the Governments of Uganda, Rwanda and UNHCR is another of the organisation's more important achievements in 2004. The agreement is expected in due course to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees from Uganda. Some positive indicators have been observed and preparatory activities are being initiated accordingly.

While there has been considerable progress in the promotion and implementation of durable solutions in the region, camp safety and security remain a source of anxiety. The cross-border incursions in Gambella (Ethiopia), Adjumani (Uganda) and Mandera (Kenya) are but a few examples of the risks. In Gambella, tribal conflicts have led to the death of 35 refugees and dozens of nationals. Attacks by the Lord's Resistance



Ethiopia: Returnees from Sudan riding into the sunset towards Gondar transit site, and then home. *UNHCR / B. Neeleman*

Army in Adjumani displaced some 26,000 refugees. Meanwhile, violence and conflict in southern and central Somalia continue to hamper humanitarian access to the vulnerable. This situation has been further compounded by widespread and severe drought resulting in food and water shortages in the northern pastoral and southern agricultural areas of Somalia. In Kenya and Ethiopia emergency supplementary feeding operations have been established to remedy breakdowns in the supply of food (aggravated by drought in both countries).

A timely response by WFP has succeeded in stabilizing the situation.

Another notable challenge was the decision taken by the Government of Djibouti to expel illegal migrants. This decision led UNHCR to establish a temporary transit centre in Aur-Aoussa for persons of concern.



## Strategic objectives

UNHCR, in collaboration with IGAD and with other UN agencies, will continue to promote the implementation of the signed accords, which are of crucial importance for the Somali and Sudanese refugees. In this context, the Office will continue to pursue its plan of promoting voluntary repatriation to Sudan, Eritrea and to the northern regions of 'Somaliland' and 'Puntland'. UNHCR will also

facilitate resettlement initiatives wherever feasible and in accordance with existing standards and criteria. Other durable solution initiatives such as Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR) and Development through Local Integration (DLI) will be actively pursued. In this respect, the Office will intensify its efforts to work closely with the relevant governments, other UN agencies and with development agencies in the formulation of joint plans of action for post-conflict recovery activities. Building on its experiences over the past

two years, UNHCR will strengthen its collaboration with the private sector in the pursuit of durable solutions for refugees and their host communities.

In addition, UNHCR will continue to assist the governments in the subregion in the formulation of draft refugee legislation, and will increase its support in the areas of capacity building and training. UNHCR will seek in particular to enhance government capacity to undertake registration and refugee status determination (RSD), ensuring physical security and minimum standards of treatment. At the same time, the Office will strengthen HIV/AIDS interventions; combat practices harmful to women and children; and promote access to education, including peace education. It is expected that these efforts will improve the quality of international protection and the delivery of humanitarian assistance to the refugees. Other priority activities will include: consolidation of camps in eastern Ethiopia and Djibouti; the continuation of voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees from Ethiopia and Djibouti to 'Somaliland'; enhancing preparatory activities and plans for the possible return of the Sudanese refugees; strengthening collaborative partnerships with

development agencies, so as to bridge the gap between the short-term and longer-term reintegration needs of the returnees in Eritrea, 'Somaliland' and 'Puntland'; and working closely with governments, implementing partners, and the UN Country Teams to improve camp safety and security.

## Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia** and **Uganda** are described in separate chapters. Operations in **Sudan** will be described in the chapters under the Chad/Sudan subregion.

**Djibouti:** In 2005, UNHCR will focus on pursuing durable solutions for refugees. The voluntary repatriation of Somali refugees to 'Somaliland' will continue, with approximately 5,000 expected to repatriate during 2005. Resettlement of refugees will also be pursued. Individual RSD of urban refugees will be undertaken in collaboration with the National Eligibility Committee.

Budget (USD)			
Country	Annual Programme	Supplementary Programme	Total
Djibouti	3,276,176	0	3,276,176
Eritrea	12,783,757	0	12,783,757
Ethiopia	13,679,942	0	13,679,942
Kenya	28,844,932	0	28,844,932
Regional Technical Support Group (Nairobi)	3,972,389	0	3,972,389
Somalia	6,584,554	0	6,584,554
Sudan <sup>1</sup>	12,165,779	56,725,331	68,891,110
Uganda	13,363,206	0	13,363,206
<b>Total</b>	<b>94,670,735</b>	<b>56,725,331</b>	<b>151,396,066</b>

<sup>1</sup>The Supplementary Programme Budget relates to the Return and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees to Southern Sudan. It includes the total requirements for all countries concerned.

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost (USD 3,462,380) that is recovered from each contribution to meet indirect support costs in UNHCR (field and headquarters).