

# Kenya

## Main objectives

- Ensure that appropriate standards of asylum, treatment, safety and security are met and maintained for refugees.
- Pursue a comprehensive durable solutions strategy with an emphasis on voluntary repatriation, supplemented by resettlement opportunities and self-sufficiency, particularly in urban areas.
- Support and reinforce the capacity of the Government of Kenya to adopt and implement refugee legislation and fully discharge its protection, coordination and management responsibilities.
- Maintain a high level of integrity in all aspects of the management of the country programme, including compliance with the established rules, procedures and standards of the UNHCR Code of Conduct.



Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2006	Dec 2006
Somalia (refugees)	154,300	149,000
Sudan (refugees)	69,000	58,900
Ethiopia (refugees)	13,300	15,000
Other refugees	6,720	15,200
Asylum-seekers	-	3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>243,320</b>	<b>241,100</b>

**Total requirements: USD 35,068,412**

## Working environment

### Recent developments

Kenya played a key role in the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement on 9 January 2005 between the Government of Sudan and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement Army (SPLM/A), putting an end to 22 years of civil war. Kenya's role was also crucial in the formation of the Transitional Federal Government in Somalia following many years of discussions, including the Somali peace talks sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). While the situation in Somalia is unpredictable,

the formation of the National Government in Sudan (that includes the SPLM) has created a new dynamic. UNHCR and its partners are reorienting their operations in 2006 towards promoting the voluntary repatriation of the Sudanese and preparing for some returns to Somalia.

At the time of writing, Kenya had not yet adopted a new Refugee Act, which requires the creation of national refugee legislation and a Department for Refugee Affairs within the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Act is expected to be approved during 2006.

## Constraints

The encampment policy of the Government of Kenya, and the related actions of security authorities, will continue to severely constrain refugees' efforts to achieve self-sufficiency. Under this policy, refugees are not permitted to cultivate land or seek employment outside the camps, and therefore remain wholly dependent on humanitarian aid.

It is feared that UNHCR's 2006 programme will only address the most basic of all the assistance needs identified in a detailed gaps analysis conducted in 2005, and that serious gaps in protection and solutions will remain. However, progress will be made towards meeting standards in the sectors of food, sanitation and education, and on addressing the priority needs of groups facing serious protection and survival challenges, such as children and women-at-risk.

## Strategy

### Protection and solutions

In 2006, activities will focus on core mandate responsibilities in addition to life-saving activities. Building on the participatory assessment initiated in 2005 to mainstream gender, age and diversity concerns, UNHCR will work with other agencies and with refugees to identify solutions and to prioritize the use of resources to address the most pressing protection needs.

In the year ahead, UNHCR will continue to promote the involvement of the Government in protecting refugees and assuming an effective role in refugee affairs management. This will include the promotion of the new Refugee Act when adopted; training and other forms of capacity building; establishing a Government-based system for the reception of asylum-seekers, their registration, refugee status determination and the issuance of identity cards; and the prevention of arbitrary arrest and detention of refugees.

### Sudanese refugees

Despite the death of its leader, John Garang, in July 2005, the SPLM has shown its determination to implement the Peace Agreement signed before his death. Based on the encouraging political developments and the enthusiasm of the Sudanese refugees to return and rebuild their country, UNHCR and its partners anticipate that 10,000 of the 69,000 Sudanese refugees in Kakuma camp will return to southern Sudan in 2006.

While reorienting its programme in Kakuma to voluntary repatriation, UNHCR will continue to ensure international protection, the provision of humanitarian assistance and the empowerment of all refugees. Empowerment will hinge on skills development and a community-based approach for those Sudanese refugees who choose to delay their return home until basic infrastructure and services, in particular education, are established. Individuals who cannot return owing to a well-founded fear of persecution will continue to benefit from protection and humanitarian assistance in 2006. Resettlement will serve to address the need for durable solutions and protection of particular individuals and families.

### Somali refugees

The unpredictable security and political situation in south and central Somalia will in all likelihood preclude any large-scale repatriation of Somali refugees in 2006. Nevertheless, UNHCR plans to help up to 5,000 Somalis to repatriate. UNHCR does not expect that organized repatriation will be possible before the last quarter of 2006, and is therefore planning to continue providing protection

and humanitarian assistance to the 154,000 Somali refugees in Kenya, through an enhanced community-based approach that addresses the concerns of groups at risk, while pursuing repatriation to safe areas within Somalia. UNHCR will also continue to engage all stakeholders in the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) process in 2006. The CPA was launched in 2004 by UNHCR and a core group of countries as a forum for dialogue and for identifying ways to create peace inside Somalia, whilst strengthening the protection capacity of neighbouring countries hosting Somali refugees.

### Other refugees

Following the June 2005 elections in Burundi, prospects for the voluntary repatriation of Burundians in 2006 are improving. By contrast, the prospect of return is still relatively remote for refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda, due to the difficult circumstances in some of these countries, and the individual nature of some of the refugees' claims. UNHCR will nonetheless continue to facilitate individual repatriation and to improve the protection and self-sufficiency of those who are not able to repatriate to their countries of origin.

### Assistance

UNHCR will reinforce measures to include physical safety (through improved family shelters and support to community policing) and to counter sexual and gender-based violence. The provision of adequate quantities of household fuel will minimize the need for female refugees to leave the camp in search of firewood (involving the risk of rape or sexual assault). However, these measures will remain contingent on sufficient resources to address other priority issues: malnutrition, high maternal mortality, inadequate shelter and domestic needs (especially for household fuel) and sanitary materials for females of child-bearing age. UNHCR will consolidate the progress achieved since 2003 in addressing shortcomings in the delivery of assistance across the sectors of health care, shelter, nutrition, water and sanitation, primary education and other community services. Shelter and sanitation in particular will

continue to receive special attention. Supplementary and complementary feeding assistance will be provided under the programme to combat malnutrition.

To combat HIV/AIDS, the refugee population will benefit from a multi-sectoral approach that includes awareness-raising and interventions in reproductive health, voluntary counselling and testing, provision of antiretroviral treatment and dissemination of information materials. Condom dispensers will be installed throughout the camps.

Sustainable environmental management and rehabilitation will continue in the refugee hosting locations. UNHCR will also support initiatives to rehabilitate the environment in areas vacated by Sudanese returnees.

### Desired impact

UNHCR will aim to achieve the minimum standards of humanitarian assistance in core protection and life-saving and life-sustaining activities. At the same time attention will be given to UNHCR's global policy priorities on the protection of women and children, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and the environment, through a community-based approach that will empower refugees and enhance their coping mechanisms. The Office's capacity-building activities will strengthen the Government's delivery of protection, allowing UNHCR to focus on the core mandated protection tasks. Support to the host communities will aim to foster harmony with refugees, thus minimizing protection problems and security-related incidents. All this is set in a context of possible repatriation, primarily of the Sudanese refugees; however, assistance programmes will be pursued for those in need of asylum in Kenya.

## Organization and implementation

### Management structure

UNHCR manages sub-offices in Dadaab and Kakuma. Sub-office Kakuma is also responsible for a field office in Lokichoggio. The Branch Office in Nairobi provides coordination and liaises with the donor community and implementing and operational partners. It is also responsible for implementation of the urban refugee programme. The operations will be managed by 28 international staff, 101 national staff, seven JPOs and six UNVs.

### Coordination

UNHCR will continue to work closely with the Government of Kenya, focusing on capacity-building activities, so as to hand over certain responsibilities to the Government when the Refugee Act is adopted. The Kenya Office will coordinate and plan its implementation of the Sudanese repatriation operation with the Regional Support Hub, other UNHCR offices assisting Sudanese refugees and returnees, and the Kenyan and Sudanese authorities. The Office will collaborate with embassies of resettlement countries. It will negotiate where possible with authorities in countries of origin to facilitate the return of refugees in Kenya.



A UNHCR officer talking to refugees and asylum-seekers outside the Nairobi office. *UNHCR / J. Adongo*

Offices
<b>Nairobi</b>
Dadaab
Kakuma
Lokichoggio

Partners
<b>Government agency</b>
National Refugee Secretariat
<b>NGOs</b>
African Refugee Training and Employment Services
CARE International
Don Bosco
Handicap International
International Rescue Committee
Lutheran World Federation
National Council of Churches of Kenya
<b>Others</b>
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
IOM
WFP

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget
Protection, monitoring and coordination <sup>1</sup>	7,967,718
Community services	842,401
Crop production	56,777
Domestic needs	2,037,461
Education	2,771,707
Food	573,816
Forestry	253,612
Health	3,260,334
Income generation	85,413
Legal assistance	1,726,064
Livestock	182,162
Operational support (to agencies)	3,167,419
Sanitation	548,026
Shelter/other infrastructure	1,164,277
Transport/logistics	1,154,644
Water	812,671
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>26,604,500</b>
Programme support <sup>1</sup>	8,463,912
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,068,412</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes costs related to the Regional Support Hub in Nairobi.