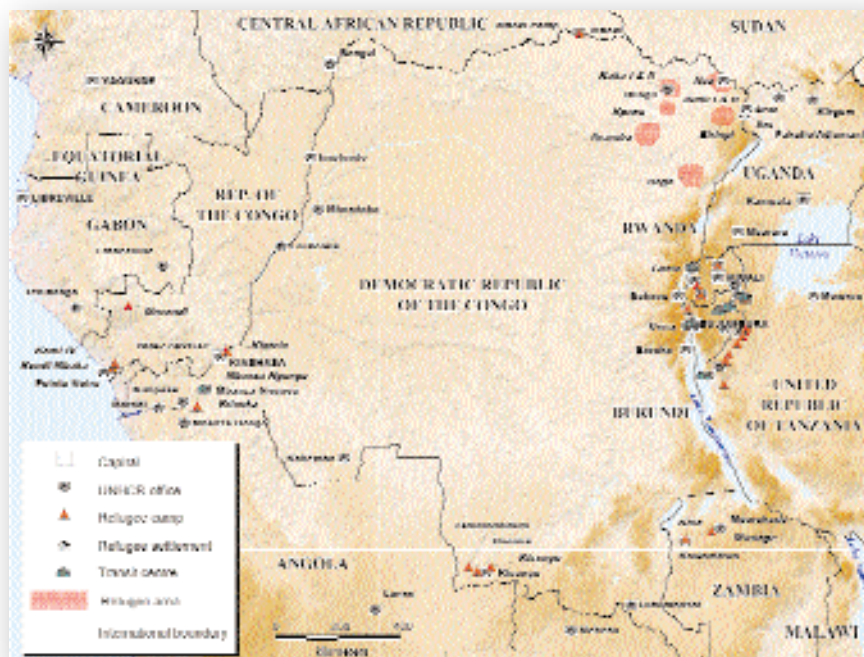


Democratic Republic of the Congo in short

Main Objectives

- Provide protection and basic assistance to refugees from Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda, and for urban refugees in Kinshasa.
- Assist and facilitate the safe return of refugees to and from the Democratic Republic of the Congo by establishing or reactivating Tripartite Agreements between the refugees' countries of origin, the countries of asylum and UNHCR.
- Develop and reinforce local settlement initiatives for refugees from Angola, Burundi, Rwanda, Sudan and Uganda, paying special attention to the needs of women, children and adolescents, and preserving the environment.
- Reinforce the capacity of UNHCR and its partners to respond effectively to complex humanitarian crises of a regional nature.



PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Angolan Refugees ¹	175,000	190,000
Burundi Refugees ²	19,000	21,000
Congolese (Republic of the Congo) Refugees	5,000	3,000
Rwandan Refugees	50,000	30,000
Sudanese Refugees ³	70,000	75,000
Ugandan Refugees ⁴	13,000	10,000
Urban Refugees	3,800	3,600
Total	335,800	332,600

¹ Due to the ongoing fighting in Angola, UNHCR estimates that up to 20,000 new refugees could arrive in 2001. About 5,000 Angolans are expected to repatriate voluntarily.

² Continued instability in Burundi may lead to the arrival of an estimated 5,000 new refugees. This figure will be offset by the voluntary repatriation of some 3,000 Burundi refugees.

³ Between 5,000 and 6,000 new Sudanese refugees are expected to arrive in 2001. Up to 1,000 may repatriate voluntarily.

⁴ An estimated 3,000 Ugandan refugees are expected to repatriate spontaneously as soon as security conditions improve in Uganda.

TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 25,303,286

WORKING ENVIRONMENT

Recent Developments

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has been convulsed by war since 1996. Six out of nine of its neighbours are also experiencing various forms of armed conflict. As a result, hundreds of

thousands of people have fled across borders or been displaced inside their own countries. Efforts to implement the Lusaka Peace Accord have been frustrated by numerous violations of the Cease-fire Agreement and fighting

continued unabated in 2000. Following the recent summits in Maputo in October and Tripoli in November, UNHCR remains cautiously optimistic that a durable implementation of the Lusaka Accord, and the full deployment of the United Nations Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC), will bring about an improvement in the situation.

Military conflict and political instability throughout the region have created an insecure environment in which refugees rarely find protection, let alone the chance of lasting local integration. Access to areas hosting refugees continues to be difficult and dangerous. However, camp security has been satisfactory in most locations over the past year.

Most refugees in the DRC are currently assisted by UNHCR and NGOs through local settlement projects, which encourage self-reliance. This transitional policy will be adhered to until general improvements allow the refugees to repatriate or to integrate fully in the DRC. So far, UNHCR has not seen fit to encourage voluntary repatriation, and has merely facilitated it on an ad hoc basis at the explicit request of refugees. In 2001, however, between 25,000 and 30,000 refugees are expected to repatriate from the DRC to their countries of origin. In view of the volatile situation in the region, UNHCR's operational plans for the year give priority to heightened preparedness to respond to fresh population movements.

Constraints

The operational environment in the DRC continues to be marked by insecurity and widespread violence. Obtaining unhindered access to areas hosting refugees, or indeed ensuring the security of humanitarian staff, constitute major challenges. UNHCR is deeply concerned that, if hostilities reach the immediate vicinity of refugee camps, it would be impossible to provide effective security for the refugees. The delivery of humanitarian assistance continues to be hampered by logistical, security and bureaucratic constraints: transport infrastructure is almost non-existent, government authorisation is needed to travel anywhere in the country, and access to certain areas is still forbidden. An additional constraint is the use by the UN of an imposed exchange rate



for the Congolese franc, which results in inflated operational costs. The fulfilment of UNHCR's protection mandate is undermined by suspicion towards refugees from countries involved in regional conflicts. Basic human rights continue to be violated by all sides with impunity, causing immense suffering to refugees and the local population.

STRATEGY

Angolan Refugees

The influx of Angolan refugees continued throughout 2000. An estimated 23,000 new arrivals were accommodated in refugee camps in Bandundu, Bas-Congo and Katanga Provinces. Access to these areas, however, was often restricted for security reasons. There are at present some 173,000 Angolan refugees in the DRC and UNHCR is assisting 106,000 of them to integrate locally. Voluntary repatriation is not a realistic option at present for most of these refugees because of the ongoing conflict in Angola. UNHCR will nevertheless counsel and assist an estimated 5,000 refugees who may opt for voluntary repatriation in 2001.

UNHCR will continue its assistance and local settlement programmes with the purpose of helping refugees gradually to achieve self-sufficiency. Nutritional surveys will be undertaken at all the refugee sites in Katanga and Bas-Congo provinces. Vaccination campaigns will be carried out. Special attention will be paid to the needs of women and children (who constitute the vast majority of refugees). In collaboration with UNICEF, UNHCR will continue to implement a reproductive health programme, which provides pregnant women with health kits. In order to strengthen the role of women in community affairs, courses and seminars will be conducted for them. Women's groups will be encouraged and supported and women will benefit from courses in basic management skills and other disciplines. Micro-finance projects will be undertaken and refugee families will receive agricultural tools to increase their self-sufficiency. Agricultural activities will also benefit the local communities living nearby. With UNHCR's assistance, children will continue to receive primary and secondary education and schools in the refugee camps will receive furniture and teaching materials. Environmental awareness will be introduced into the school curriculum. Vocational training will be offered to those not attending school. Vulnerable refugees will be helped through community-based development activities.

Burundi Refugees

An estimated 19,000 Burundi refugees remain scattered in the forests of South Kivu. To address their needs, UNHCR is seeking to reactivate the existing Tripartite Agreement, which permits access to them for the purpose of providing assistance and

facilitating eventual repatriation. In 2001, an estimated 5,000 new refugees are expected to arrive in the DRC from Burundi. UNHCR will continue to impress upon the de facto authorities in rebel-held territories the need to ensure the refugees' security and respect their rights. In 2001, UNHCR will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of some 3,000 Burundi refugees. A local settlement programme will be implemented for the remaining refugees to help them become self-sufficient. Seeds and agricultural tools will be distributed and micro-finance projects implemented. Priority will be given to female heads of families. Reproductive health activities will be initiated and efforts made to prevent sexual violence through information campaigns. Whenever possible, UNHCR will help to reunite unaccompanied minors with their families, and monitor those living with foster families.

Congolese Refugees

The ongoing repatriation of refugees from the Republic of the Congo is expected to continue in 2001. UNHCR will continue to inform them about conditions at home and to encourage their voluntary repatriation. It is expected that Kimaza camp will close at the end of 2001. Those residents who do not wish to repatriate will undergo an individual refugee status determination process. Refugees living on their own who do not approach UNHCR for protection or assistance will be considered fully integrated.

Rwandan Refugees

An estimated 50,000 Rwandans live in various locations in the DRC. UNHCR will continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of those who decide to return home. Up to 20,000 Rwandan refugees are expected to repatriate in 2001. UNHCR will also assist some 1,400 Rwandans in Mbuji-Mayi to settle locally. Adequate shelter will be constructed and basic health services and potable water provided.

Sudanese Refugees

There are an estimated 70,000 Sudanese refugees in the DRC. As these are long-staying refugees located in fertile agricultural areas, UNHCR will implement a local settlement programme to consolidate their integration and self-sufficiency. The programme will also benefit local communities. Assistance will focus on water, health, education, agriculture and income generation. A range of micro-finance projects will be established and new farming techniques introduced. Training and awareness workshops will be organised for refugee communities to promote gender equality. Skills training for women will be developed, as well as vocational courses for adolescents. Those not involved in formal or informal education will be encouraged to join income-generating programmes. The education of girls will receive special attention and teachers will be made

more aware of the educational needs of girls. To promote reforestation, tree nurseries and environmental education programmes will continue. Active community-based care of elderly, handicapped and other vulnerable refugees will be promoted through training and income-generating activities.

In 2001, UNHCR will assist up to 1,000 north Sudanese refugees to repatriate. The refugees will be helped with transport, informed about conditions in their areas of origin and receive a reintegration package.

Ugandan Refugees

Due to insecurity, UNHCR has been unable to reach the estimated 13,000 Ugandan refugees in Irumu, Beni and Boga. As soon as it succeeds in securing access to them, UNHCR will assess their needs and search for appropriate durable solutions for them. It is expected that up to 3,000 of these refugees will repatriate spontaneously when security conditions improve in Uganda.

Urban Refugees

UNHCR will provide basic assistance to some 3,800 urban refugees living in Kinshasa. Basic accommodation will be provided for refugee women and their families. Regular home visits will be undertaken and counselling and guidance provided. Urban refugee children will attend government schools wherever possible and receive help with school fees. Urban refugees will receive medical care in local health facilities. Disabled and other refugees with special needs will be cared for through existing national structures and receive individual support to reduce dependence. Public awareness campaigns will be conducted to combat xenophobia. Resettlement opportunities will be pursued for individual refugees.

Returnees

Repatriation remains the best solution for refugees from the DRC living in neighbouring countries. UNHCR will actively support local and national initiatives to promote repatriation and reintegration. Whenever possible, returnees will receive an



assistance package containing essential items. In view of the slow progress of the peace and reconciliation process and the state of the economy and infrastructure in the DRC, no immediate phasing-out of UNHCR activities is anticipated. The repatriation programme will therefore continue beyond 2001. UNHCR will continue to advocate inter-agency co-operation in the rehabilitation of infrastructure, facilities and services in areas of return.

ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

Management

In 2001, UNHCR's programme will be implemented by 121 staff (26 international and 95 national staff), supervised by a Representative based in Kinshasa. UNHCR will maintain offices in ten field locations. UNHCR will make security arrangements with the local authorities, establishing joint security committees in order to ensure the safety of humanitarian workers and refugees.

OFFICES

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

Co-ordination

UNHCR will continue to initiate and participate in inter-agency missions in order to gain a deeper understanding of the situation on the ground and ensure more efficient co-ordination of activities in areas of concern to UNHCR. Operational co-ordination will continue with other UN agencies such as WFP, FAO, UNICEF and WHO. The Joint Emergency Humanitarian Intervention approach developed by the UN agencies

will be tested and, if successful, expanded. UNHCR will co-operate with the central Government and with various local authorities and work with ten NGOs and three other partners. The close contacts developed during the initial deployment phase of the United Nations Observer Mission in the DRC (MONUC) will be strengthened. UNHCR will co-ordinate its activities with the ICRC and exchange all relevant information.

PARTNERS

NGOs

<i>Actions et interventions pour le développement et l'encadrement social</i>
<i>Association pour le développement social et la sauvegarde de l'environnement</i>
Atlas
Caritas
<i>Equipe d'urgence de la biodiversité</i>
Human Dignity in the World
International Rescue Committee
<i>Médecins sans frontières (France)</i>
OXFAM (Quebec)
World Vision International

Other

<i>Eglise Anglicane de Boga</i>
<i>Diocèse de Boga</i>
<i>Diocèse de Mabagi</i>

BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	6,775,687
Community Services	961,000
Crop Production	1,155,000
Domestic Needs/Household Support	655,000
Education	1,635,000
Food	205,000
Forestry	215,000
Health/Nutrition	2,140,000
Income Generation	405,000
Legal Assistance	142,000
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,000,000
Sanitation	335,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	675,000
Transport/Logistics	4,345,000
Water (non-agricultural)	495,000
Total Operations	21,138,687
Programme Support	4,164,599
Total	25,303,286