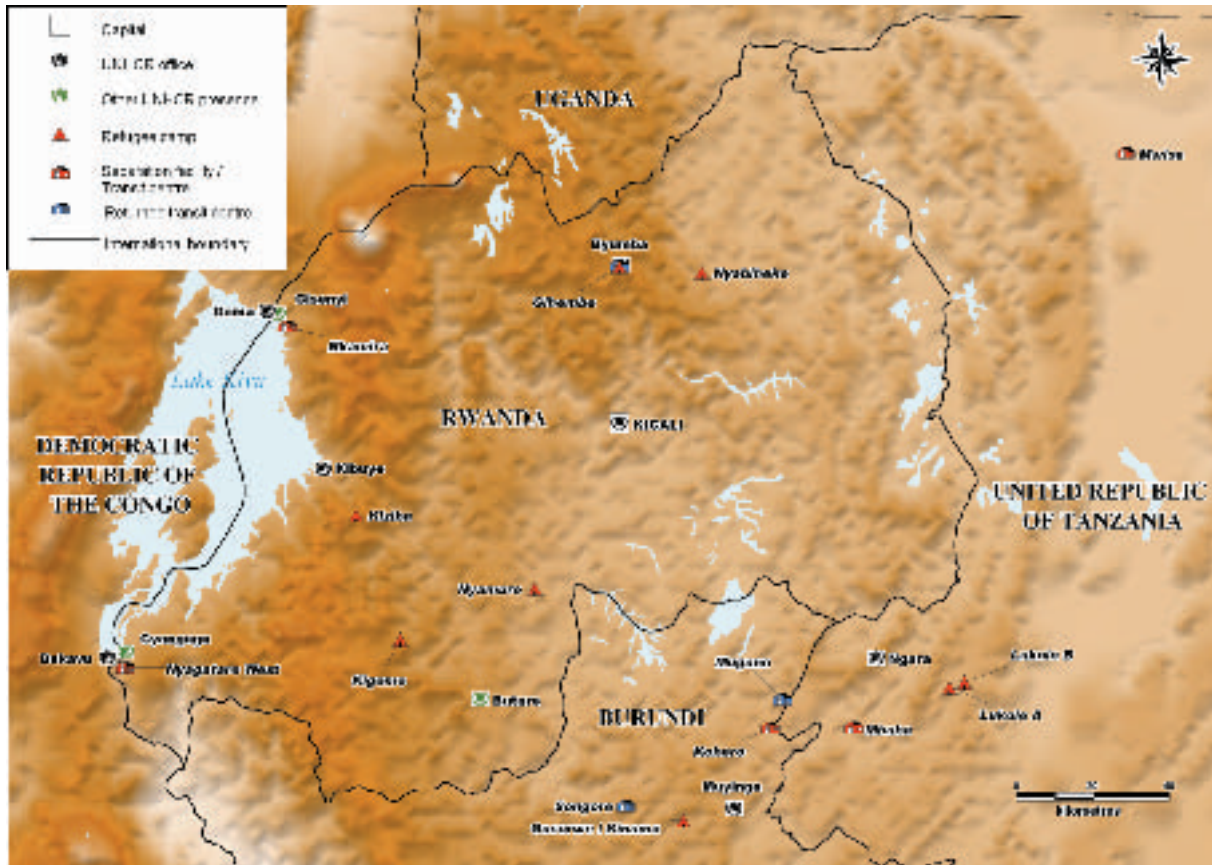


# Rwanda



## Main objectives

- Provide comprehensive protection and assistance, including shelter, nutrition, health care, water and sanitation, to all camp-based refugees.
- Continue the repatriation of an estimated 50,000 Rwandan refugees.
- Provide reintegration assistance and protection monitoring to Rwandan returnees.
- Continue the voluntary repatriation of the remaining Burundian refugees in Kigeme and Nyamure camps.
- Promote voluntary repatriation of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) mainly from North and South Kivu provinces.
- Monitor adherence to the national refugee law and its regulations with respect to refugee status determination (RSD).

Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
DRC (refugees)	36,500	26,600
Returnees	10,000	20,000
Asylum-seekers	3,250	4,100
Burundi (refugees)	1,500	840
Other refugees	40	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>51,290</b>	<b>51,580</b>

**Total requirements: USD 7,733,581**



Arrival of a returnee convoy from the DRC at the transit centre in Byumba, northern Rwanda. UNHCR / B. Heger

## Working environment

### Recent developments

The political situation in Rwanda is relatively stable and not expected to change drastically in 2006. However, there have been some concerns about a consolidation of power and restraints on civil society and political opposition groups.

Rwanda, one of the world's poorest countries, is landlocked, and is not endowed with significant natural resources, yet its economy has grown in recent years. This should have a positive impact on UNHCR's activities, especially repatriation operations, as Rwandan refugees will be further encouraged to return home. However, two-thirds of the population are estimated to be living below the poverty line and half of the population is illiterate. Land scarcity could prove one of the biggest problems for returning Rwandans, especially since most of them are of rural origin.

The Government of Rwanda has used the traditional courts called *Gacaca* to deal with the backlog of cases related to the 1994 genocide. These traditional courts are community tribunals which are providing an opportunity for genocide survivors, defendants and witnesses to present their cases in an open and participatory environment. The *Gacaca* system was introduced in three phases: a pilot phase, launched in June 2002; an extended pilot phase, launched in November 2002; and the implementation phase, which started in February 2005 and covers the whole of Rwanda. As a consequence, several thousand people from Butare and Gikongoro prefectures fled Rwanda and sought asylum in Burundi and Uganda in April 2005.

On a regional level, the transition processes in Burundi and DRC are important for Rwanda's own political situation as well as for stability in the Great Lakes region as a whole. The existence of irregular forces in Eastern DRC, mainly the *Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda* (FDLR) and the *Forces combattantes Abacunguzi* (FOCA), remains a source of contention and has led to continuing threats of intervention by Rwanda. A "Tripartite

agreement between Rwanda, DRC and Uganda on the persecution of criminals and negative forces” was set up to ease these tensions. In March 2005 the FDLR political leadership issued the San Egidio-sponsored Rome Declaration announcing an end to all military activities and their imminent return to Rwanda. This political decision, however, was not adhered to by the military leaders on the ground and mass returns did not occur as anticipated. At the same time the Governments of Rwanda and DRC and the UN Mission in the DRC (MONUC) are increasing pressure on the group to disarm and return. The pivotal issue remains conditionality. The rebels are only willing to come back in return for political guarantees, whereas the Government of Rwanda insists on its traditional policy of unconditional return and reintegration.

There is a reasonable chance that 2006 will be a year of renewed peace, security and stability in the region. Nevertheless, the post-transition phase will continue to be a fragile process and, in order to mitigate the impact of a possible sudden mass influx, UNHCR Rwanda will continue to work on contingency plans.

### Constraints

An estimated 50,000 Rwandan refugees still living abroad hesitate to repatriate due to the lack of economic prospects and a lack of public services such as education and health or due to fear of litigation upon return. If, however, economic growth rates remain high, some of these concerns could be alleviated.

The voluntary repatriation of DRC refugees to North and South Kivu depends on the stabilization of the highly volatile security situation in Eastern DRC. A tripartite agreement on voluntary repatriation could be signed at the beginning of 2006.

Although the National Council for Refugees (NCR) became operative in early 2004, the national asylum system has made slow progress, due to a lack of capacity and expert knowledge. Refugee status determination by the NCR has started and capacity building is ongoing.

## Strategy

### Protection and solutions

A verification exercise conducted in all camps at the end of August yielded an estimate of 44,000 refugees hosted in Rwanda. In 2006, UNHCR will assist three main groups: DRC and Burundian refugees, and returnees to Rwanda.

#### DRC refugees

Some 36,500 camp-based Congolese refugees will be living in Rwanda at the end of 2005, sheltered mainly in Kiziba and Gihembe camps. Ninety-four per cent of the Congolese are from North Kivu and fled DRC between 1996 and 2004.

A new site was opened in Nyabiheke (Byumba province) in early 2005 hosting more than 4,000 DRC refugees transferred from the transit facilities of Cyangugu and Gisenyi. UNHCR expects about 10,000 Congolese refugees to opt for voluntary repatriation in 2006.

#### Burundian refugees

At the beginning of 2006, it is expected that 1,500 Burundian refugees will be sheltered in Kigeme camp. Resettlement remains the main durable solution for this group.

#### Urban refugees

The majority of the 3,500 urban refugees come from DRC and Burundi, but there is also a minority of refugees from ten other African countries. The majority of urban refugees live in and around Kigali and for them resettlement is also the main option.

#### Rwandan returnees

On 1 January 2005, some 47,800 Rwandan refugees were living in 19 African countries. This group is mainly of Hutu origin, with only a few Tutsis and people in mixed marriages. About 20,000 people belonging to this group are expected to have returned by the end of 2005 and another 20,000 are

expected to return in 2006. Five thousand refugees are expected to opt for local integration.

### **Assistance**

UNHCR will continue to provide comprehensive protection and assistance to camp-based refugees from DRC and Burundi. Only urban refugees with special needs will be assisted.

Education will be a priority in UNHCR's work in Rwanda; primary and basic secondary education will be provided, as well as a small number of DAFI scholarships for tertiary education.

UNHCR will continue to promote the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees by organizing and/or participating in tripartite commission meetings and by arranging refugee visits. The Office will continue to distribute returnee packages and provide transportation of returnees to their district of origin. UNHCR will also seek to improve reintegration assistance, particularly for returnees with special needs. Similarly, if the security situation in DRC permits, UNHCR will encourage DRC refugees in Rwanda to return home within the framework of the tripartite agreement between the Office and the two countries concerned.

In close collaboration with the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR will strive to continue the environment programme in order to mitigate the negative impact of refugee camps in densely populated Rwanda. After the downsizing or closure of camps, UNHCR will facilitate rehabilitation and reforestation.

In cooperation with its partners and in the framework of the Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS, UNHCR will increase sensitization activities in all sites including transit centres as well as voluntary counselling and testing and anti retroviral treatment programmes in camps.

### **Desired impact**

UNHCR is moving towards the conclusion and closure of its operations in Rwanda. However,

given the delay in repatriation to Rwanda as well as to DRC and the increasing numbers of refugees in Rwanda, this can be envisaged no earlier than late 2007, possibly only by 2008. At least two of the three Congolese camps could be closed by the end of 2007. It is anticipated that Burundian camps will be consolidated in 2006, with the closure of Nyamure camp that year and Kigeme camp the following year. In the meantime, as outlined above, the pursuit of durable solutions for the different groups will encompass all the options of voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement. Particular focus will be put on building national capacity on asylum issues and RSD.

## **Organization and implementation**

### **Management structure**

In 2006, UNHCR will maintain its main office in Kigali, with two field offices in Byumba and Kibuye, as well as field units in Cyangugu and Gisenyi. Another field unit in Butare will continue overseeing Nyamure and Kigeme camps. UNHCR will have 61 staff members in Rwanda (seven international, 54 national) and 13 UNVs.

### **Coordination**

UNHCR's activities will continue to be carried out in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance and Community Development and Social Affairs through the National Council for Refugees, and five international NGOs. The Office will continue its close cooperation and consultation with WFP for the provision of food rations in camps and for returnees; with ICRC on family reunification; with MONUC on repatriation from DRC of ex-combatants' dependants; with UNICEF on children's rights, and with UNDP as the coordinating agency in Rwanda. Under United Nations Development Assistance Framework auspices, UNHCR will contribute to the coordination and joint programming assessment and participate in UN Country Team theme groups and task forces.

Offices
<b>Kigali</b>
Butare
Byumba
Cyangugu
Gisenyi
Kibuye

Partners
<b>Government agency</b>
Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance and Community Development and Social Affairs (MINALOC - National Council for Refugees)

<b>NGOs</b>
African Humanitarian Action
American Refugee Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Norwegian People's Aid
<b>Others</b>
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>

Budget (USD)			
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget <sup>1</sup>	Total
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,513,520	476,796	<b>1,990,316</b>
Community services	234,262	4,092	<b>238,354</b>
Domestic needs	361,819	26,596	<b>388,415</b>
Education	443,353	0	<b>443,353</b>
Food	39,894	6,206	<b>46,100</b>
Forestry	94,865	120,000	<b>214,865</b>
Health	592,965	10,000	<b>602,965</b>
Income generation	26,596	0	<b>26,596</b>
Legal assistance	168,439	120,594	<b>289,033</b>
Operational support (to agencies)	461,566	49,134	<b>510,700</b>
Sanitation	198,455	0	<b>198,455</b>
Shelter/other infrastructure	239,991	100,000	<b>339,991</b>
Transport/logistics	1,186,220	86,059	<b>1,272,279</b>
Water	151,574	9,752	<b>161,326</b>
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>5,713,519</b>	<b>1,009,229</b>	<b>6,722,748</b>
Programme support	1,010,833	0	<b>1,010,833</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,724,352</b>	<b>1,009,229</b>	<b>7,733,581</b>

<sup>1</sup> The figures refer to the supplementary programme for the repatriation and reintegration of Congolese (DRC) refugees.

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget does not include a 7% support cost (USD 70,646) that is recovered from each contribution received to meet indirect costs in UNHCR (field and headquarters).