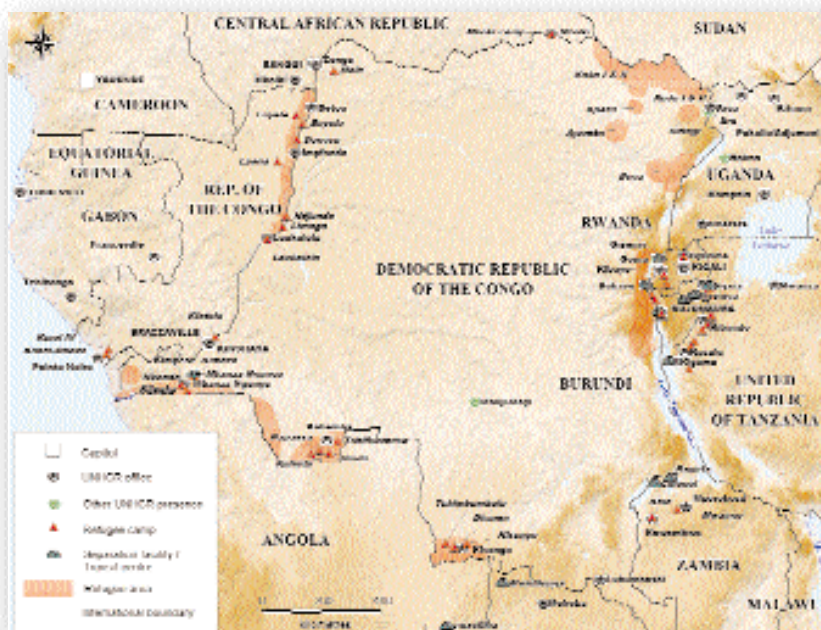


Democratic Republic of the Congo

Main Objectives

- Support the Government in the establishment of the National Eligibility Commission, and carry out registration exercises of accessible refugees.
- Provide international protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees from Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Republic of the Congo (RoC), Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda, and urban refugees of different nationalities in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi.
- Promote self-reliance activities and reinforce local settlement initiatives for existing refugees with a gradual phase-out of UNHCR's assistance. Continue to provide basic humanitarian assistance to new arrivals.
- Organise and facilitate the safe return of refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) when the situation in their respective countries of origin permits.
- Conditions permitting, promote and facilitate the return and reintegration of refugees in the neighbouring countries to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.



PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2002	Dec. 2002
Angolan Refugees	175,000	155,000
Burundian Refugees	20,700	5,700
Refugees from CAR	26,000	26,000
Congolese (RoC) Refugees	1,000	0
Rwandan Refugees	16,000	10,000
Sudanese Refugees	77,700	78,700
Ugandan Refugees	17,000	14,000
Urban Refugees	3,700	4,150
Returnees	190,000	290,000 ¹
Total	527,100	583,550

¹The costs for the foreseen repatriation are not included in the appeal budget. A regional supplementary programme will be established as and when voluntary repatriation to the DRC commences.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 23,374,952

and President Kabila has liberalised political activity in the country. The former ex-President of Botswana, Mr. Ketumile Masire, has been recognised as mediator for the Inter-Congolese dialogue, which is another important element of the

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

Several important steps towards peace and reconciliation have been taken since the leadership of the country was taken over by Joseph Kabila at the beginning of 2001. The Cease-fire Agreement, that was signed in Lusaka in July 1999 and had remained unimplemented since that time, is now in vigour. The plan for disengagement of local and foreign forces, which was signed in conformity with the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement in Harare in December 2000, is now also being implemented. The parties to the conflict have agreed to complete the withdrawal of forces from their respective frontlines,

Cease-fire Agreement, and preparations for the dialogue are underway. The United Nations Observer Mission to Congo (MONUC) has been able to deploy staff at the main frontlines to ensure the smooth and effective withdrawal of respective armies and armed forces. Although the situation is still fragile, these positive developments are having a significant impact on the political, social and economic situation in DRC as well as in the nine neighbouring countries that have either been involved in or suffered the consequences of the conflict.

The withdrawal of the belligerent parties has greatly facilitated access for the humanitarian organisations to deliver assistance to populations in need. President Kabila's relaxation of procedures for authorising missions within the country has made possible the deployment of several inter-agency humanitarian missions to assess humanitarian needs and provide assistance.

If the current political trend is maintained and the Inter-Congolese Dialogue yields concrete results, it is anticipated that voluntary repatriation to DRC will take place next year. To enhance its preparation for this, UNHCR is undertaking repatriation planning both in DRC as well as in the countries of asylum. As the refugees from DRC are spread out across several of the neighbouring countries, UNHCR has established a co-ordinator position to consolidate the repatriation operation from the various countries of asylum back to the country of origin.

Constraints

Persistent military conflicts and political instability in the countries of origin, plus the complex nature of the conflict inside DRC, continue to be a serious threat for refugees in DRC for whom crossing the border is no longer enough to escape from persecution and find safety. Moreover, two years of rebellion in DRC have left deep scars on the affected ethnic groups and created a certain bias and intolerance towards some refugee groups. This renders local settlement efforts increasingly difficult as a durable solution. Against this background, UNHCR will strengthen its efforts to promote resettlement as an alternative durable solution, particularly for the refugees in eastern DRC. Another major constraint to providing humanitarian assistance to the refugees is the poor or non-existing road infrastructure in DRC. Although the progress towards peace has shown encouraging signs, the situation remains fragile, and the security measures that have to be taken when delivering humanitarian assistance constitute another element that continues to impede UNHCR's interventions in several provinces in DRC.

The success of the operational objectives remains highly dependent on the attainment of funding and close co-operation with development agencies that provide continuity and sustainability of the assistance commenced by UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies. The long-term objective of UNHCR is to progressively exit from both humanitarian assistance pro-

grammes for newly arriving or newly accessible refugees and local settlement/resettlement assistance programmes for long-time refugees while handing over these responsibilities to other competent agencies.

STRATEGY

UNHCR will provide technical support to the National Commission for Refugees in order to enable it to progressively manage refugee matters independently, and a registration/documentation exercise for all accessible refugees will be undertaken.

Angolan Refugees

Bas-Congo province has constantly offered asylum to Angolan refugees fleeing fighting between Angolan Government troops and UNITA rebels. The frequent skirmishes between the belligerents create a permanent emergency-like situation in the border areas of DRC with frequent population movements. DRC authorities have reported that during the first eight months of 2001 some 15,000 new asylum-seekers crossed the border into Bas-Congo, where access roads are in a relatively very poor condition. The DRC authorities have agreed to relocate these newly arrived refugees to villages further inland and away from the border. It is expected that a similar situation will arise next year with frequent outbreaks of conflict causing new influxes to DRC. As the situation in Angola is not likely to improve drastically in the near future, prospects for a large repatriation movement towards Angola remain remote. However, the repatriation to Cabinda will continue as in 2001, according to the wishes of the refugees.

DRC also continues to host large numbers of Angolans who had been arriving in the three provinces of Bandundu, Bas-Congo and Katanga in successive waves since the 1980s up to last August. UNHCR will continue to assist some 124,000 of these refugees through local settlement programmes with the aim of promoting their self-reliance. Non-assisted refugees are either inaccessible or have already achieved self-sufficiency.

UNHCR's overall strategy is to strengthen refugee community participation in all sector activities and enhance their capacity to manage services in the health and education sectors through refugee committees. Thus UNHCR will assist with the establishment of seed co-operatives and train refugees in crop monitoring. Support will be provided for the establishment of refugee committees to manage revolving credit funds. Women's capacity to generate income will be strengthened through skills-development programmes and the creation of women's groups will be supported to increase their involvement in the management of refugee sites. Protection of women and children will be further improved through awareness-raising and strengthened follow-up of reported cases of abuse. Training of law enforcement officials

as well as members of the refugee committee in charge of security will be carried out by UNHCR. School furniture and teaching materials will be supplied in collaboration with UNICEF. Health education, reproductive health and peace education will be introduced in the refugee-managed schools and increased involvement by UNFPA will be solicited. Sports, cultural activities and art materials will be provided for young people in order to stimulate individual talents and free expression. Vocational training will be organised for school drop-outs. Refugees will be encouraged to set up tree nurseries and use energy-saving methods and tools, while education on environmental topics will be incorporated in the school curriculum. With the support of UNESCO, a GLOBE (Global Learning to Benefit Environment) pilot project will be initiated. Special community-based rehabilitation pro-

locations along the Sudanese border. These are long-staying refugees, the majority of whom are from the south of Sudan where the rebellion is most active. There are also an estimated 5,000 who originate from North Sudan. As no major repatriation movement is foreseen, their socio-economic integration in DRC will continue to be pursued, with a focus on the achievement of self-sufficiency and gradual phase-out of UNHCR's assistance. Against this background, UNHCR activities will aim to reinforce sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and other income generating activities, as well as health and education. Refugees will be assisted to develop their capacities to manage health centres and schools through refugee committees. Training and awareness workshops will be organised for refugee communities to reduce harmful tra-

ditional practices with regards to the female population. Education of girls will be promoted through awareness-raising campaigns and provision of tuition fees. Creation of job opportunities for women will be emphasised, for example by encouraging female teachers. Vocational training courses in mechanics and carpentry will be organised for school drop-outs, and adolescents not involved in formal/non-formal education will be encouraged and supported to constitute income-generating groups. Awareness workshops on sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, specifically targeting young people, will be organised. UNHCR will continue to provide environment education for the benefit of refugees and the local population and will continue its tree nursery programme. Fuel saving stoves will be promoted in all refugee settlements. An existing palm tree-planting project will be expanded to commence palm oil production. Active community-based rehabilitation of elderly, handicapped and other vulnerable cases will be promoted through the introduction of skills training and micro-enterprises.



Refugees from the Central African Republic in Zongo receiving material assistance. UNHCR.

grammes will be organised for the handicapped and the elderly and their families, and small units for the fabrication and repair of walking aids will be set up at sites with considerable numbers of disabled refugees.

Sudanese Refugees

There are almost 78,000 Sudanese refugees in the Orientale Province of which some 35,000 are being assisted in several

While UNHCR expects to phase out its assistance to the current Sudanese refugee group by the end of the year, the Office will, in accordance with its mandate, pursue its international protection activities. New arrivals will continue to receive basic humanitarian assistance followed by local settlement support. Strong emphasis will be put on refugee participation in all activities, and UNHCR will endeavour to attract developmental agencies to operate in the refugee-affected areas.

Ugandan Refugees

Due to prevailing insecurity in the hosting area, UNHCR is still facing difficulties in providing humanitarian assistance to the majority of the 17,000 Ugandan refugees living there. However, UNHCR gained access to almost 1,100 Ugandan refugees in 2001 and these refugees will continue to benefit from UNHCR's assistance in the year to come.

Refugees from the Republic of the Congo

In 2001, there remained a small number of Congolese refugees from the Republic of the Congo in DRC. UNHCR will continue to inform them about conditions in the country of origin and to encourage their voluntary repatriation. It is expected that all refugees will have repatriated by the end of the year and that UNHCR will have phased out its assistance to this refugee group.

Urban Refugees

The 3,700 urban refugees are residing mainly in Kinshasa and Lubumbashi. UNHCR will provide them with basic humanitarian assistance, local settlement, and repatriation and/or resettlement assistance. Newly arrived refugees and other vulnerable refugees will receive basic domestic items and subsistence allowances for a maximum period of six months. It is expected that with the establishment of the National Eligibility Commission, an increased number of urban refugees will obtain refugee status in the DRC. UNHCR will assist the Government with status determination and the registration and provision of documentation to urban refugees. Public awareness campaigns will be organised to prevent anti-refugee sentiments and local authorities will be trained on the role and mandate of UNHCR in order to enhance their understanding of UNHCR and refugees' rights and obligations. UNHCR will strengthen its interaction with the country representations in DRC with the aim of enhancing resettlement possibilities. Particular attention will be given providing accommodation for women and their families in order to prevent exploitation and abuse, and women will be assisted to get access to reproductive health programmes. Regular home visits will be undertaken and counselling and guidance provided. Urban refugee children will be integrated into government-managed schools and provided with scholarships. Prime focus will be put on raising AIDS awareness in the urban context. Tracing and family reunion activities will be pursued for separated children and anti-recruitment campaigns will be carried out amongst young people using resource material. Together with other agencies and the Government committee, UNHCR will participate actively in the demobilisation of child soldiers.

Rwandan Refugees

The remaining Rwandan refugees mainly reside in the villages and forests of Kivu provinces in eastern DRC. UNHCR assists refugees who express willingness to return to Rwanda. This consists of basic medical care, provision of essential domestic utensils and transportation for the return trip. Accessible refugees who remain in DRC will be assisted with reproductive health activities. It is hoped that the occurrence of sexual-gender based violence will decrease through education and information campaigns, particularly targeting the men. Tracing and family reunification for separated children will continue and UNHCR will also follow closely the well-being of children in foster-families. UNHCR expects that the majority of the Rwandan refugees will either have repatriated or achieved self-sufficiency by the end of the year. Thereafter, the Office will only provide international protection and counselling for individual refugee cases.

Burundian Refugees

Most of the Burundian refugees in DRC are so far inaccessible due to insecurity in the Kivu Provinces where they reside. No complete records are available on their numbers and it is hoped that the security situation will permit the carrying out of a registration exercise. Should the peace process in DRC lead to improved security in eastern DRC, UNHCR will attempt to access the area in order to provide international protection and assistance with repatriation when and where appropriate. Other assistance to refugees who can be reached will be similar to the assistance provided to the Rwandan refugees residing in the same area. UNHCR expects to re-open a field office in Uvira as soon as security permits. The ongoing self-reliance and local settlement programmes for the Burundian refugees in the Kasai province in southern DRC will be completed by the end of the year.

Returnees

The progress in the peace process in DRC has raised optimism that repatriation may take place in the near future. In view of this, UNHCR is in the process of making plans for the return of 100,000 refugees from neighbouring countries (a regional Supplementary Programme will be created when major repatriation movements start). Repatriation to DRC remains the optimal solution for Congolese refugees. UNHCR will only provide an initial return package on an individual basis and concentrate its efforts on inter-agency co-operation for rehabilitation activities in areas of return for both refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Co-funding mechanisms will be explored for programmes facilitating the return process. Active support will be given to national and local initiatives promoting repatriation and reintegration of Congolese refugees. Establishment of UNHCR offices in returnee areas will be necessary to provide assistance and monitoring the

return process. The establishment of a joint repatriation commission, and possibly an inter-agency operational co-ordination cell, will enhance the response capacity for population movements including the return of IDPs.

Refugees from the Central African Republic

In June some 26,000 refugees fled CAR to north-western DRC, mainly to Zongo town and surrounding areas. With the fragile political situation in CAR and the alleged persecution of individuals of Yakoma origin, UNHCR does not foresee a normalisation of the situation in the near future and expects the refugees to remain in DRC. At the beginning of the year, most of the refugees will have been settled in newly constructed refugee camps while a smaller number of some 4,000 will remain in their current settlement sites along the river and the border with CAR. While basic humanitarian assistance will be provided, UNHCR will also focus its activities on various self-reliance projects, mainly agricultural, and increased assistance in the areas of education, health, water and sanitation.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management Structure

In 2002, UNHCR's programme will be implemented by 121 staff (28 international and 82 national staff, one JPO, 10 UNVs). UNHCR will maintain offices in 11 field locations. Depending on the progress with the peace process, improvement in security conditions and repatriation movements, UNHCR will re-open an office in Uvira, eastern DRC.

Co-ordination

The deployment of the MONUC Observer Force, the establishment of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General and the consequent development of new co-ordination structures will certainly have an impact on the level of collaboration. Close contacts will be sought with MONUC to ensure mutual understanding, and special emphasis will be given to the establishment of an operational co-ordination mechanism with OCHA and MONUC. UNHCR will continue to be an active participant in all relevant fora related to the Congolese repatriation operation and rehabilitation programmes in DRC. Operational co-ordination will continue with other UN agencies in the following manner: WFP on food-distribution; UNICEF and WHO in education and health sectors; and with FAO in assisting refugees towards self-reliance. UNHCR will continue to work within the context of the Framework Agreement with the DRC Government and maintain a dialogue with key government officials. In the spirit of the Partnership in Action UNHCR will, to the extent possi-

ble, give preference to competent local NGOs for project implementation. Dialogue and interaction with other UNHCR offices in the region will be continued and strengthened.

OFFICES

Kinshasa
Aru
Bukavu
Goma
Kahemba
Kimpese
Kisenge
Lubumbashi
Mbanza-Ngungu
Mbuji-Mayi
Ngjdinga
Zongo

PARTNERS

NGOs
<i>Actions et interventions pour le développement et l'encadrement social</i>
<i>Associations pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement</i>
Atlas
Caritas
International Rescue Committee
OXFAM (Québec)
World Vision Canada
Others
<i>Eglise Anglicane de Boga</i>
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
<i>Diocèse de Boga</i>
<i>Diocèse de Mabagi</i>

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	6,318,727
Community Services	680,000
Crop Production	750,000
Domestic Needs	730,000
Education	1,625,000
Food	100,000
Forestry	80,000
Health	1,580,000
Income Generation	250,000
Legal Assistance	1,840,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,365,000
Sanitation	135,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	375,000
Transport/Logistics	3,580,000
Water	270,000
Total Operations	19,678,727
Programme Support	3,696,225
Total	23,374,952