



DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

IN SHORT

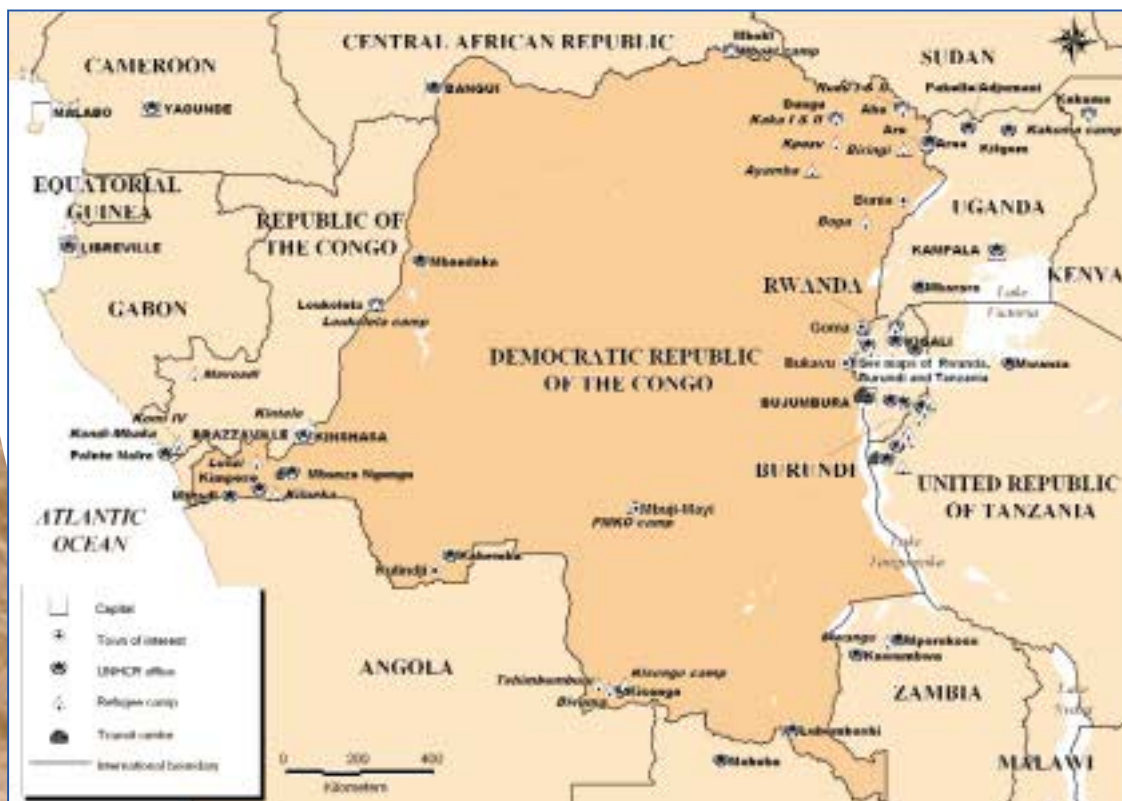
Main Objectives

- Maintain assistance programmes, geared towards self-reliance, for Angolan refugees in Katanga, Bandundu, and Bas Congo Provinces as well as for Sudanese refugees in Northern Oriental Province, pending lasting solutions (repatriation or local integration).
- Assist and facilitate the repatriation of Congolese (Brazzaville) refugees in Bas Congo, subject to adequate security in the Republic of the Congo.
- Reactivate the Tripartite Agreement (April 1998) which defines assistance and modalities for a lasting solution for Burundi refugees throughout the country.
- Gain access to and assist Ugandan refugees in North Kivu and Northern Oriental Province.
- Continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees and find alternative durable solutions for refugees for whom voluntary repatriation is not an option.

Planning Figures		
Population	Jan. 2000	Dec. 2000
Angolan Refugees*	147,000	147,000
Burundi Refugees	20,000	20,000
Congolese (Brazzaville) Refugees	6,000	6,000
Rwandan Refugees	35,000	20,000
Sudanese Refugees**	60,000	60,000
Ugandan Refugees	2,300	2,300
Total	270,300	255,300

* Of the total Angolan refugee population, UNHCR is assisting 114,000, the others are either living in Kinshasa or in border villages that straddle the two countries.
 ** Some 40,000 Sudanese refugees are assisted by UNHCR.

**Total Requirements
 USD 24,720,036**





WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

The civil war, the second in as many years, which erupted in August 1998, seriously disrupted UNHCR's activities in the DRC. All offices except Kinshasa were at one point evacuated. However, UNHCR rapidly began to resume its operations in government-controlled areas and established programmes to assist new arrivals from the conflicts in the Republic of the Congo and Angola. In addition, UNHCR re-established offices in rebel-controlled areas in April 1999. Although operating in an extremely complex and volatile environment, the Office is trying to increase its presence as well as its operations to assist some 217,000 refugees affected by conflicts and instability in neighbouring countries including Angola, the Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Uganda and Rwanda. In addition, approximately 125,000 Congolese refugees have fled the country since August 1998, bringing the total to 205,000, mainly in Tanzania and Zambia.

In July 1999, a cease-fire agreement was signed in Lusaka by Angola, DRC, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe. In August the rebel movements *Mouvement de libération du Congo* and *Rassemblement congolais pour la démocratie* also signed the agreement. While there is hope that this agreement will be successfully implemented, UNHCR also developed contingency planning in case the situation deteriorates.

Constraints

Nationwide instability, reflected in the anarchy in many parts of the country, is particularly evident in the Kivu region. The economy is in free fall, and hard currency in very short supply. The delivery of humanitarian assistance is often extremely challenging, sometimes impossible. Access is still forbidden in certain areas; authorisation is needed to travel anywhere in the country; transport infrastructure is almost non-existent. In addition, basic human rights continue to be trampled by all sides with impunity, taking its inexorable toll on the entire population. There are people still living in war-torn areas, unable to escape, virtually held hostage by feuding factions, and probably enduring more suffering than internally or externally displaced populations.



STRATEGY

Angolan Refugees

Of the 147,000 Angolans present in DRC, UNHCR is assisting some 114,000 of them in Katanga, Bandundu and Bas Congo provinces. There are in addition an estimated 33,000 Angolans living in Kinshasa and the border villages, who are not assisted by UNHCR, except for vulnerable persons. For all these refugees, given the present impossibility to repatriate, UNHCR is distributing non-food items. In addition, the usual assistance programme (development of water, sanitation, health, shelter, nutrition and social services) will continue in the refugee camps and villages throughout the southern parts of the three provinces. Nutritional problems have occurred in the Katanga and Bandundu provinces due to the poor environment surrounding the refugee sites. UNHCR has therefore implemented a supplementary therapeutic feeding programme. Given the fact that the operation has to cover a wide area in a context where roads are in extremely poor condition, if existent, logistic costs are very high.

The vast majority of the refugee population is composed of women and children. UNHCR is therefore developing a programme to respond to their special needs in cooperation with UNICEF. Funds will also be required to partially rehabilitate public buildings used to host the newly arrived refugees in Bas-Congo.

In the context of achieving gradual self-sufficiency and local settlement for the Angolan refugees, UNHCR will carry out agricultural activities, which will also benefit the local communities living nearby. Assistance to voluntary repatriation of individual refugees will be maintained.

Burundi Refugees

Burundi refugees in DRC include some 20,000 scattered in the forest of South Kivu. Attempts to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of these refugees, under the terms of the Tripartite Agreement of April 1998, were thwarted by the current conflict, which saw the evacuation and looting of UNHCR's offices in the Kivu region. To address the needs of the refugees, UNHCR is seeking to reactivate the existing Tripartite





Agreement, which permits access for the purpose of providing assistance and facilitating eventual repatriation.

A second group (currently 600) is located in Mbuji Mayi camp in Kasai province, where they have received assistance since the advance of the *Alliance des forces démocratiques pour la libération*. However, the camp, which at the time of the 1997 rebellion was considered one of the few safe places to house the refugees, is now considered costly and potentially insecure due to the rebel advance. UNHCR will continue to facilitate voluntary repatriation of these refugees and efforts will be made to relocate the camp to a safer, more accessible location, where the population will be helped to gain self-sufficiency.

Congolese (Brazzaville) Refugees

Of the estimated 150,000 IDPs gathered in Ninja-controlled territory in the Pool region south-west of Brazzaville, approximately 45,000 crossed into Bas-Congo. The refugees, the majority of whom are keen to repatriate, continued to arrive at a rate of 700 per day during the summer of 1999. An assistance programme was implemented, and three major transit centres were opened at the main entry points. This influx has now been reduced. UNHCR has already facilitated the repatriation of almost 40,000 refugees to Brazzaville. However, earlier protection concerns remain: reported arrests and disappearances of returnees, and the general insecurity consequent upon war. Although Brazzaville remains unstable, voluntary repatriation for some 6,000 refugees will continue to be facilitated (as agreed between the governments of the DRC, the Republic of the Congo and UNHCR) provided conditions on return prove acceptable. In 2000, UNHCR will seek durable solutions for refugees who do not repatriate, and rehabilitate community infrastructure in areas hosting refugees.

Sudanese Refugees

In late 1998, during the confusion prevailing in the DRC as the rebels advanced, the Sudan People's Liberation Army forced a significant number of Sudanese refugees to return to their country, and dispersed others in north-eastern Congo. The UNHCR office in Aru was evacuated at the time, but re-opened in April 1999. As the situation became relatively stable, refugees began to return to the area and now an estimated 60,000 Sudanese refugees are again in the province. UNHCR has re-established assistance programmes benefiting some 40,000 of them. The remaining refugees are still

scattered throughout the province. As these are long-staying refugees located in rich agricultural areas, UNHCR will implement a local settlement programme which will also benefit local communities, in order to consolidate their integration and self-sufficiency. Assistance will focus on water, health, education, agriculture (seeds), and income-generation.

Ugandan Refugees

UNHCR has not had continued contact with the estimated 2,300 Ugandan refugees in Boga. However, now that UNHCR has returned to Aru, an effort will be made to contact this group and, if appropriate, implement a local settlement programme.

Rwandan Refugees

An estimated 35,000 Rwandans are known to be in various locations in the DRC. The fate of tens of thousands more remains unknown. Contacts with the Rwandans who are considered to be of concern to UNHCR is delicate, especially due to the role that some of them played in the recent armed conflict in the DRC. In this context, UNHCR began in January 1999 to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of those who decided to return home.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

At the end of 1999, there will be 27 internationals, one Junior Professional Officer and 95 national staff in the DRC, and the programme is expanding. The country is covered by a Representative based in Kinshasa. Other offices such as Aru, Goma, Kimpese, Kisenge, Lubumbashi, Luozi, Matadi, and Mbanza-Ngungu are covered by international staff, while Bukavu, Mbandaka, and Mbuji Mayi are still covered by national staff.

Coordination

During the conflict, all agencies worked closely together. An end to the internal strife in the DRC would lead to an expansion of programmes. It is clear that very close cooperation between humanitarian, peace-building and peace-keeping efforts will be required if effective solutions are to be found.

Offices	
Kinshasa	Lubumbashi
Aru	Luozu
Bukavu	Matadi
Goma	Mbandaka
Kimpese	Mbanza-Ngungu
Kisenge	Mbuji Mayi
Partners	
NGOs	
<i>Association pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement</i>	
<i>Atlas logistique</i>	
<i>Communauté baptiste du fleuve Congo</i>	
<i>Croix Rouge congolaise</i>	
<i>Diocèse de Mahagi</i>	
<i>Eglise anglicane de Boga</i>	
<i>Equipe mobile pour la gestion de la logistique</i>	
<i>Equipe d'urgence de la biodiversité</i>	
Human Dignity in the World	
Human and Protection Assistance	
International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies	
International Rescue Committee	
<i>Médecins Sans Frontières (Belgium and France)</i>	
OMNIS	
OXFAM	
<i>Paroisse catholique de Mbandaka</i>	
<i>Paroisse catholique de Luozu</i>	
World Vision International	

Budget (USD)	
Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Coordination	7,284,331
Community Services	653,708
Crop Production	812,541
Domestic Needs/ Household Support	849,700
Education	1,332,409
Fisheries	41,650
Food	372,840
Forestry	126,000
Health/Nutrition	1,656,698
Income Generation	384,352
Legal Assistance	386,142
Livestock	50,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,318,596
Sanitation	610,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	709,300
Transport/Logistics	3,277,564
Water (non-agricultural)	650,000
Total Operations	20,515,831
Programme Support	4,204,205
Total	24,720,036

