

Kenya

Working environment

The context

In 2006, UNHCR in Kenya had to respond to new inflows of Somali, Sudanese and Ethiopian refugees. Floods in Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps destroyed refugee shelters, latrines and infrastructure. Outbreaks of cholera, diarrhoea and measles also took their toll.

With national elections due in 2007, asylum issues in Kenya are certain to become politicized. In such a climate, UNHCR will have to collaborate closely with the Government, the UN Country Team and NGOs and other civil society institutions in order to ensure that the asylum space does not deteriorate. The Office hopes that the Kenyan Parliament will pass a long-pending Refugee Bill in 2006, although political imperatives may sideline it once again.

More than 30,000 new Somali refugees had arrived in Kenya by late October 2006 as a result of civil strife and drought in their country. This influx, which is continuing, will put a heavy strain on UNHCR's ability to provide services in Dadaab camp. Furthermore, despite the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement for South Sudan in January 2005, some 12,000 new refugees from the region have arrived in Kakuma camp, driven by hunger, lack of essential services and insecurity. Kakuma has also seen an unprecedented influx of Ethiopians, many of them of alleged Nuer ethnicity, fleeing political strife and violence in their home region of Gambella.

The needs

Funding constraints in 2006 resulted in more limited responses to protection problems and reduced assistance to refugees in camps and urban settings. Acute malnutrition rates stood at 26.3 per cent in Dadaab and 19.6 per cent in Kakuma, and anaemia levels among children under five were often as high as 83 per cent. With firewood now supplied for only five months a year — as opposed to 12 months previously — women

and children foraging for fuel face greater risks of sexual assault and exploitation.

In terms of education, although the achievements are still far from the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) target, reports show that refugee girls' school attendance has reached 65 per cent. Their performance in national examinations has also improved. However, early marriage and pregnancy and cultural pressures still adversely affect girls' ability to avail themselves of education opportunities. Teacher-student and textbook-student ratios remain high; more classrooms, desks and teachers are required for 2007, especially in Dadaab.

More involvement of the refugee community is needed in the camps, and in Dadaab in particular, in protection and camp management. Participatory assessments will continue in 2007 to highlight protection risks, strengthen refugees' coping mechanisms and bring the needs of vulnerable groups and individuals to the fore.



Promoting gender equality in all decision-making and management structures remains a priority. Female members make up half of all committees in Dadaab and about a third in Kakuma. Nevertheless, women need to be encouraged to be more assertive in decision-making structures.

Although the physical security of refugees has greatly improved, with sub-office Kakuma reporting an all-time low in incidents of sexual and gender-based violence in 2005, the issue remains of serious concern. Safe havens need to be established in order to improve the protection of women and children. Distribution of fire-wood throughout the year is also essential to reduce protection risks, especially for women and girls.

At the time of writing, UNHCR and WFP were conducting a joint assessment to determine food needs for the camp-based refugee population.

Total requirements: USD 32,338,766

Main objectives

- Pursue a comprehensive durable solutions plan which will include large-scale voluntary repatriation of Sudanese refugees and resettlement of needy cases.
- Strengthen partnerships with all existing and potential stakeholders, including the Government of Kenya, UN agencies and the NGO community.
- Maintain acceptable standards of treatment for refugees and others of concern, and ensure that the specific protection needs of women, children and others at risk are addressed.
- Continue to provide technical support to the Government, especially on the implementation of refugee legislation and access to public services.

Key targets for 2007

- Adoption by Parliament of a new Refugee Bill.
- Refugee status determination interviews take place within five months of registration.
- Registration is completed within 15 days of the first approach to UNHCR.
- Systematic biometric profiling of, and granting of identity cards to, asylum-seekers and refugees approaching UNHCR.
- All those with special protection needs are identified for resettlement.
- Possibilities are opened for naturalization of Convention refugees and refugees married to Kenyan citizens.
- At least 70 people per month receive counselling services.
- Acute malnutrition is reduced to 5 per cent.
- Every refugee receives a food ration of 2,100 Kcal per day.
- Females make up half of the members of food distribution and management committees in all camps.
- All refugees receive 20 litres of water per day.
- 40,000 women and girls of reproductive age are provided with sanitary materials.

Strategy and activities

The lack of a government refugee management structure is a major gap in protection. The Kenyan Parliament was still discussing a draft Refugee Bill in the last quarter of 2006 which, it is hoped, will soon be adopted. The National Refugee Secretariat, which was transferred in 2005 from the Ministry of Home Affairs to the newly created Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons, remains a small unit with limited operational capacity. Increasing its material and human resources may improve its ability to manage refugee affairs.

Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2007		Dec 2007	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	Somalia	170,960	170,960	200,000	200,000
	Sudan	74,250	74,250	55,050	55,050
	Ethiopia	14,480	14,480	14,120	14,120
	Various	9,380	9,380	9,450	9,450
Asylum-seekers	Somalia	7,000	7,000	6,000	6,000
	Ethiopia	3,000	3,000	2,500	2,500
	Various	1,400	1,400	1,000	1,000
Total		280,470	280,470	288,120	288,120



Renewed fighting in Somalia has caused an influx of over 30,000 refugees into Kenya. *UNHCR / J.-P. Amigo*

In the absence of active government participation, UNHCR continues to face challenges in identifying, registering and determining the status of asylum-seekers and refugees. Meanwhile, the issuance of officially recognized identity cards to refugees has been held up pending the results of a fingerprinting exercise carried out in Dadaab by the Government's National Registration Bureau. Lack of documentation, whether a birth certificate or an identity card, continues to be a major protection risk for refugees and asylum-seekers countrywide.

Sudanese refugees

The repatriation of Sudanese refugees is expected to gain momentum in 2007. By the end of 2006, UNHCR hopes to have assisted 5,000 Sudanese to repatriate voluntarily. Another 20,000 are likely to return home in 2007. However, even with ongoing returns to South Sudan, the delivery of protection and the search for durable solutions will have to continue for those who do not repatriate. Some services in Kakuma may be handed over to partners as its population decreases.

Somali refugees

The ongoing large-scale influx of Somali refugees into Kenya is likely to continue in 2007. UNHCR's contingency plan is based on 80,000 new asylum-seekers, i.e. 50,000 in 2006 and 30,000 in 2007. This puts a severe strain on the existing services available in Dadaab camp. The situation will be monitored; if the population grows UNHCR will expand and consolidate services to refugees and the host community. The Office will continue to facilitate voluntary repatriation of Somalis to "Puntland", where the situation is conducive to return.

Refugees of other nationalities

It is anticipated that individual asylum-seekers from Ethiopia, the Great Lakes region and Uganda will continue to approach UNHCR for protection assistance. UNHCR will improve the processing of asylum claims and the system of referrals to designated refugee camps.

It will also analyze population movements to find the root causes of displacement in the region.

Constraints

The main constraint in 2006 was the severe funding shortfall. With a smaller budget than in 2006, in 2007 UNHCR will focus on basic protection and the search for durable solutions for refugee groups and individuals facing serious risks and/or with special needs. To address the resulting gaps in protection and services, UNHCR will need to continue to work closely with NGOs and other partners to obtain additional funding. UNHCR staff operate in dangerous areas which require armed escorts at all times. This will restrict staff movement and is likely to affect the delivery of protection and humanitarian services.

Organization and implementation

UNHCR presence

Number of offices	4
Total staff	160
International	30
National	114
JPOs	7
UNVs	9

Coordination

The Government of Kenya and UNHCR will ensure the protection of refugees and asylum-seekers and coordinate assistance to refugees. In this regard, the Office will continue to help build its government counterparts' capacity to deliver protection and strengthen the asylum system.

UNHCR will continue its close cooperation with implementing and operational partners through joint needs assessments, planning and resource mobilization. Major efforts will be made to identify new partners, particularly to strengthen programmes for youth in Dadaab. The Nairobi Initiative, an inter-agency forum, will continue to bring together national and international NGOs, representatives of civil society, self-help groups, refugees and government authorities in an effort to improve protection and services for refugees and asylum-seekers in Nairobi.

The UN Millennium Development Goals provide overarching planning benchmarks for the Kenya refugee programme. Strengthening collaboration with UNICEF and UNFPA in activities related to education, women and children will be a priority for 2007. WFP and UNHCR have a solid partnership; WFP provides and distributes food in the camps and conducts therapeutic and school-feeding programmes.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government: Department of Refugee Affairs, Ministry of Immigration and Registration of Persons, National Registration Bureau.

NGOs: African Refugee Training and Employment Services, CARE International, Film Aid International, Handicap International, International Rescue Committee, Lutheran World Federation, National Council of Churches for Kenya, Salesians of Don Bosco Kenya.

Operational partners

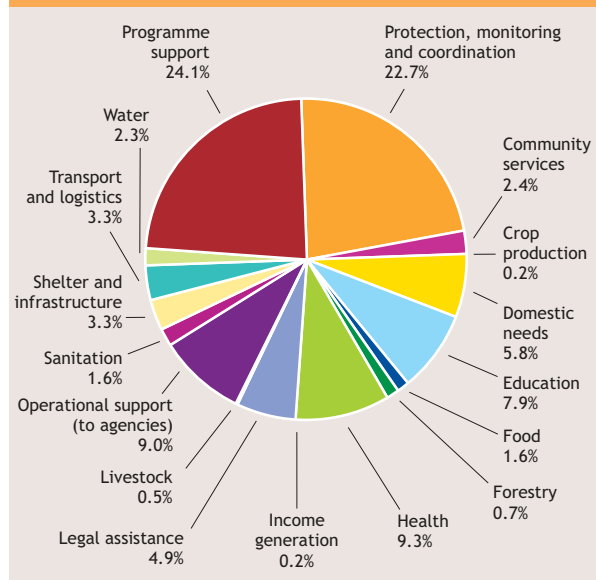
Others: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit, IOM, UN Country Team, UNOPS, WFP.

Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Protection, monitoring and coordination ¹	7,967,718	8,143,030
Community services	842,401	775,739
Crop production	56,777	0
Domestic needs	2,037,461	1,064,050
Education	2,771,707	2,038,276
Food	573,816	884,856
Forestry	253,612	127,755
Health	3,260,334	3,130,592
Income generation	85,413	16,106
Legal assistance	1,726,064	1,276,391
Livestock	182,162	0
Operational support (to agencies)	3,167,419	3,934,881
Sanitation	548,026	336,250
Shelter and infrastructure	1,164,277	294,799
Transport and logistics	1,154,644	1,000,638
Water	812,671	762,783
Total operations	26,604,500	23,786,146
Programme support ¹	8,463,912	8,552,620
Total	35,068,412	32,338,766

¹ Includes costs of the Regional Support Hub in Nairobi. The activities of the Hub are described in the regional overview.

2006 Annual Programme Budget by sector



2007 Annual Programme Budget by sector

