

East and Horn of Africa

Major developments

As a result of continued efforts over several years by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the international community, the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) signed a Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 9 January 2005. The agreement brought to an end 21 years of armed conflict between North and South Sudan. It also set the stage for positive political changes in Sudan. The agreement prompted UNHCR to start planning the voluntary return of some 380,000 refugees who have been living in seven surrounding countries since 1983.

UNHCR had planned to assist some 64,000 Sudanese refugees to return home during 2005, but unfortunately very few did. This can be attributed mainly to the lack of infrastructure, needed to absorb large numbers of returnees in South Sudan, and, to a lesser degree, to the uncertainty which followed the sudden death of John Garang, leader of SPLM/A, in July 2005, just two weeks after his nomination as the First Vice President of the Government of National Unity. By the end of 2005, only 131 refugees had returned with UNHCR's assistance.

The relocation of the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) from Nairobi to Jwahar and Mogadishu can be regarded as another highly significant accomplishment on the part of IGAD. While it is clear that the process of reconciling the warring factions in Somalia

Djibouti

Eritrea

Ethiopia

Kenya

Somalia

Sudan
(see under Chad/Sudan situation)

Uganda

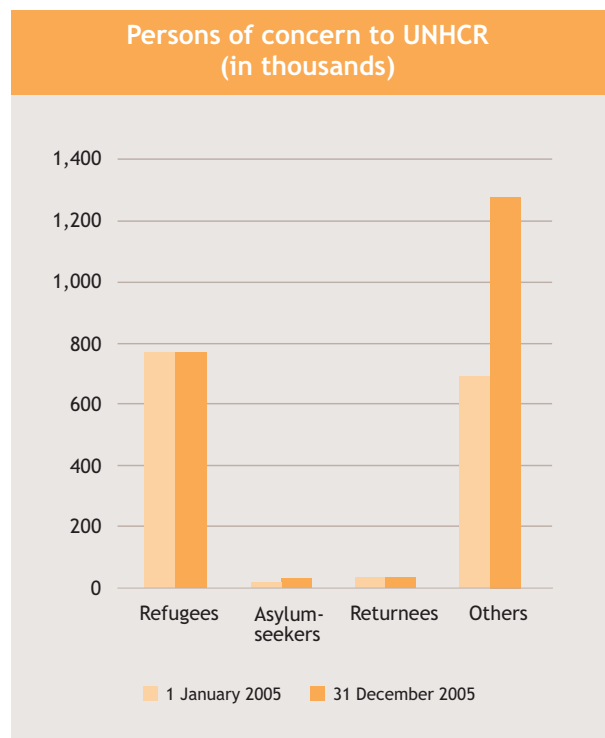


has been a long and complex process, UNHCR and the international community are hopeful that the formation of the TFG and its move to Somalia will contribute towards a comprehensive peace settlement that could encourage the return of Somali refugees. In 2005, preparations continued for a multi-pronged Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) for Somalia, which will benefit some 350,000 returnees, 400,000 refugees, 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and the local population in communities where returnees and IDPs live.

In the meantime, voluntary repatriation to North-West Somalia (*Somaliland*) and North-East Somalia (*Puntland*) continued, with over 7,400 Somalis having been assisted to return to *Somaliland* and *Puntland* from Djibouti. Moreover, in the overall context of a large-scale return operation, UNHCR also began to take on its cluster lead responsibilities for protection, emergency shelter, camp coordination and camp management, according to the new Inter-Agency Standing Committee approach to internal displacement.

In addition, in July 2005 the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU/PSC) reaffirmed support for the deployment of Phase 1 of an IGAD Peace Support Mission in Somalia (IGASOM), which is expected to be taken over subsequently by the African Union. The AU/PSC also reiterated its request for the UN Security Council to expedite an exemption from the arms embargo to allow for the IGASOM deployment.

During 2005, most countries in the region enjoyed relative political stability, but the military stand-off between Ethiopia and Eritrea remained tense, with the build-up of troops on both sides of the border. Regrettably, the monitoring capacity of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) was reduced, due to restrictions imposed in the last quarter of 2005 by the Government of



Eritrea. In Ethiopia, the 2005 parliamentary elections were the most competitive ever and witnessed the largest voter turnout in the country's history. The relatively orderly and amicable run-up to the polls was marred by accusations and counter-accusations of post-election irregularities and a deteriorating human rights situation.

Challenges and concerns

UNHCR's main objective in the region was the achievement of durable solutions, whether in terms of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, or local integration and self-sufficiency. The volatile security situation in some countries, compounded by the lack of sustainable development in the region, remained the major challenge. The concern is that, if there is insufficient support from the international community for an improvement in the security and socio-political situation, the current trend of voluntary repatriation could be reversed.

As the border dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea remained unresolved at the end of the year, UNHCR took the lead role in the preparation of a regional inter-agency contingency plan for the possible influx of Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees into neighbouring countries.

In Somalia, the volatile socio-political situation, compounded by continued factional fighting, remained a major challenge to the promotion of voluntary return of refugees originating from southern and central Somalia.

Fighting in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) triggered an influx of an estimated 20,000 refugees into Uganda, of whom only some

7,000 were willing to be relocated to settlements further away from the border. The remaining 13,000 opted to return to their places of origin within the DRC when the fighting stopped. As this has been a recurrent scenario over the past two years, UNHCR offices in Uganda and DRC prepared a contingency plan that was regularly reviewed and modified when necessary.

While the overall security situation in the East and Horn of Africa was much better in 2005 than in 2004, the physical safety of refugees and staff working in the Field continued to be a cause for serious concern. The border demarcation dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea led to UN travel restrictions. Attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army in northern Uganda and South Sudan resulted in the flight of Sudanese to Uganda and Kenya, and insecurity in eastern DRC continued to affect Uganda. Camp safety and security and related access issues are other major concerns in most of the operations.

Another notable constraint was the unpredictability of funding for the programmes; this posed serious challenges to effective programme delivery. Several important policy priority activities, such as environmental activities or sustainable return activities, had to be deferred for lack of funding.

An estimated seven million people in the East and Horn of Africa continued to face severe food shortages brought on by drought and other factors. As drought continues in 2006, the numbers affected are expected to increase. This could result in refugees and IDPs, who have already returned to *Somaliland* and *Puntland*, being displaced again. In addition, this could also sharply reduce the likelihood that others still in exile will want to return.

Budget and expenditure (USD)

Country	Final budget			Expenditure		
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget ¹	Total	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget ¹	Total
Djibouti	3,586,495	0	3,586,495	3,535,684	0	3,535,684
Eritrea	10,858,533	0	10,858,533	10,371,912	0	10,371,912
Ethiopia	14,249,074	4,528,798	18,777,872	13,328,068	2,731,314	16,059,382
Kenya	29,349,289	779,439	30,128,728	29,099,774	1,958,050	31,057,824
Somalia	7,083,418	1,422,370	8,505,788	6,531,773	1,301,834	7,833,607
Sudan	14,606,042	80,577,544	95,183,586	13,748,672	49,094,247	62,842,919
Uganda	16,435,708	5,903,293	22,339,001	16,134,936	2,120,424	18,255,360
Regional Support Hub in Kenya	4,154,575	3,460,785	7,615,360	4,081,125	255,866	4,336,991
Total	100,323,134	96,672,229	196,995,363	96,831,944	57,461,735	154,293,679

¹ The supplementary programme figures apply to the supplementary programmes for Eastern Chad and Darfur, Return and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees to Southern Sudan and the Indian Ocean Earthquake - Tsunami Emergency.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.



Ethiopia: A voluntary repatriation convoy to *Somaliland* has just left Aisha camp. This former frontline mountain area is full of landmines, with only 15 metres cleared on each side of the road. UNHCR / B. Heger

Progress towards solutions

In 2005 UNHCR assisted over 12,200 Somali refugees to return to *Somaliland* and *Puntland* (over 7,600 from Djibouti, 4,100 from Ethiopia and over 400 from Kenya). In Ethiopia, the voluntary repatriation of Somalis to *Somaliland* was completed in June 2005, leading to the closure of seven Somali refugee camps. At the time of writing, a residual group of some 10,000 refugees from southern and central Somalia was being hosted in one camp. Meanwhile, 6,500 refugees were resettled in countries outside the region (over 4,600 from Kenya alone, and in excess of 1,200 from Ethiopia, as well as 600 from Uganda and one from Eritrea).

Furthermore, UNHCR, through its regional liaison office in Addis Ababa, strengthened its partnership with the African Union, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and IGAD and continued assisting these regional organizations in their endeavours to strengthen peace building and security in the region.

UNHCR's collaboration with the private sector resulted in additional resources for special programmes to expand education and sports facilities for girls, as well as teacher training for women refugees in the camps and refugee-hosting communities.

UNHCR also increased its training activities and dialogue with governments, human rights groups and the refugees themselves to deepen the knowledge and understanding of the plight of refugees. The results of these efforts are not easily quantifiable, but there can be little doubt that they engendered a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of UNHCR, the countries of origin, the countries of asylum, the refugees and the host communities.

Using the Project Profile system, UNHCR registered all persons of concern in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. This facilitated planning for the various repatriation operations (DRC, Sudan, Rwanda and Burundi). It also helped the Office to identify vulnerable refugees and resettlement candidates.

The region continued to see the implementation of the most advanced HIV/AIDS refugee intervention programmes in Africa; this included prevention of mother-to-child transmission and the provision of antiretroviral treatment. Planning continued for the implementation of the Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS, to be launched in 2006. Kenya will be included in this initiative. HIV surveillance was carried out among refugees in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. Results to date show a lower than expected HIV prevalence and a high level of awareness.

Other priority areas included prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence; the combating of harmful practices affecting women and children; and the promotion of access to education, including peace education. Details can be found in the individual country chapters.

Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia** and **Uganda** are described in separate chapters.

Djibouti: As in the other countries, UNHCR's operations in 2005 focused on finding durable solutions for some 16,000 Somali refugees in Djibouti. Over 7,600 of these returned to *Somaliland* and *Puntland* during 2005.

The Regional Support Hub (RSH) in Nairobi provided support to 17 UNHCR operations in the East and Horn of Africa and in Central Africa and the Great Lakes. It coordinated the implementation of global policies and provided a range of expertise covering resettlement, registration, geographic information systems, public information, and the protection of refugee women and children.

The African Union Liaison Unit in Addis Ababa: In 2005, UNHCR made notable progress in strengthening its partnership with the African Union, IGAD, and other regional and subregional entities, thereby laying the foundation for the development of comprehensive policies on protection, assistance, and durable solutions for refugees, IDPs and other persons of concern.

The Coordinating Committee on Assistance to Refugees and Displaced Persons (CCAR) became operational again after a long period of inaction; and collaboration with the AU on issues such as peace and security and social affairs was expanded. UNHCR also worked more closely with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA). In cooperation with the IGAD Secretariat, UNHCR organized the first ever IGAD Ministerial Conference on refugees.

The NEPAD Sub-Cluster on Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Recovery (made up of UN agencies) chaired by UNHCR was formally established during the first quarter of the year; its terms of reference were endorsed and a work plan adopted. The appointment of a UNHCR NEPAD Programme Coordinator significantly strengthened the Office's capacity to support NEPAD and the activities of the UN system Sub-Cluster.

Under the auspices of the Sub-Cluster, and through cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNHCR also made significant progress in the preparation of assessment reports on recovery and reconstruction in Angola, Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Sudan. Work on the assessments will continue in 2006.

UNHCR also cooperated with the AU on the development of a framework on post-conflict recovery, reconstruction and development. A first draft was reviewed and received broad endorsement by members of the AU Peace and Security Council and other AU Member States during a series of meetings organized in South Africa in September 2005. The framework is currently under further review and it is hoped that it will be endorsed by the AU later in 2006.

Funding

The overall level of donor interest in the sub-region was lower than earlier years. Compared to 2004, funding for the East and Horn of Africa region saw a slight decrease in the level of earmarked contributions from 64 to 56 per cent. While contributions earmarked at the country-level continued to be a very welcome form of donor support, UNHCR was glad to note the increased availability of flexible funds, which made it easier for the Office to undertake internal reprioritization of activities in the region. UNHCR programmes in Uganda, Somalia and Eritrea were an integral part of the 2005 Consolidated Appeals.

Restricted voluntary contributions (USD)			
Earmarking ¹	Donor	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget
East and Horn of Africa			
	Denmark	4,008,442	0
	Finland	1,297,017	0
	Ireland	713,359	0
	Luxembourg	901,442	0
	Japan	1,700,000	0
	Sweden	8,472,012	0
Sub-total		17,092,272	0
Djibouti			
	Djibouti	26,000	0
	Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO)	7,475	0
Sub-total		33,475	0
Eritrea			
	Italy	323,415	0
	Japan	1,200,000	0
	United States	1,900,000	0
Sub-total		3,423,415	0
Ethiopia			
	Germany	388,235	1,293,661
	Italy	439,845	0
	Japan	1,300,000	0
	United States	2,235,400	0
Sub-total		4,363,480	1,293,661
Kenya			
	Denmark	693,431	0
	Germany	586,151	0
	Italy	388,098	0
	Japan	1,800,000	0
	Japan Association for UNHCR	178,853	0
	Microsoft Corporation (USA)	45,959	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Austria	8,046	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Denmark	24,772	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Italy	1,294	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Latvia	678	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Switzerland	301	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in the United Kingdom	3,492	0
	Nike EMEA Netherlands	260,041	0
	United Kingdom	95,785	0
	United States	4,665,000	0
	USA for UNHCR	26,901	0
Sub-total		8,778,803	0
Somalia			
	Australia for UNHCR	0	10,477
	Denmark	13,869	0
	<i>Deutsche Stiftung für UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe</i>	0	106,756
	European Commission	166,889	0
	Germany	1,209,190	0

Earmarking ¹	Donor	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget
	Italy	0	265,252
	Japan	700,000	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Switzerland	0	43,426
	Netherlands	313,645	0
	Norway	1,572,536	0
	Portugal	0	117,647
	<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i>	0	472,561
	United Kingdom	13,030	0
	United States	1,000,000	0
	USA for UNHCR	0	1,800
Sub-total		4,989,159	1,017,919
Sudan			
	Belgium	0	726,392
	Canada	1,130,579	578,512
	Denmark	0	2,208,202
	European Commission	0	980,392
	Germany	0	3,423,814
	Japan	3,000,000	8,927,077
	Japan Association for UNHCR	96,060	92,418
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Germany	0	65
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Greece	0	3,240
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Switzerland	0	442
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in the United States	373	6,829
	Netherlands	482,000	3,928,000
	Norway	4,537,155	5,229,186
	Poland	59,987	0
	South Africa	0	50,541
	Spain	0	2,757,466
	United Kingdom	205,204	5,632,360
	United Nations African Mothers Association	0	16,687
	United Nations Foundation	0	5,000
	United States	1,800,000	6,000,000
Sub-total		11,311,359	40,566,623
Uganda			
	Austria	352,941	0
	Belgium	230,588	0
	Denmark	912,409	0
	France	242,131	0
	Italy	452,781	0
	Japan	1,300,000	0
	Miscellaneous donors / Private donors in Canada	37,598	0
	Norway	1,790,197	0
	<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i>	133,108	0
	Sweden	1,512,859	0
	United States	2,040,000	0
	USA for UNHCR	1,555	0
Sub-total		9,006,167	0
Total		58,998,130	42,878,203

¹ For more information on the earmarking, please refer to the donor profiles.