

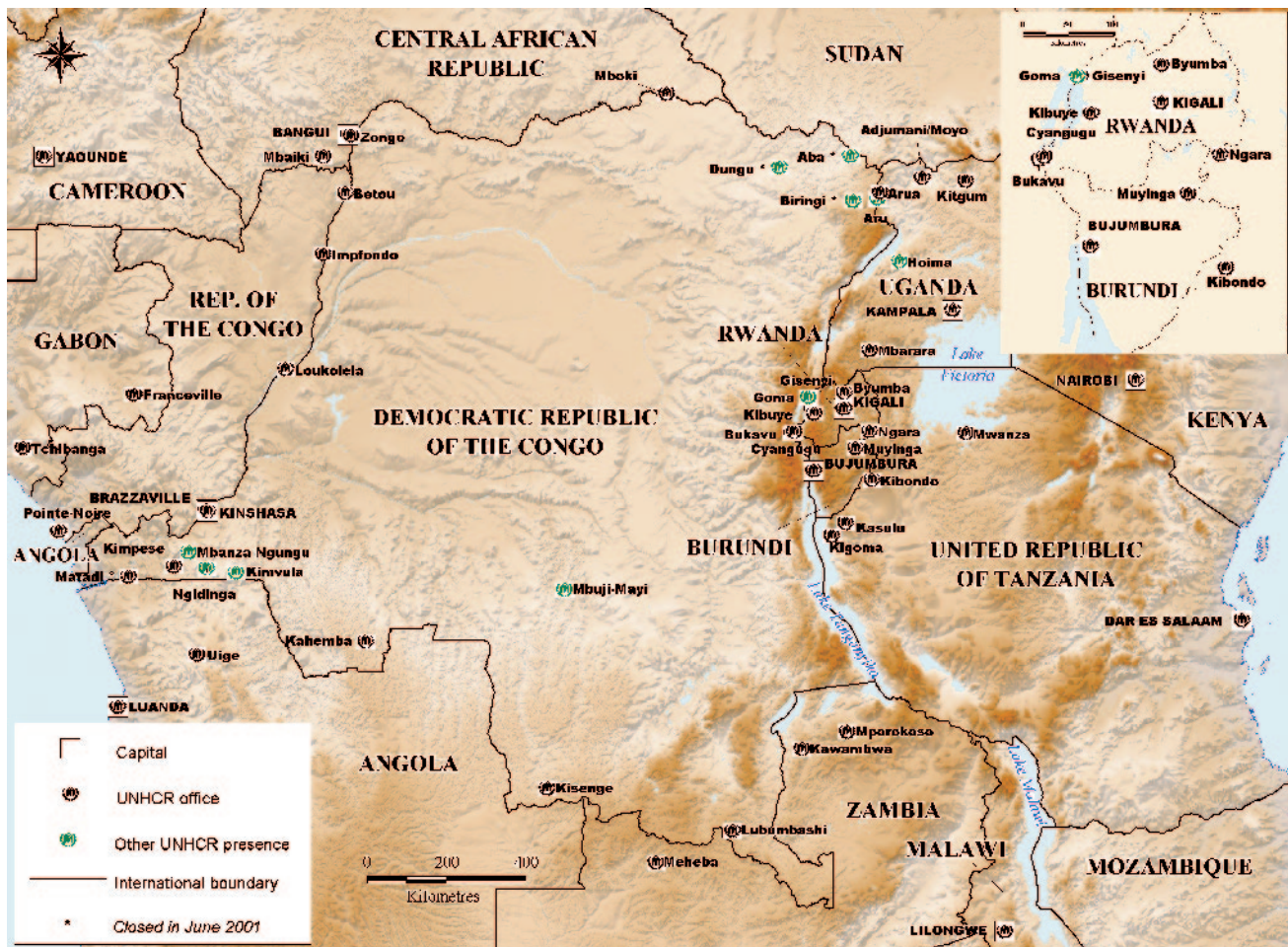
# Great Lakes

## Major Developments

The year 2001 saw a positive change in the political and military situation of the Great Lakes Region following the death of President Laurent Desiré Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in January, and the assumption of national responsibilities by his son, Joseph Kabila. Peace efforts intensified under the new regime and led to the implementation of several major aspects of the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, which had been in abeyance since its signature in July 1999. The prospect of peace was brought significantly closer not just within the country, but in the region as a whole, with the commencement of the withdrawal from the DRC of foreign armies, the liberalisation of political expression, the facilitation of access by humanitarian agencies to the interior of the country, and the deployment of the United Nations Observer Force in the DRC (MONUC).

Following Joseph Kabila's acceptance of Botswana's ex-President Kutumile Masire as mediator, the first meeting of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue was planned for October. However, due to lack of fund-

Burundi  
Democratic Republic of the Congo  
Republic of the Congo  
Rwanda  
United Republic of Tanzania



ing and disagreement as to who should participate in the dialogue, the meeting was called off after two weeks – with the understanding that it would recommence in South Africa in early 2002. Although the parties to the conflict had managed to agree on disengagement plans and began their respective withdrawal from the front lines, the demilitarisation of Kisangani and the continued presence of foreign forces proved to be stumbling blocks. In a resolution in November, the UN Security Council called upon the countries involved, to withdraw and reiterated its condemnation of all illegal exploitation of the natural resources of the country. At the end of the year, the Security Council also approved the launch of MONUC's third phase, the Demobilization, Disarmament, Repatriation, Reintegration or Resettlement process which involved the deployment of more troops, mainly to the eastern provinces of the country. Despite these positive developments, fighting continued between the rebel groups and government forces in the Kivus (DRC), and tribal conflict between the Lendus and the Hemas in north-eastern DRC con-

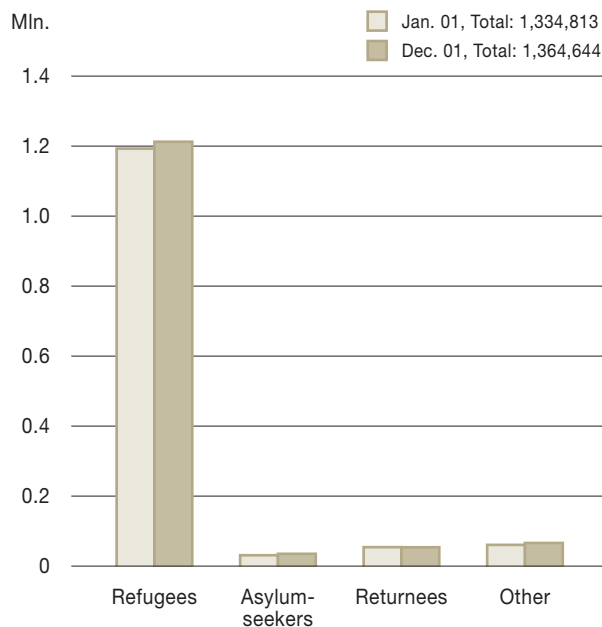
tinued. This led to mass population displacement and the flight of 36,000 refugees into Burundi, the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) and Uganda. The many years of civil war have had a disastrous effect on life in DRC, with more than two million internally displaced and an estimated 16 million enduring extreme poverty. The conflict in Angola continued to produce new flows of refugees into DRC. Following an attempted *coup d'état* against President Patasse in Bangui in May 2001, some 26,500 refugees from the Central African Republic (CAR) sought refuge in north-western DRC. Among them were a significant number of military personnel, schoolchildren and university students.

The Republic of the Congo (RoC) continued to progress towards post-conflict social rehabilitation and established an electoral schedule for the first half of 2002. As a consequence, the refugees remaining in neighbouring countries continued to return throughout the year.

Despite Rwanda's compliance with troop disen-

agement in the DRC, security remained the primary preoccupation of the Government. The Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) repeatedly pledged its support for the Lusaka Peace Process but refused to completely withdraw until all the irregular combatants that it considered responsible for the genocide in 1994 were disarmed in eastern DRC. Although the various peace summits – held to resolve the tensions between Rwanda and its neighbours – began to show results, there were continued accusations between the countries that they were harbouring each other's dissidents. Security in DRC remained fragile. The infiltration of ex-FAR (*Forces armées rwandaises*) and *Interahamwe* operating in the Masisi forest of the Kivus (DRC) into Rwanda continued to create insecurity and impeded repatriation from

#### Persons of Concern to UNHCR



DRC. The Government arrested several of the infiltrators and placed them in “solidarity camps” (demobilisation camps) where they underwent civic education programmes pending relocation to villages and communes of origin. Rwanda continued to host Congolese and Burundian refugees, and the Government continued to request the involvement of UNHCR and other international agencies in the funding and provision of material assistance to the refugees. Repatriation from Tanzania to safe parts of Rwanda continued throughout the year, under the Tripartite Agreements, and a total of 3,000 refugees returned with assistance from UNHCR.

In Burundi, a Peace and Reconciliation Agreement was reached between 19 parties in Arusha on 28 August 2000. Despite the exclusion of two key rebel groups, the *Front pour la défense de la démocratie* (FDD) and *Front national pour la libération* (FNL), from the agreement process and the lack of a cease-fire, a transitional government was installed on 1 November 2001. However, fighting continued between the different factions and the Burundian National Army, forcing 41,000 Burundians to seek refuge in neighbouring countries. The country also witnessed two *coups d'état*, both of which failed to displace the Government. Some of the armed FDD elements based in DRC reportedly returned to Burundi, causing heightened military tension. This exacerbated the violence and further reduced the chances of a durable peace. As a result, UNHCR's activities were restricted to areas around Bujumbura Rural and sporadically to other areas when security permitted. This severely hampered the implementation of re-integration projects and assistance programmes for refugees, returnees and some IDPs. Despite these challenges, by the end of 2001, some 28,000 persons had spontaneously returned to Burundi (mostly to the provinces of Muyinga, Ruyigi and Makamba).

Following a visit by members of the Security Council to Tanzania, the Government issued a statement to the effect that the Burundian refugees should be transferred to “safe havens” in Burundi – a suggestion that UNHCR considered unworkable. Tanzania has since then provided UNHCR with assurances that it will neither carry out such an act nor forcefully repatriate the refugees. Meanwhile, the conflicts in countries of the Great Lakes region continued to cause refugees to flee, mainly into Tanzania. By the end of the year, there were 483,000 assisted refugees in Tanzania. The country also hosted 470,000 unassisted refugees (Government figures).

## Challenges and Concerns

In 2001, the Great Lakes region still frequently required emergency assistance responses, with few opportunities for repatriation owing to the prevailing security situation. Some of the assumptions upon which plans were based proved to be over-optimistic and required a redirection of programme

objectives from voluntary repatriation to basic assistance.

Access to refugees and spontaneous returnees, mainly in Burundi and the DRC, remained a pre-occupation due to continued insecurity in the operational areas. Logistical constraints also continued to hamper UNHCR operations.



Burundi: Education often provides a brighter future. Rwandan refugee children are given educational material to attend school. *UNHCR / A. Hollmann*

Due to the adverse living conditions in most of the locations of operations (mostly remote and isolated), UNHCR has had difficulties in attracting adequate staff. There has been frequent turnover of staff on mission, and disruption to operations. The precarious security conditions under which humanitarian assistance is provided were illustrated by the assassination of six ICRC delegates in Ituri, north eastern DRC, and the murder of a UNHCR driver in Kimpese, south western DRC.

In Tanzania, UNHCR could do little to shore up the steadily eroding traditional hospitality that used to be routinely shown by the Government and local communities towards refugees. International support for UNHCR programmes was still at a low ebb. The challenge to ensure the humanitarian character of the camps continued to cause concern. Although programmes were undertaken to reduce the incidence of rape and violence against women in camps, the problems continued, albeit on a reduced scale.

## Progress Toward Solutions

The continued lack of concrete results in the Arusha Peace process (for Burundi) and in the implementation of the Lusaka Cease-fire Agreement (in the DRC), meant that large-scale repatriation from countries of asylum could not take place. Despite these setbacks, some progress was nevertheless made towards durable solutions. In Burundi, a tri-partite agreement was signed on 8 May by the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania and UNHCR; it established the legal framework for an eventual voluntary repatriation from Tanzania. Some 28,000 persons were reported to have returned spontaneously to Burundi by the end of the year. In the DRC, some 28,000 refugees of various nationalities were assisted by UNHCR to return to Rwanda, Angola, Burundi, RoC, Sudan and Uganda.

The improvement in the humanitarian situation in the RoC continued throughout the year. A Tri-partite Agreement was signed

between the Governments of Gabon and RoC and UNHCR for the repatriation of Congolese refugees from Gabon. The voluntary repatriation operation started towards the end of the year and successfully integrated 249 returnees in the Brazzaville area. In addition, 315 persons from the DRC and 62 persons from other countries returned.

Repatriation from Tanzania to Rwanda continued under the Tri-partite Agreement and some 3,000 refugees returned during the year. Inside Rwanda, prospects for the return of Congolese Banyamulenges and Burundian refugees remained bleak and UNHCR therefore continued to promote the local integration and resettlement of these refugees.

## Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Burundi**, the **DRC**, the **RoC**, **Rwanda** and **Tanzania** are covered in the respective country chapters.

## Funding

Due to the ongoing emergency influxes into the DRC, mainly from Angola and the Central African Republic, UNHCR had to prioritise its already overstretched resources. This meant that assistance provided to refugees remained at a basic level. Assistance in the education sector was below minimum standards. It also meant that rehabilitation works in Zongo and in Kahemba (roads, bridges and an airstrip) had to be suspended.

Voluntary Contributions – Restricted (USD)			
Donor	Earmarking <sup>1</sup>	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds	
		Income	Contribution
Austria	Burundi	60,000	60,000
Belgium	Republic of the Congo	318,981	318,981
	Great Lakes	2,230,499	2,230,499
Canada	Tanzania	333,333	333,333
Denmark	Great Lakes	3,714,872	3,714,872
<i>Deutsche Stiftung</i> (GFR)	Democratic Republic of the Congo	89,543	89,543
European Commission	Burundi	4,834,378	5,371,531
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	3,283,713	3,283,713
	Great Lakes	24,483	0
	Rwanda	24,229	0
	Tanzania	10,608,839	10,204,081
Finland	Democratic Republic of the Congo	451,713	451,713
	Great Lakes	1,058,652	1,058,652
	Tanzania	150,571	150,571
France	Great Lakes	536,569	536,569
Germany	Republic of the Congo	117,485	117,485
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	234,969	234,969
	Rwanda	223,858	223,858
	Tanzania	234,969	234,969
IBRD	Burundi	1,700,000	1,700,000
Ireland	Democratic Republic of the Congo	339,202	339,202
Italy	Democratic Republic of the Congo	499,370	200,000
	Tanzania	331,913	331,913
Japan	Republic of the Congo	1,500,000	1,500,000
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	3,100,000	3,100,000
	Great Lakes	2,000,000	2,000,000
	Rwanda	1,000,000	1,000,000
	Tanzania	4,400,000	4,400,000
Luxembourg	Great Lakes	212,419	212,419
	Tanzania	212,419	212,419
Norway	Great Lakes	2,766,226	2,766,226
	Tanzania	643,777	643,777
Private Donors Austria	Republic of the Congo	647	647

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Private Donors Italy	Democratic Republic of the Congo	153,121	153,121
	Great Lakes	61,333	61,333
<i>Stichting Vluchteling</i> (NET)	Tanzania	128,234	128,234
Sweden	Great Lakes	4,791,666	4,791,666
Switzerland	Burundi	581,395	581,395
	Tanzania	590,099	590,099
Tanganyka Christian Refugee Service (TAN)	Tanzania	50,000	50,000
UN Women's Guild, Vienna (AUS)	Tanzania	8,000	8,000
United Kingdom	Tanzania	1,838,235	1,838,235
United States of America	Republic of the Congo	1,110,000	1,110,000
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	5,078,000	5,078,000
	Great Lakes	1,020,000	1,020,000
	Rwanda	910,000	910,000
	Tanzania	4,530,000	4,530,000
USA for UNHCR (USA)	Tanzania	461,875	461,875
<b>TOTAL<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>68,549,587</b>	<b>68,333,900</b>

<sup>1</sup> For more information on the various earmarkings, please refer to the Donor Profiles.

<sup>2</sup> Total funds available for obligation in the region also included unrestricted voluntary contributions, lightly restricted contributions, opening balances and adjustments.

### Budget and Expenditure (USD)

Country	Revised Budget	Expenditure
	Annual Programme Budget and Trust Funds	
Burundi	7,652,999	7,401,506
Republic of the Congo	7,200,936	6,536,747
Democratic Republic of the Congo	25,005,328	24,077,163
Rwanda	8,761,021	8,610,205
Tanzania	30,507,550	28,873,088
Regional Projects <sup>1</sup>	9,404,000	8,449,158
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>88,531,834</b>	<b>83,947,867</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes assistance to various refugees in the Great Lakes region, such as resettlement, care and maintenance, as well as support costs for UNV's and consultants, light aircraft charter costs and scholarships for refugee students.