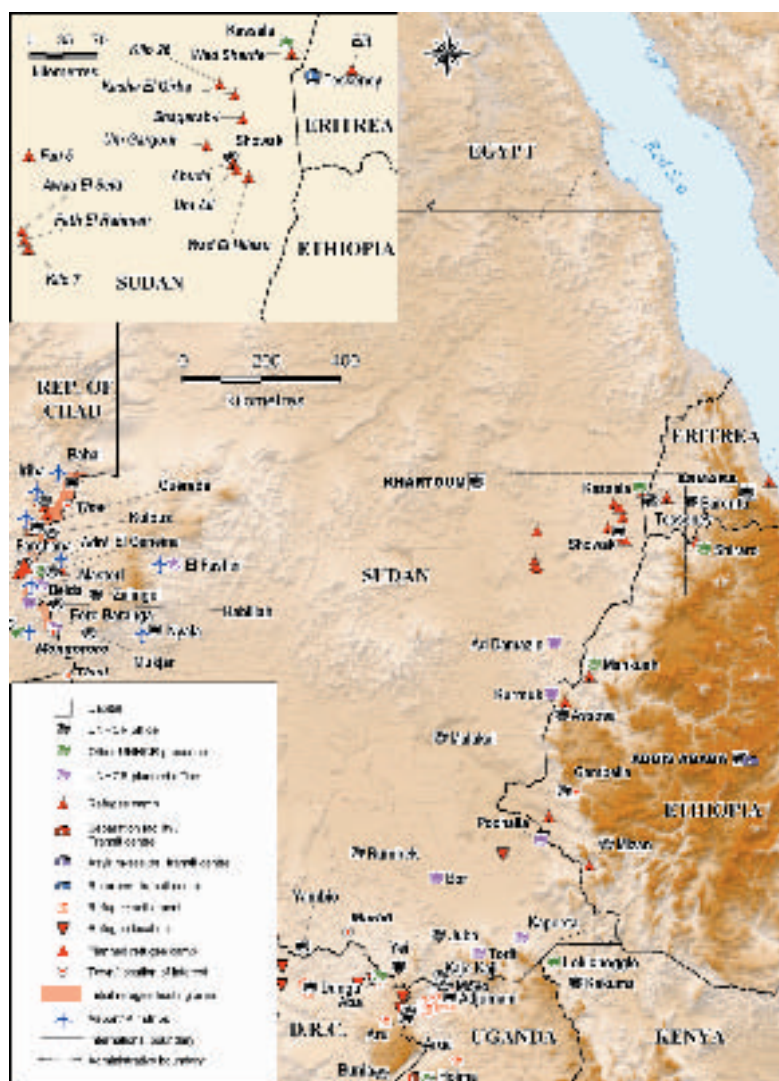


Sudan

Main objectives

- Promote self-reliance for Eritrean refugees residing in camps in eastern Sudan, emphasizing gender equality, the needs of women, older refugees and adolescents.
- Advocate for a local integration policy for Eritrean refugees who opt to stay in eastern Sudan and resettle those who cannot be locally integrated.
- Facilitate and promote voluntary repatriation of refugees of various other nationalities, conditions permitting.
- Pursue the establishment of a national asylum system in Sudan to provide refugees and asylum-seekers with international protection and legal status in accordance with international standards.
- Rehabilitate refugee-hosting areas.



Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
Eritrea (refugees)	113,000	116,000
Ethiopia (refugees)	14,800	14,600
Uganda (refugees)	7,700	7,200
Other refugees	7,950	3,500
Asylum-seekers	2,000	500
Other of concern	25,000	10,000
Total	170,450	151,800

Total requirements: USD 13,045,950

Working environment

Recent developments

During 2005, the repatriation of Eritrean refugees dwindled to insignificant numbers due to ongoing political tensions within Eritrea and difficult economic conditions aggravated by drought. For the same reasons, there was a steady influx of Eritrean refugees into eastern Sudan throughout the year. The prospects of voluntary return in 2006 are fairly remote. Also, it is anticipated that some Eritrean refugees may remain in Sudan owing to the strong links created during their 30

years' stay in the country. UNHCR is therefore reviewing its operational strategy to shift the focus from provision of assistance to promotion of improved livelihoods and self-reliance for the refugee groups staying in the country. The Office will call for the Government to accept local integration of refugees. Resettlement will also be pursued as a complementary form of durable solution.

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005 between the Government of Sudan and Sudan People's Liberation Movement / Army (SPLM/A) and the subsequent formation of the Government of National Unity has created hope for lasting stability in the country. The appointment of new governors in eastern states is also a step towards addressing the needs of the marginalized eastern region. Further evolution of the refugee situation in the East depends largely on political progress within Eritrea. Similarly, resolving outstanding internal political issues in the region will allow for stable economic development, improving livelihoods and generating viable solutions for refugees.

Constraints

Continued political instability in the East sometimes erupts into violence, significantly restricting the mobility of UNHCR staff and hampering free access to refugee sites. UNHCR's activities in eastern Sudan unfortunately have to compete for funding with the equally urgent work in South Sudan and Darfur. Inadequate funds are a major obstacle impeding durable solutions for the refugees residing in camps in eastern Sudan. Limited funding for food supply to refugees and inadequate and irregular food delivery has caused a drop in the nutrition level in some refugee sites. At the same time, a shortage of agricultural land restricts opportunities for food production by refugees. The prospects for work or self-employment are similarly bleak.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

UNHCR's presence in eastern Sudan remains vital for effective protection and timely assistance to refugees and asylum-seekers. While Sudan is a party to the main international instruments and has national legislation on refugees, there is an urgent need for the establishment of an effective national asylum system compliant with internationally accepted standards. This is particularly important as Sudan is a transit point for many irregular migrants from the Horn of Africa to North Africa and Europe. Building on the training support provided to the Government by UNHCR to assume refugee status determination (RSD) of newly arrived asylum-seekers in the East in 2005, UNHCR will assist in developing sustainable mechanisms and procedures to respond to the protection needs of asylum-seekers and refugees. UNHCR will aim eventually to handover full responsibility for RSD to the Government of Sudan.

UNHCR will advocate for the adoption of a local integration strategy as a complementary tool for achieving durable solutions along with the development of refugee-hosting areas through the Development through Local Integration (DLI) initiative. At the same time, UNHCR will continue to facilitate and promote voluntary repatriation of refugees from various countries, provided that conditions are conducive to return. UNHCR will also pursue resettlement as a strategic means of enhancing protection of a select number of refugees.

The Office will implement initiatives such as development of special monitoring, response and support systems, to address the special protection and assistance needs of refugee groups-at-risk and avoid potential human rights abuse, sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation.

Eritrean refugees

At the time of writing, some 88,500 Eritrean refugees in camps have the option to return when the

security situation improves. In addition, there are 40,000 Eritreans whose status is to be determined following the application of the cessation clause in February 2002. For the remaining Eritrean population, UNHCR will shift its assistance programme from provision of assistance to self-reliance as a crucial intermediate step to achieving durable solutions. UNHCR will continue its advocacy and discussions with the Sudanese Government on the integration of those who cannot return through the comprehensive Development Assistance for Refugees (DAR) and the Development through Local Integration programmes. UNHCR will also further elaborate the programme of Sustainable Options for Livelihoods Security in Eastern Sudan (SOLSES) to support the host communities through community-based development projects involving refugees and local residents. Environmental recovery, infrastructure rehabilitation activities, and small-scale area development will complement the community-based projects. As the implementation of the new programmes proceeds, the Office will maintain relief assistance exclusively for the groups at risk, while skills development and vocational training, provision of micro-credits, and income generation activities facilitating self-reliance will become the core of the programme. Self-reliance and integration activities will require approximately five years of implementation, the majority of the activities beginning in 2006 or 2007.

Refugees of other nationalities

UNHCR will support the Government to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to refugees of other nationalities and asylum-seekers. For some Ethiopian, Ugandan, Congolese and Somali refugees, voluntary repatriation remains the most viable durable solution. Where feasible and if appropriate, small numbers of these refugees will be voluntarily repatriated to their respective countries either by land or chartered or commercial flights. UNHCR will pursue resettlement for urban and camp-based refugees on a group and individual basis for 1,400 Eritreans, 100 Ethiopians and some 500 refugees of other nationalities.

Assistance

UNHCR will tailor its 2006 assistance activities to meet the needs of several distinct refugee and other groups of concern. Some assistance activities will be implemented to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of newly arrived refugees and asylum-seekers. UNHCR will reorient its assistance strategy so as to make refugees in camps more self-reliant and better accustomed to participation in camp decision-making. These interventions will entail refugee and host community development and support to the Government to mobilize the productive capacities of refugees and the local population. UNHCR will support initiatives by national and local authorities to provide arable lands to refugees for generating income.

Desired impact

Refugees and asylum-seekers will have access to international protection and durable solutions during 2006. With the help of UNHCR, the capacity of the national Government will be strengthened to establish a viable national asylum system. UNHCR and national authorities will respond effectively to the immediate humanitarian needs of persons of concern, new arrivals and vulnerable groups. The refugees residing in camps will have better living conditions and 60 per cent will become more self-reliant by 2008. The various refugee camps in eastern Sudan will be consolidated into four camps. The SOLSES programme will link up with camp closures, improve the living conditions of refugees in the remaining camps and increase the potential for integration of refugees into host communities. Local hosting communities will benefit from the community-based development projects through rehabilitation of schools, health centres and other vital infrastructure. Communities will take increasing ownership of ongoing environmental recovery projects.



An Eritrean refugee in eastern Sudan is queuing to receive her monthly food ration, with her UNHCR card in hand.
UNHCR / P. Stromberg

Organization and implementation

Management structure

In 2006, UNHCR will operate with 53 staff members: 16 international staff including 10 UNVs, 36 national staff, and one secondee.

The UNHCR Representation in Khartoum will be responsible for the overall management of the programme and for liaison with the Government, embassies and NGOs. To ensure adequate presence in eastern Sudan, UNHCR will maintain its sub-office in Es Showak and a presence in Kassala.

Coordination

UNHCR will continue to implement its projects in eastern Sudan in close cooperation with the Sudanese Government and local and international NGOs. The Governor's Office for Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea states, various line ministries, UN agencies and NGOs will also play an important role in the implementation of the SOLSES programme. Coordination will be ensured at two levels - at the national level in Khartoum and at the regional level in the states of Kassala, Gedaref and Red Sea. The sub-office in Es Showak will be responsible for the coordination of the programme at the regional level and a presence in Kassala will cover a wide geographic area in eastern Sudan.

Offices

Khartoum
 Es Showak
 Kassala

Partners
Government agencies
Commissioner for Refugees
Ministry for Education
Ministry of Health
Ministry of International cooperation
National Forestry Corporation
Office of the Governor of Gadaref, Kassala and Red Sea States
NGOs
Global Health Foundation
Human Appeal International
IUCN - World Conservation Union
Ockenden International
Sudan Open Learning Organisation
Sudanese Environmental Conservation Society
Sudanese Red Crescent Society
Window Trust

Others
FAO
UNFPA
UN-HABITAT
UNICEF
UNV
WFP
WHO

Budget (USD)			
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	Supplementary Programme Budget ¹	Total
Protection, monitoring and coordination	3,317,160	25,000	3,342,160
Community services	354,321	0	354,321
Crop production	254,361	0	254,361
Domestic needs	163,592	0	163,592
Education	530,938	0	530,938
Food	39,960	0	39,960
Forestry	398,802	0	398,802
Health	764,770	0	764,770
Income generation	702,635	0	702,635
Legal assistance	857,186	10,000	867,186
Operational support (to agencies)	994,299	0	994,299
Sanitation	364,122	0	364,122
Shelter/other infrastructure	693,562	150,000	843,562
Transport/logistics	769,970	0	769,970
Water	738,962	0	738,962
Total operations	10,994,642	185,000	11,129,642
Programme support	1,916,308	0	1,916,308
Total	12,860,950	185,000	13,045,950

¹ The figures refer to the supplementary programme for the repatriation and reintegration of Congolese (DRC) refugees.

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget does not include a 7% support cost (USD 12,950) that is recovered from each contribution received to meet indirect costs in UNHCR (field and headquarters).