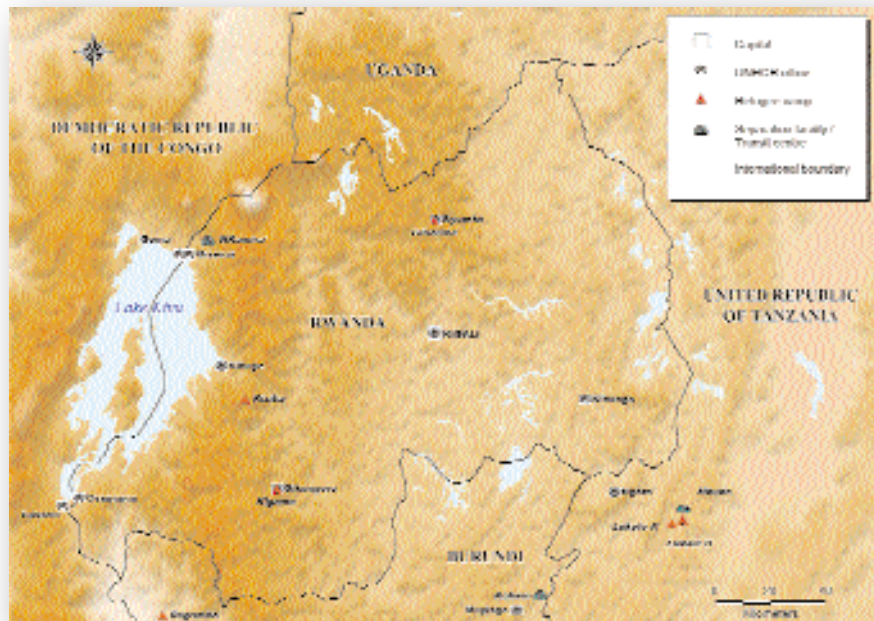


Rwanda in short

Main Objectives

- Continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees from neighbouring countries by providing onward transport to and monitoring in their communities of origin.
- Work with partners to strengthen Rwanda's capacity to receive and reintegrate returnees, and promote a climate of unity and reconciliation conducive to peace and stability both in Rwanda and in the region.
- Provide protection and basic assistance for refugees from neighbouring countries and elsewhere in Africa.
- Assist the Government of Rwanda in adopting rights-based refugee legislation and procedures, in accordance with recognised international and regional laws and practices.
- Contribute to the political, economic and social empowerment of Rwandan women.



PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Refugees from the DRC	30,000	30,000
Refugees from Burundi	500	500
Urban refugees	3,000	3,000
Returnees ¹	10,000	25,000
Total	43,500	58,500

¹ Since repatriation began, more than three million Rwandan refugees have returned. During 2000, UNHCR will have assisted an estimated 20,000 returnees. At least 25,000 new returnees are expected to arrive in 2001.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 10,341,012

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

A series of major changes in the Government led to relative political instability during the first six months of 2000. The departure of the Speaker of the House in January and the resignation of the Prime Minister in February were followed by the resignation of the President in March and the appointment of Paul Kagame as the new President in April. At the same time, changes in the Government's ministries left UNHCR with no functioning counterpart at the central level

for most of the first half of the year. A positive development, however, was the draft legislation on refugee protection and assistance submitted by the newly reconstituted Ministry of Local Government and Social Affairs. This was subsequently endorsed by the Cabinet and presented to Parliament.

Since the return of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees in late 1996 and early 1997, UNHCR has continued to facilitate the voluntary repatriation and reintegration of the remaining Rwandan refugees. An estimated 20,000 Rwandans will have returned by the end of 2000. Most of them are Hutus

who fled in 1994 to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Many had been living in extremely isolated areas, in deplorable conditions, often intimidated by Interahamwe and other groups responsible for the 1994 genocide.

Rwanda hosts more than 30,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of different nationalities, including Congolese (DRC), Burundis, Somalis, Ethiopians and Sudanese. In May, UNHCR undertook a full registration of the Congolese refugees living in two camps in Byumba and Kibuye, identifying a total population of 27,637. There is also a small group of some 500 Burundi refugees, who require a constant and vigilant UNHCR presence to ensure their protection. An estimated 3,000 urban refugees in Kigali continue to receive protection and limited material assistance.

Constraints

Despite UNHCR's extensive shelter programmes over the past few years, the lack of individual housing continues to be a serious problem in Rwanda. There are still some 375,000 people living under plastic sheeting, in seriously damaged houses or illegally occupying the homes of others. The ongoing repatriation of Rwandan refugees from the DRC and other African countries is expected to continue. This is likely to place even greater pressure on limited land, resources and infrastructure in Rwanda. To make matters worse, even though tremendous needs still exist in the shelter sector, UNHCR's reintegration activities have been seriously curtailed for lack of funding.

UNHCR has not been able to build substantively on its activities in support of the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission. Should adequate funding not be made available, planned reconciliation and shelter activities may have to be abandoned, at a time when property-related disputes threaten to lead to renewed conflict. Environmental activities (initially planned for 2000) may also be jeopardised. Equally seriously, development agencies have not begun to implement their programmes, leaving a critical gap in the transition from humanitarian relief to development.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

In 2001, UNHCR will focus on strengthening the institutions and organisations, both governmental and non-governmental, that have in the past collaborated with with the agency in preparing, implementing and monitoring repatriation, reintegration and emergency response activities. A wide range of training activities are envisaged, that will reinforce these institutions and organisations, in terms of knowledge, information, skills, experience and overall commitment to refugee protection. UNHCR will continue to assist the Government of

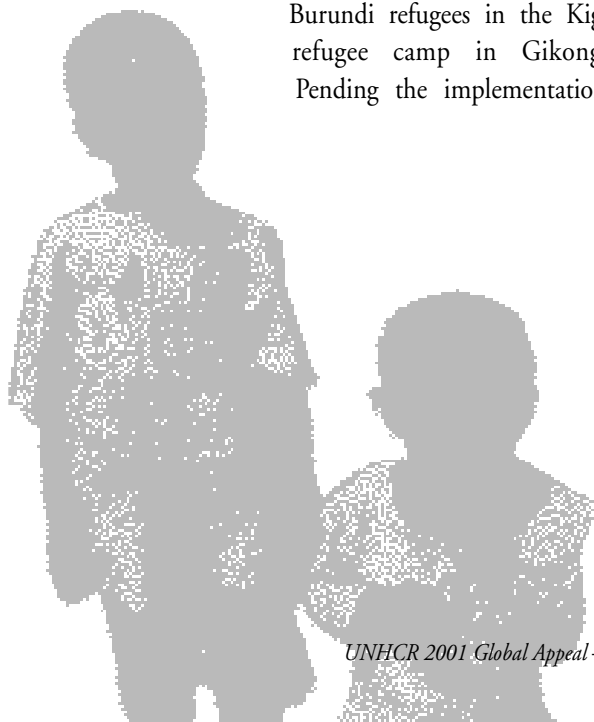
Rwanda to adopt refugee legislation and establish refugee status determination procedures in accordance with international standards. By training those responsible for the protection of refugees, and by promoting a culture of respect for human rights and the rule of law, UNHCR will complement the Government's efforts to promote reconciliation and prevent conflict.

UNHCR will assist the Rwandan judiciary in the creation of an independent, fair and efficient system with the help of the Ministry of Gender and Women Development, the International Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda, the ICRC and national human rights institutions, especially the newly formed National Human Rights Commission and the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission.

Political instability and armed conflict throughout the Great Lakes region present serious obstacles to the search for lasting solutions. As part of its core mandate, UNHCR will continue to provide protection and basic assistance in Rwanda to refugees from the DRC, Burundi and elsewhere in Africa.

Unless there is progress in the implementation of the Lusaka Peace Accord and an improvement of the situation in the DRC, it is unlikely that the more than 27,600 Congolese refugees in Byumba and Kibuye will be able to return home. The possibility of local settlement for this group is unfortunately precluded by lack of land. UNHCR will, therefore, continue to run a basic assistance programme for them, taking into account the specific needs of women, children and other vulnerable persons. UNHCR will focus on providing legal assistance and protection to refugee women and children, promoting their rights through awareness programmes and information campaigns against all forms of violence against women and girls, and providing an environment in the refugee camps which ensures their physical security.

UNHCR will continue to search for appropriate lasting solutions for the remaining Burundi refugees in the Kigeme refugee camp in Gikongoro. Pending the implementation of



the Arusha Peace Accord in Burundi and the possibility of voluntary repatriation, UNHCR will also pursue negotiations with the Government of Rwanda regarding local settlement, subject to the availability of land.

In the absence of assistance for urban refugees by other organisations, UNHCR will continue to work with the Government on community and social services programmes. When appropriate, the Office will seek legal measures to enable eligible refugees to integrate locally or resettle in other countries. UNHCR will encourage and promote the establishment of a National Eligibility Committee in Rwanda. In the meantime, the agency will continue to receive and process asylum claims and applications for refugee status.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to ensure that refugees receive adequate assistance and, wherever possible, improved services and that an appropriate level of nutrition is maintained in the camps. Refugees will receive necessary household goods. Water and sanitation facilities will be maintained, as well as nutrition centres.



Refugees will continue to have access to primary health care and hospital referral for seriously ill refugees, vaccination and other medical services will continue. Health promoters will emphasise the need for education as part of their promotion of health and hygiene. Important issues such as sexual violence, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS awareness will also be addressed. Income-generating activities will be carried out to enhance refugees' self-reliance.

UNHCR will promote awareness of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and refugee rights. Increased access to primary and secondary education for refugee children will remain a priority, with an emphasis on girls. Camp recreational facilities and playing fields for children will be improved. Women will benefit from vocational training projects and educational programmes on the rights of women, as well as measures to combat gender-based violence.

As in previous years, UNHCR will maintain adequate reception and transit facilities for Rwandan returnees and provide them with onward transportation to home villages and relief items, whereas WFP will provide a 30-day food ration.

Cases of family separation are of particular concern in the Great Lakes region. UNHCR will continue to assist ICRC in tracing and repatriating children separated from their families, and provide specialised assistance to unaccompanied returnee minors. Subject to funding, vulnerable children who are the primary care-takers will receive targeted assistance and vocational skills training to assist them in supporting their younger siblings. Youth centres will be established offering a range of activities including skills training for street children, cultural and recreational activities and information sharing. The Peace Education Programme, which has been successfully implemented in Kenya and Uganda, will be extended to Rwanda.

Through the Rwandan Women's Initiative, UNHCR will continue to promote the economic, social and political empowerment of women through projects that afford them greater economic independence and a sense of self-worth. The projects will be implemented through the Ministry of Gender and Women Development, national women's associations and NGOs.

In order to promote coexistence, community-based projects will be developed through the National Commission on Unity and Reconciliation, the National Commission on Human Rights, local human rights associations, the Rwandan Women's Initiative and the National University of Rwanda.

UNHCR will continue its environmental programme to redress damage done to the environment by the presence of refugee camps in Byumba and Kibuye. A series of small projects will be implemented, including: the provision of energy-saving stoves to refugees; soil conservation and reforestation programmes in and around the refugee camps; training in community land management; and environmental education

programmes. UNHCR will ensure that firewood procured for the refugee camps derives from designated forest areas only.

Desired Impact

UNHCR's efforts to strengthen the capacity of its local partners by providing training and the material means to carry out their tasks, will result in improved skills and knowledge in the areas of project design, implementation and monitoring. Refugees will benefit from international protection and receive basic assistance. UNHCR will continue to assist the Government in the smooth reintegration of Rwandan returnees in their communes of origin. Support for the community-based activities of the Rwandan Women's Initiative will contribute to rebuild unity and reconciliation in Rwanda.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

In 2001, the country operation in Rwanda will be run by 86 staff (17 international, 56 national, 12 United Nations Volunteers and one Junior Professional Officer). The office in Kigali will be responsible for overall management of the programme and liaison with the Government, diplomatic missions and NGOs. Six field-based offices will administer activities on the ground. Efforts will be intensified to ensure the security of both the refugees and the humanitarian personnel working on their behalf. That means strict application of UN Security Management Team recommendations, including military escorts for travel to certain areas.

OFFICES

Kigali
Butare/Gikongoro
Byumba
Cyangugu
Gisenyi
Kibungo/Umutara
Kibuye

Co-ordination

UNHCR will work with four government and 14 NGO implementing partners (eight international and six national). Close co-operation on reintegration programmes for returnees will continue between UNHCR, UNDP and WFP, in the context of the Joint Reintegration Programming Unit. The latter's expanded Steering Committee will continue to address policy issues on resettlement and reintegration, and to

encourage a smooth transition from emergency relief and rehabilitation to development. The Ministry of Social Affairs will continue to be responsible for the overall management of the refugee camps, including the distribution of food, non-food items and firewood, and WFP will continue to be responsible for the provision of food.

PARTNERS

Government Agencies

Joint Commission for Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Rwandese Refugees

Ministry of Gender and Women Development

Ministry of Social Affairs and Local Administration

National Unity and Reconciliation Commission

NGOs

African Humanitarian Action

American Refugee Committee

Club Mamans Sportives

Collectif des ligues et associations des droits de l'homme

Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Forum for African Women Educationalist

Haguruka

Jesuit Refugee Services

Ligue Rwandaise pour la Promotion et la Défense des Droits de l'Homme

Lutheran World Federation

Norwegian People's Aid

Population Services International

PROFEMMES

Rwandan Rural Rehabilitation Initiative

Other

World Food Programme

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,754,378
Community Services	631,000
Domestic Needs/Household Support	442,000
Education	238,000
Food	31,000
Forestry	120,000
Health/Nutrition	886,600
Income Generation	25,000
Legal Assistance	283,879
Operational Support (to Agencies)	648,221
Sanitation	391,300
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	160,000
Transport/Logistics	2,124,000
Water (non-agricultural)	151,000
Total Operations	7,886,378
Programme Support	2,454,634
Total	10,341,012