

Sudan

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Main objectives

- Pursue recognition of the full spectrum of refugee rights and the provision of opportunities for integration in host communities.
- Seek durable solutions for refugees by facilitating their voluntary repatriation on an ad hoc basis, and resettle those who cannot be locally integrated.
- Promote gender equality among the refugees, returnees and host communities and focus on policy priorities, emphasizing the needs of women, older refugees and adolescents.
- Pursue environmental rehabilitation in refugee-affected areas, including clean up and rehabilitation of infrastructure in vacated and closed camps.



Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2005	Dec 2005
Eritrea (refugees)	112,949	105,000
Ethiopia (refugees)	14,848	13,500
Uganda (refugees)	7,933	7,500
Other refugees	3,078	1,578
Asylum-seekers ¹	560	790
Total	139,368	128,368

¹ The majority of asylum-seekers are Eritrean nationals that have not gone through individual refugee status determination.

Total requirements: USD 12,165,779

Working environment

Recent developments

Since September 2003, there has been a steady flow of Eritrean asylum-seekers into Kassala and its environs in eastern Sudan. The number of individuals registered by the Government of Sudan exceeds 2,000. UNHCR conducts interviews for individual refugee status determination (RSD) for these new arrivals.

The structure of the United Nations system has undergone significant changes with the arrival of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General

(SRSG) in Sudan at the head of the United Nations Advance Mission in Sudan (UNAMIS).

Constraints

Limited funding has led to inadequate provision of protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees in the camps in eastern Sudan. In June 2004, UNHCR had to suspend RSD activities as well as assistance to new arrivals; at the same time, assistance to existing refugees had to be reduced. The organized repatriation of Eritrean refugees was also delayed. As a result, UNHCR's planned exit strategy from eastern Sudan was delayed, setting back the closure and consolidation of the camps and the rehabilitation of refugee-affected areas. Another constraining factor in eastern Sudan has been the restriction on staff movements for security reasons. The lack of land for agriculture has hampered plans to create sustainable livelihood options for refugees.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

The cessation of refugee status for Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees has changed the asylum system in Sudan from one based on *prima facie* recognition of refugees, to one based on individual status determination. While Sudan is a party to the main international instruments and has national legislation on refugees, there is an urgent need to establish a national asylum system with appropriate procedures. This is all the more important as Sudan is a transit point for many irregular migrants from the Horn of Africa to northern Africa and Europe. In 2005, UNHCR plans to support the Government of Sudan to establish a national asylum system by providing advice and targeted assistance.

Eritrean Refugees

UNHCR has been assisting Eritrean refugees in camps in eastern Sudan since 1967. In February 2002, UNHCR declared the cessation of refugee status for those who fled Eritrea before the fall of the Mengistu regime in Ethiopia in 1991 or those

who fled the border war with Ethiopia during 1997-2000. In 2004, voluntary repatriation and RSD have played an important role in bringing to an end the protracted refugee situation in Sudan, and have rapidly reduced the size of the refugee population. Eritrean refugees who claim to have a continuing fear of persecution in Eritrea will undergo RSD until the end of 2004.

At the time of writing, nearly 76,000 refugees are currently residing in the camps. To date, more than 29,100 individuals have registered for RSD and UNHCR anticipates the voluntary repatriation of some 5,000 refugees to Eritrea in 2005. However, durable solutions have to be found for the remaining population. UNHCR is discussing with the Government of Sudan the implementation of a comprehensive DAR/DLI programme (Development Assistance for Refugees/Development through Local Integration) for Eritrean refugees. In this context, some 30,000 Eritrean refugee families are expected to benefit from self-reliance activities. UNHCR will continue discussions with the Sudanese Government on local integration for this group. As part of an inter-institutional programme, UNHCR will implement activities on environmental recovery and rehabilitation of infrastructure in the refugee-affected areas under the programme of Sustainable Options for Livelihoods Security in Eastern Sudan (SOLSES). The Karkora, Um Sagata, Abu Rakhm and Asotriba camps have been closed in 2004 and will be handed over by the end of 2004. Other camps will be closed in 2005.

Refugees of other nationalities

UNHCR will continue to support the Commissioner for Refugees (COR) to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees of other nationalities: Ethiopians (some 15,000),





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An Eritrean family of returnees waits as the Sudanese buses are unloaded, and then passengers switch to Eritrean buses - at the border between Sudan and Eritrea for the rest of the journey home. *UNHCR / E. Parsons*

Ugandans (almost 8,000) and DRC Congolese (1,500). Individual refugees who wish to repatriate will be assisted to return voluntarily to their countries of origin with the assistance of COR. In 2005, UNHCR will facilitate the resettlement to third countries of 1,000 Ethiopian and Eritrean refugees with specific protection needs. UNHCR will also explore the use of resettlement as a durable solution for groups of refugees.

Assistance

UNHCR will continue to provide basic humanitarian assistance to vulnerable refugee groups and persons with special needs. Health services and primary education will be provided in refugee camps. UNHCR will focus on activities such as rehabilitation of health centres, reproductive health activities, HIV/AIDS prevention, capacity building, monitoring and coordination. The improvement of water and sanitation infrastructure

in refugee camps will be a priority, including the rehabilitation of water systems and the construction of improved latrines.

In collaboration with WFP, UNHCR will ensure that refugees continue to receive basic food supplies in 2005. In order to improve food security, UNHCR will help refugee farmers to establish sustainable farming, especially in Um Gargour camp, where the Government has provided over 2,700 hectares of land to refugee farmers. The farmers will receive agricultural tools and technical information. Agro-forestry practices will be promoted to ensure the sustainability of soil productivity.

Environmental rehabilitation will continue under the SOLSES programme in villages, refugee camps and refugee-affected areas in eastern Sudan. Over 1,500 hectares of forest will be created and more than 600,000 tree seedlings will be planted on community woodland, compounds and irrigated schemes. Community groups involved in environmental activities will be supported to initiate income-generating activities which broaden livelihood options. Refugees and Sudanese nationals will be mobilized to raise environmental awareness and use natural resources wisely. In addition, the rehabilitation of schools and hospitals will continue in all camps and refugee-affected areas.

Assistance in the form of income-generating activities will be provided to female heads of households, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), orphans and young women who have failed to complete their school education. Over 50 refugees with psychological problems require appropriate care. A special programme to support these and other refugees will be initiated in all refugee camps. UNHCR will conduct training sessions on SGBV in conjunction with implementing and operational partners. Locally produced sanitary materials will be provided to some 30,000 refugee women. Community libraries will be established in 10 schools, with books in Arabic and English. Lamps will be provided in schools to facilitate evening classes. The best performing schools will receive awards to encourage competition and enhance quality education. UNHCR will continue to grant DAFI scholarships for students. To better address the needs of vulnerable groups

and school dropouts, UNHCR will organize vocational training activities.

Desired impact

While refugees residing in camps will continue to receive humanitarian assistance, environmental and infrastructural rehabilitation will be undertaken in closed or vacated camps. In addition, seven refugee camps will be closed and handed over to the local authorities. As part of UNHCR durable solutions strategy, approximately 5,000 Eritrean refugees will repatriate in safety and dignity. In addition, resettlement opportunities will be made available for 1,000 refugees and local integration in Sudan will be promoted for those refugees who choose to remain.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

The operation in Sudan will be managed by the branch office in Khartoum supported by the sub-office in Es Showak. The branch office has 84 staff members: 31 international, including UNVs, and 53 national staff. The staff will support the annual programme activities in Sudan as well as activities in Darfur and Southern Sudan. The sub-office will have 57 staff members, 18 international, including 12 UNVs, and 39 national.

Coordination

UNHCR will continue to implement its projects in eastern Sudan in cooperation with the Sudanese Government and several local and international NGOs. Various line ministries, United Nations agencies and NGOs will also play a key role in the rehabilitation activities foreseen under the SOLSES programme. National NGOs will be involved in primary health care, supplementary feeding, primary education, water and small-scale community development activities.

Offices
Khartoum
El Fasher
El Geneina
Es Showak
Juba
Kajo Kaji
Kapoeta
Malakal
Nyala
Port Sudan
Rumbek
Yambio
Yei

Partners
Government agencies
Commissioner for Refugees (COR)
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Health
Ministry of International Cooperation
National Forestry Corporation

NGOs
<i>Cooperazione Italiana Nord Sud (CINS)</i>
Global Health Foundation
GOAL (Ireland)
Human Appeal International
International Rescue Committee
IUCN - World Conservation Union
Ockenden International
Sudan Open Learning Organization
Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society
Sudanese Red Crescent Society
Others
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
FAO
UNDP
UNFPA
UN-HABITAT
UNICEF
UNV

Budget (USD)			
Activities and services	Annual Programme	Supplementary Programme ¹	Total
Protection, monitoring and coordination	2,721,262	9,762,578	12,483,840
Community services	83,854	1,144,610	1,228,464
Crop production	50,000	1,000,000	1,050,000
Domestic needs	292,491	4,679,000	4,971,491
Education	549,752	3,810,000	4,359,752
Fisheries		400,000	400,000
Food	182,850	1,047,660	1,230,510
Forestry	325,901	885,326	1,211,227
Health	864,133	2,368,888	3,233,021
Income generation	26,309	1,000,000	1,026,309
Legal assistance	911,485	3,900,662	4,812,147
Livestock	50,000	700,000	750,000
Operational support (to agencies)	1,856,565	3,347,418	5,203,983
Sanitation	74,534	713,142	787,676
Shelter/other infrastructure	331,056	4,398,690	4,729,746
Transport/logistics	1,798,999	8,649,464	10,448,463
Water (non- agricultural)	228,818	1,655,140	1,883,958
Total operations	10,348,009	49,462,578	59,810,587
Programme support	1,817,770	7,262,753	9,080,523
Total	12,165,779	56,725,331	68,891,110

¹ The Supplementary Programme Budget (SB) relates to the Return and Reintegration of Sudanese Refugees to Southern Sudan. It includes the total requirements for all countries concerned. Note: The SB does not include a 7 per cent support cost (USD 3,462,380) that is recovered from each contribution to meet indirect support costs in UNHCR (field and headquarters). The SB does not include requirements for UNHCR's operations in Darfur, Western Sudan, that are currently under review.