

RWANDA



IN SHORT

Main Objectives

- Assist the Government of Rwanda in adopting rights-based refugee legislation and procedures, in accordance with recognised international and regional laws and practices.
- Ensure the welfare of refugees and asylum-seekers and search for durable solutions.
- Continue to work with other 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.
- Contribute to the economic, social and political empowerment of Rwandan women.

Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Refugees from DRC	31,840	26,840
Refugees from Burundi	400	100
Urban Refugees	1,500	1,600
Returnees*	2,800,000	2,810,000
Total	2,833,740	2,838,540

* Includes the number of returns since 1994 of which UNHCR will assist 10,000 returnees in 2000.

Total Requirements
USD 14,087,045





WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

Rwanda endured four years of civil war followed by the genocide of almost one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 1994. This crisis culminated in the flight of over two million refugees to the neighbouring countries of Tanzania, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Burundi and Uganda. Since the return of hundreds of thousands of Rwandan refugees in late 1996 and early 1997, UNHCR has continued to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of those refugees still living outside Rwanda's borders. Although the security situation in Rwanda has improved, continued peace and stability will depend on the successful reintegration of present and future returnees, and the overall geopolitical evolution of the Great Lakes region.

Rwanda hosts some 33,000 refugees and asylum-seekers of different nationalities, including Congolese, Burundis, Somalis, Ethiopians and Sudanese. Over 30,000 refugees from the eastern part of the DRC are accommodated in the Kiziba (Kibuye) and Gihembe (Byumba) camps. There is also a small but complex group of less than 500 Burundi refugees, most of whom are peasant farmers. Their situation is politically sensitive and requires a constant and vigilant UNHCR presence to monitor and ensure their protection. Finally, there is a group of urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Kigali who continue to receive protection and limited material assistance.

Constraints

UNHCR, together with other humanitarian and developmental agencies, faces immense challenges in assisting the Government of Rwanda in its reconstruction efforts and in the reintegration and reconciliation of its people. A major aspect of reconciliation is the strengthening of the judicial system, which is confronted with the formidable task of bringing to trial some 140,000 persons currently in detention, most of them accused of having participated in the genocide.

Furthermore, there are still hundreds of thousands living in refugee-like situations who are in need of housing and related infrastructure, such as access to water, health and education. In spite of UNHCR's extensive shelter programmes in the past few years, the lack of individual housing

continues to be a serious problem which, if not alleviated, could result in future conflicts.

Continuing uncertainty regarding the political and military situations in the region, particularly in the DRC and Burundi, limits the planning horizon and renews the fear that regional conflicts may eventually spread into Rwanda.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

In 2000, UNHCR will focus on its core mandate: providing protection and assistance to refugees and other persons of concern. Emphasis will be placed on assisting the Government of Rwanda in its efforts to achieve reconciliation and conflict prevention by building up the skills and resources of institutions dealing with refugees; and on the promotion of a culture of respect for the rule of law and human rights.

As in 1999, UNHCR will continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees from the DRC, Burundi, Tanzania, Uganda and other countries. Some 40,000 returnees are foreseen. The objective remains to help the Government and the people of Rwanda achieve a sustainable reintegration of those returning from exile.

Appropriate long-term solutions for the remaining Burundi refugees in the Kigeme (Gikongoro) refugee camp will be identified and pursued. These include voluntary repatriation, should a political breakthrough in Burundi take place; reintegration of individuals eligible for naturalisation under domestic nationality laws; and resettlement in the region or beyond for families who could be expected to have protection problems upon return and for whom integration is not a viable option.

The potential return of over 30,000 Congolese refugees is contingent upon positive developments in the DRC. UNHCR will continue to run a basic assistance programme and help with voluntary repatriation as appropriate. Discussions will continue with the Government for the relocation and local integration of this group. UNHCR does not fully endorse this solution, however, owing to the reluctance of the refugees to relocate, and their eagerness to repatriate, as well as to funding and



security concerns. Indeed, the vast majority of residents in Gihembe and Kiziba camps clearly intend to repatriate as soon as conditions allow. As far as urban refugees are concerned, UNHCR will work with the Government on assistance through local social services programmes. When appropriate, UNHCR will seek legal measures to enable eligible refugees to integrate or resettle in other countries. A training programme will target all those working with the new refugee law once it has been passed. Seminars for all senior government, military and police officials on basic principles of refugee law and rights will be provided. UNHCR will also train the refugee status determination committees once they have been established.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to ensure that refugees receive an adequate provision of food and household goods, and that an appropriate level of nutrition is maintained in the camps. Water and sanitation facilities will be maintained, as well as health and nutrition centres. Hospital referral for seriously ill refugees, vaccination and other medical services will continue. Health promoters will address issues such as sexual violence, reproductive health and HIV/AIDS.

UNHCR will work to raise awareness of refugee rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Increased access to education for all children, with emphasis on girls, will remain a priority in 2000. Camp recreational facilities and playing fields for children will be improved. Vocational training will be available, especially for women and adolescents.

Through the Rwandan Women's Initiative, UNHCR will continue to promote the economic, social and political empowerment of women, collectively through the Ministry of Gender and Women, and individually with national women's associations and NGOs.

Efforts will continue to assist children separated from their families, through repatriation and family reunification. Vulnerable child heads of households will receive targeted assistance and vocational and skills training to assist them in supporting their families. UNHCR has embarked on a campaign to create environmental awareness as part of its reintegration programme. UNHCR will also continue to support the trust-funded forestry

programme that is beginning to redress damage done to the environment by massive shelter programmes in settlement areas and by the refugee camps. One component of this programme involves the introduction of energy-saving stoves. Tree planting is also planned for the camps and their immediate surroundings. An environmental education programme will be introduced into the local school curriculum. The environmental impact of the remaining refugee camps will be monitored throughout 2000.

Although large-scale reintegration programmes involving major infrastructural rehabilitation will no longer be carried out in the year 2000, UNHCR, through the Joint Reintegration Programming Unit (JRPU), will provide returnees with an enhanced package, including a shelter kit.

Fuel and spare parts for vehicles engaged in the delivery of food and other important supplies will continue to be provided. UNHCR will maintain a workshop in Kigali for the repair of its vehicles and those of its partners.

Desired Impact

UNHCR will promote solutions through the integration of protection and assistance to refugees. This approach should result, firstly, in the establishment of a national legal framework for refugee protection and, secondly, in the identification of the most suitable long-term solutions for each refugee population.

Refugees will receive adequate assistance and, wherever possible, improved services. It is expected that refugees will benefit from educational programmes, both primary and secondary, and that they will have access to primary health care and to health education. Income-generating and reproductive health-related activities will be carried out.

UNHCR will continue to protect, assist and monitor Rwandan returnees in their communes of origin and to advocate their smooth reintegration. Women are expected to benefit from vocational training projects and education programmes on the rights of women, as well as measures to combat gender-based violence. Finally, efforts will be made to mitigate the impact of refugees on natural resources.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

In 2000, UNHCR will operate with 95 staff (24 international and 71 national) in Rwanda. The Branch Office in Kigali will be responsible for overall management of the programme, liaison with the Government, diplomatic missions and NGOs. Activities on the ground will be administered from field offices in Byumba, Gikongoro, Gisenyi and Kibuye.

Coordination

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. UNHCR will assist the fledgling Rwandan judiciary in the creation of an independent, fair and efficient system with the help of the Ministry of Lands, Human Resettlement and Environment Protection, the Ministry for Gender and Women Development, the International Crimes Tribunal for Rwanda, the International Committee of the Red Cross and national human rights institutions, especially the newly formed National Human Rights Commission and the National Commission on National Unity and Reconciliation. UNHCR, UNDP and WFP will continue to work closely within the JRPU to encourage a smooth transition from emergency relief and rehabilitation to development.



Offices

Kigali
Byumba
Gikongoro
Gisenyi
Kibuye

Partners

Government Agencies

Joint Commission for Repatriation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Rwandese Refugees
Ministry of Gender and Women Development
Ministry of Social Affairs

NGOs

African Humanitarian Action
American Refugee Committee
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
Jesuit Refugee Services
Lutheran World Federation
Médecins Sans Frontières-Belgique
Norwegian People's Aid
Population Services International
Red Barnet

Budget (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	1,291,775
Community Services	323,000
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	593,000
Education	207,000
Food	42,000
Health/Nutrition	830,000
Income Generation	45,000
Legal Assistance	790,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	867,130
Sanitation	400,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	1,883,500
Transport/Logistics	2,921,470
Water (non-agricultural)	148,000
Total Operations	10,341,875
Programme Support	3,745,170
Total	14,087,045