

Sudan in short

Main Objectives

- Promote voluntary repatriation of Eritrean and other refugees of various nationalities settled in camps and urban areas.
- Protect and provide life-sustaining assistance pending lasting solutions for camp-based and urban refugees and asylum-seekers, with special attention to the needs of women, children and the elderly.
- Advocate local integration of long-staying refugees with valid reasons to remain.
- Plan the gradual phase-out of assistance and hand-over to relevant government authorities.
- Carry out selected rehabilitation activities in areas with a large refugee population.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

Most of the camp-based refugees who are assisted by UNHCR, originate from Eritrea. A Tripartite Agreement on repatriation concluded in April 2000 between UNHCR and the Governments of Sudan and Eritrea was intended to launch large-scale repatriation of Eritrean refugees. Then, just as UNHCR was about to undertake the organised return of a first group of 9,000 refugees, the border war between Ethiopia and Eritrea resumed. Some 95,000 new Eritrean refugees fled into Sudan in mid-May and repatriation was put on hold. UNHCR, the Government of Sudan and its partners provided protection and emergency assistance to the new arrivals and sheltered them in the existing Shegarab camp, as well as in two new camps (Laffa and Gulsa) in Kassala state, close to the Eritrean border. The new refugees were in reasonably good health, had taken some of their possessions with them and also benefited from the generosity of the host population. UNHCR's prompt intervention contributed to circumventing potential protection problems from the outset. The Office's previous preparations for repatriation – it had both personnel and relief stockpiles in Es-Showak and Port Sudan – had the effect of facilitating its emergency response for the new arrivals. Later, relief items were airlifted or shipped in from warehouses in Copenhagen, Tirana and elsewhere.



PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Eritrean Refugees ¹	178,745	116,745
Other Refugees ²	13,150	1,150
Urban Refugees ³	237,200	236,535
Total⁴	429,095	354,430

¹ Includes both long-staying refugees and those who entered in May 2000. UNHCR plans to repatriate 62,000 Eritrean refugees in 2001 (27,000 new arrivals and 35,000 long-stayers).

² Mainly Ethiopian, Chadian, Somali and Ugandan refugees. UNHCR plans to repatriate 12,000 Ethiopian refugees in 2001.

³ Mainly Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees. Although urban refugees are covered under UNHCR's protection mandate, only the particularly needy among them receive limited material assistance.

⁴ Of this total, UNHCR will assist over 178,000 (mainly Eritrean refugees).

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 9,494,774

The signature of a cease-fire agreement between Ethiopia and Eritrea on 18 June triggered the first spontaneous return movements, in particular to the Gash Barka zone in Eritrea. UNHCR launched a repatriation operation for the new refugees on 25 July. By the end of October 2000, it was well underway and had already helped nearly 25,000 refugees to repatriate. Another 5,000 Eritreans returned spontaneously. In early November, a re-registration of the new arrivals indicated that some 27,000 remained in the camps. With the deployment of UN Peacekeeping Forces along the Eritrea/Ethiopia border, it is expected that the new Eritrean refugees will repatriate in larger numbers and that the planned repatriation of long-staying Eritrean refugees can be re-launched.

The 'ceased circumstances' cessation clause for pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees entered into force on 1 March 2000. UNHCR carried out an information campaign in early 2000 and more than 3,700 refugees registered to return to Ethiopia. Plans for the repatriation of this group were postponed at the insistence of the Ethiopian authorities, who cited insufficient capacity to receive their nationals. Formal discussions on repatriation (involving UNHCR and the Governments of Ethiopia and Sudan) were re-launched in August 2000, however, and it was agreed that voluntary repatriation could begin.

On 8 November, the town of Kassala was attacked by forces belonging to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) opposition group. UNHCR was obliged to evacuate its staff temporarily to Khartoum and Es-Showak. Two staff members detained by government forces during the attack were later released, following UNHCR's intervention.

Constraints

The Government of Sudan does not favour local integration as a lasting solution for refugees, even though many were born and raised in the country and are well assimilated in camp communities or urban areas. Legislation is an impediment to integration, insofar as there are no provisions enabling long-staying refugees to acquire Sudanese citizenship. Competence for refugee matters is vested exclusively in the Commissioner for Refugees (COR). It is both the main refugee policy-making body and UNHCR's principal implementing partner. UNHCR has therefore been unable to involve the relevant ministries or technical departments in refugee activities. This limits the prospects of a smooth handover to them when UNHCR winds down the programme, as planned, after large groups of refugees have repatriated voluntarily. Clinging to tradition, male refugee elders continue to resist UNHCR's efforts



to involve women more actively in decision-making on day-to-day matters in the camps and to discourage harmful traditional practices.

STRATEGY

Protection and Solutions

Sudan is a party to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, as well as the 1969 OAU Convention. The country has generously hosted refugees for many years. This generosity was again attested by its treatment of new arrivals from Eritrea. UNHCR will continue to promote refugee law and protection principles, as well as improve protection monitoring.

While giving priority to repatriation, the Office will also advocate the local integration of refugees who have lived in the country for a long time. UNHCR plans to complete the repatriation of the remaining 27,000 new Eritrean refugees and begin the repatriation of 35,000 long-staying refugees (until the onset of the rainy season). The cost of repatriation-related activities will be covered under a Supplementary Programme that is the subject of an addendum to this Global Appeal. The Office also plans to repatriate some 12,000 Ethiopian refugees. UNHCR will re-register camp-based refugees in 2001 and consolidate camps as repatriation progresses. Furthermore, UNHCR plans to assist 165 individual refugees to repatriate (outside the framework of organised repatriation of Eritreans and Ethiopians) and 500 to resettle to third countries. The Government of Sudan recognises that some Ethiopian refugees may wish to remain in the country owing to a well-founded fear of persecution or strong social and economic ties. COR and UNHCR will screen the refugees to determine whether they continue to require international protection.

Assistance

Eritrean Refugees

UNHCR will provide basic humanitarian assistance to camp-based refugees pending their voluntary repatriation. Some activities, such as the supply of water, will also benefit local communities. WFP will provide refugees in camps with basic food rations. UNHCR will work to improve health (especially the nutritional status of vulnerable groups) and education; continue special programmes for women and children; provide technical and vocational training for refugees; encourage the use of fuel-efficient stoves; complete essential camp maintenance; and carry out selected rehabilitation activities, including reforestation, in areas suffering environmental damage owing to the presence of refugees. The Regional Advisor for Refugee Children will continue to promote activities within the Action for the Rights of Children project.

Other Refugees

Sudan hosts some 13,150 other refugees in camps, mainly Ethiopians (but also Chadians, Somalis and Ugandans). Owing to application of the ceased-circumstances cessation clause to pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees, UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of close to 12,000 refugees (unless individuals can invoke valid reasons to remain in Sudan). After screening by UNHCR and COR, refugees who are found to have compelling reasons to remain will continue to benefit from protection and assistance. Others found not to have compelling reasons and who wish to remain will have to regularise their status with the authorities. UNHCR and COR will rehabilitate infrastructure for continued use by nationals. Despite the Sudanese Government's reluctance to accept local integration as a durable solution, UNHCR will continue to advocate the local integration of refugees who have lived in the country for a long time, while pursuing repatriation or resettlement when this is deemed the most suitable solution.

Urban Refugees

An estimated 237,000 urban refugees, mainly from Eritrea and Ethiopia, are concentrated mainly in Khartoum, Kassala, Gedaref and Port Sudan. Most refugees have been in the country for many years and a considerable number are self-sufficient. A small number will receive limited assistance, on the basis of a proven need. Such assistance will include social and medical services, literacy training and post-primary education, vocational/technical training, micro-credit facilities, legal assistance and emergency subsistence allowances. All urban refugees will continue to be covered by UNHCR's protection mandate.

Desired Impact

UNHCR intends to transform its programme from one of protracted humanitarian assistance to long-staying refugees to one actively supporting durable solutions, notably voluntary repatriation, but also local integration. In doing so, it will continue to streamline services with the aim of gradually phasing out the programme. It will continue to encourage COR to invite ministries and technical departments to increase their expertise and involvement in refugee matters, so as to facilitate the smooth handover of activities to relevant government bodies.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

A UNHCR Representative, based in Khartoum, heads the country operation and is supported by staff in Es-Showak, Kassala and Port Sudan. A total of 91 staff (17 international

and 74 national) will run the programme. To respond to the large-scale arrival of Eritrean refugees, UNHCR opened a new office in Kassala in 2000.

OFFICES

Khartoum
Es-Showak
Kassala
Port Sudan

Co-ordination

In 2001, UNHCR will work in partnership with the Government, relevant UN agencies, and seven NGO partners to implement the programme. The national Commissioner for Refugees will remain UNHCR's main operational partner. The Office will also work closely with regional governments and refugee leaders, including women's groups, and the National Forestry Corporation (for environment-related activities). UNHCR will co-operate with UNICEF and WFP, in accordance with Memoranda of Understanding signed with the two agencies, as well as UNESCO-PEER.

PARTNERS

Government Agencies

Commissioner for Refugees/Refugee Counselling Services (COR)
National Forestry Corporation

NGOs

Benevolence International Foundation
Global Health Foundation
Human Appeal International
Islamic African Relief Agency
Ockenden International

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	2,352,302
Community Services	21,803
Domestic Needs/Household Support	90,559
Education	674,544
Food	183,141
Forestry	273,685
Health/Nutrition	1,139,696
Income Generation	23,083
Legal Assistance	76,099
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,197,428
Sanitation	105,683
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	338,804
Transport/Logistics	1,017,401
Water (non-agricultural)	380,874
Total Operations	7,875,102
Programme Support	1,619,672
Total	9,494,774

Sudan Open Learning Organisation

Sudanese Red Crescent

Other

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation –
Programme for Education for Emergencies and Reconstruction
United Nations Children's Fund
World Food Programme

