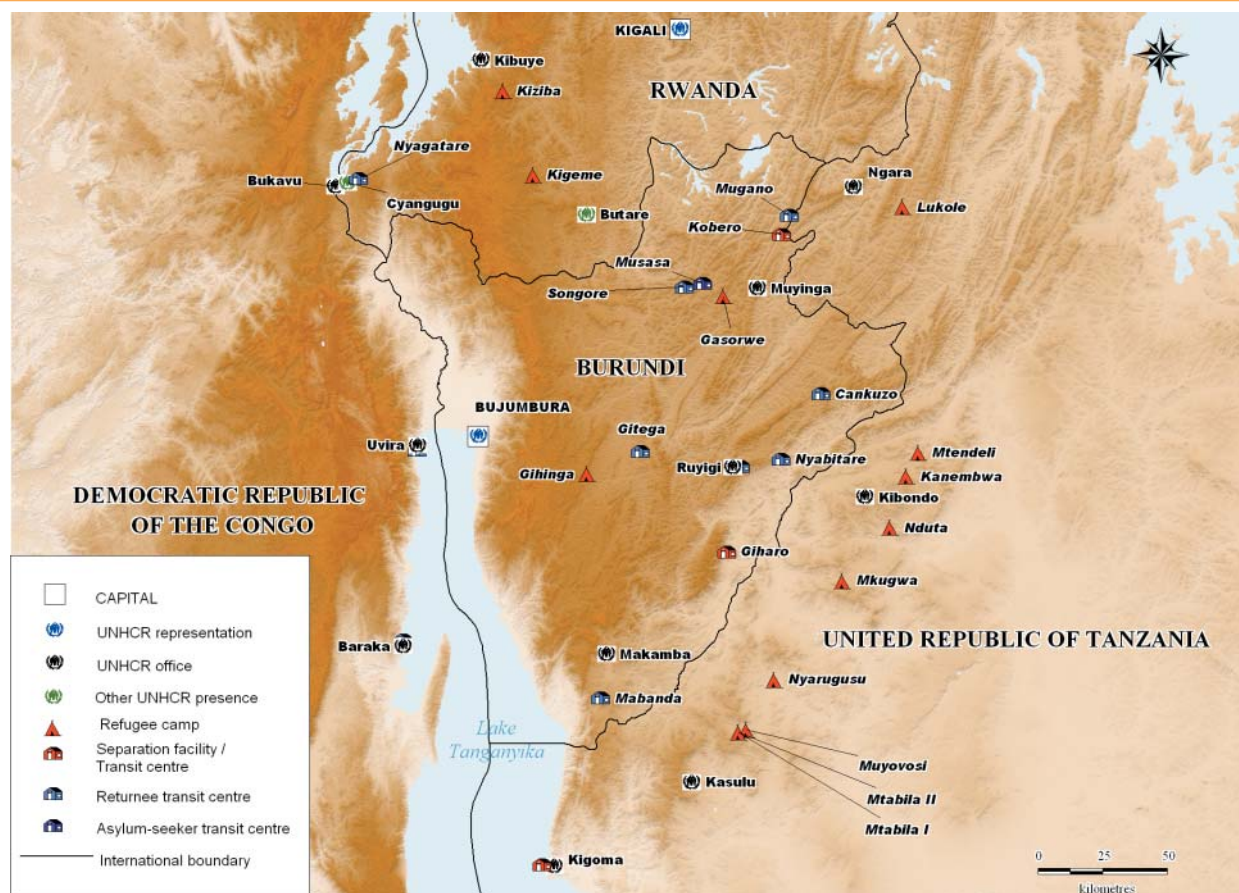


# Burundi



## Working environment

### The context

Though the results of Burundi's democratic election in 2005 had raised hopes for political stability, the political situation has relapsed to a point of uncertainty. This is largely due to the arrest of seven politicians accused of being involved in a coup plot against President Pierre Nkurunziza in mid-2006. Security continues to improve in most parts of the country, but the situation remains volatile.

However, a major breakthrough was achieved during peace talks mediated by the South African Government and the Regional Peace Initiative for Burundi with the signing of a ceasefire agreement between the Government and the country's last remaining rebel group, the *Front National de Libération* (FNL). The agreement, reached on 7 September 2006, ended 13 years of civil war.

The downsizing of both military and civilian components of the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), started in late 2005, is to be completed by December 2006. From January 2007 a new UN office, the *Bureau Intégré des Nations Unies au Burundi* (BINUB) will replace ONUB and deal with security, peacebuilding, human rights, reconstruction and development.

The issue of land for returnees remains a source of conflict. The launch of the long-awaited Land and Other Properties Commission in August 2006 should help solve problems faced by returnees in recovering their property.

The pace of returns slowed down considerably between September 2005 and June 2006 due to a drought. This caused a major food crisis in the returnee areas and even prompted a movement of returnee and other populations to neighbouring countries. However, in June 2006, the improvement in security enabled UNHCR to actively promote voluntary returns. From January to August 2006, UNHCR helped some 18,000 Burundian refugees, mainly from the United Republic of Tanzania, to repatriate. That brought the total number of returnees since the beginning of the operation in 2002 to 318,000.

### The needs

The main concerns of refugees and returnees have been identified through a participatory assessment in the context of the introduction of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy, as well as a joint assessment mission which included UN agencies and Government and NGO representatives. The findings have been incorporated in UNHCR's planning for 2007.

Since most returnees' houses have been damaged beyond repair, they will require construction materials to provide them with adequate shelter. Moreover, returnees complain that the three-month food rations distributed to them are insufficient as they often share them, for instance with host families, and have requested that this assistance be upgraded to a six-month supply.

Living conditions in the refugee camps have improved significantly. However, refugees still need help to rehabilitate their houses. They also need more health centres in the Gasorwe and Mwaro camps. An assessment in June 2006 found the need to improve maternal health services, nutritional programmes and care for the severely and chronically ill, both for refugee and returnee populations.

Special attention needs to be given to the 725 camp-based refugees who are survivors of the 2004 Gatumba massacre. Many still suffer from the physical or mental effects of the atrocity and continue to feel vulnerable. Resettlement is being considered for these people. Furthermore, some 13,500 urban asylum-seekers, mainly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), are currently awaiting refugee status determination (RSD).

**Total requirements: USD 23,792,407**

## Main objectives

UNHCR's 2007 annual programme in Burundi will:

- Promote the voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees in safety and dignity.
- Improve living conditions in areas of return and facilitate the reintegration of Burundian returnees within a joint UN approach.

- Protect and assist camp-based refugees from the DRC.
- Facilitate the voluntary return of DRC refugees.
- Support the national structures responsible for returnees and refugees, and lobby for the adoption of a national law on asylum.

### Key targets for 2007

- At least 80,000 Burundian refugees return to Burundi.
- All returnees receive medical screening, returnee packages and transport to their place of return.
- All returnees get health care, including anti-retroviral treatment.
- All returnee children have access to primary education, including adequate school infrastructures and supplies.
- 9,000 heads of families and extremely vulnerable people receive construction materials.
- Basic standards with regard to food, shelter, health care and education are met for all camp-based refugees, including new arrivals from the DRC.
- 2,000 DRC refugees repatriate voluntarily to their home country.
- A verification exercise is undertaken for at least 12,500 urban asylum-seekers.
- A national law on asylum is promulgated in the course of the year and RSD systems are put in place.

## Strategy and activities

UNHCR will continue to lobby for the adoption of the proposed national law on asylum and lend support to the government's national asylum system.

### Planning figures

Type of population	Origin	Jan 2007		Dec 2007	
		Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Total in country	Of whom assisted by UNHCR
Refugees	DRC	12,400	12,400	13,500	13,500
	Rwanda	500	500	480	480
	Various	180	180	450	450
Asylum-seekers	DRC	18,500	18,500	15,000	15,000
	Various	1,400	1,400	1,100	1,100
Returnees <sup>1</sup> (refugees)		55,000	50,000	80,000	75,000
IDPs		116,000	11,600	100,000	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>203,980</b>	<b>94,580</b>	<b>210,530</b>	<b>105,530</b>

<sup>1</sup> The January 2007 figure reflects the planning number of refugees that will have returned home by the end of 2006. The December 2007 figure reflects the number of returnees that will return during 2007. The figures under "of whom assisted by UNHCR" reflect the number of returnees that receive transportation assistance from UNHCR. During 2007, UNHCR will give reintegration assistance to all 135,000 returnees who have arrived in 2006 and 2007.



Pupils at the Gasorwe camp school were asked to draw what it meant to be a refugee. They made drawings of life in the camp, but also of disturbing scenes of the violence that erupted in the DRC. *UNHCR / C. - L. Grayson*

## Returnees

UNHCR will continue to promote voluntary repatriation to Burundi under conditions of safety and dignity. At the reception centres, returnees will receive onward transport to communities of origin as well as a package of basic domestic items from UNHCR and a food ration from WFP. The return package includes seeds and tools supplied by FAO and school supplies from UNICEF. Local committees will ensure that returnees are welcomed and receive guidance on the recovery of their property and reintegration into their communities. Returnees will also be assisted through a housing scheme and receive construction materials to rebuild their houses. UNHCR will monitor returnees and work with its partners to help resolve conflicts, particularly land disputes.

## Refugees from the DRC

UNHCR will continue to provide basic assistance to DRC refugees in established camps in Gasorwe and Gihinga and will support health facilities and schools serving urban refugees in Bujumbura. The Office will facilitate the return of Congolese refugees who have already expressed an interest in voluntary repatriation and will help survivors of the Gatumba massacre apply for resettlement.

## Constraints

The main constraint remains the fragile security situation in many areas. In spite of the ceasefire, it is too early to predict its impact. In addition, the strained political situation following the arrest of politicians accused of a coup attempt will undoubtedly influence the repatriation programme.

Security measures for the protection of UN staff in volatile areas in Burundi are necessary. These measures, however, significantly impede the mobility of UNHCR staff and the capacity of the Office to promote repatriation in the four provinces to which most long-term refugees are likely to return.

## Organization and implementation

### UNHCR presence

Number of offices	4
Total staff	129
International	25
National	93
UNVs	9
JPOs	2



## Coordination

UNHCR works in close cooperation with the national authorities, its implementing partners and sister UN agencies to improve living conditions both in the camps and areas of return.

Although the Office is no longer involved in the construction of classrooms or health facilities, various agreements with WHO, UNICEF, FAO, UNDP, ILO and the World Bank will ensure that the needs of refugees and others of concern are covered.

Regular cross-border meetings will continue to be held with UNHCR in Tanzania in order to assess repatriation.

## Partners

### Implementing partners

**Government:** *Ministère de la solidarité nationale, des droits de la personne humaine et du genre (Projet d'Appui au Rapatriement et à la Réintégration des Sinistrés, or PARESI), Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique (Police de l'air, des frontières et des étrangers, and the Centre National d'Identification).*

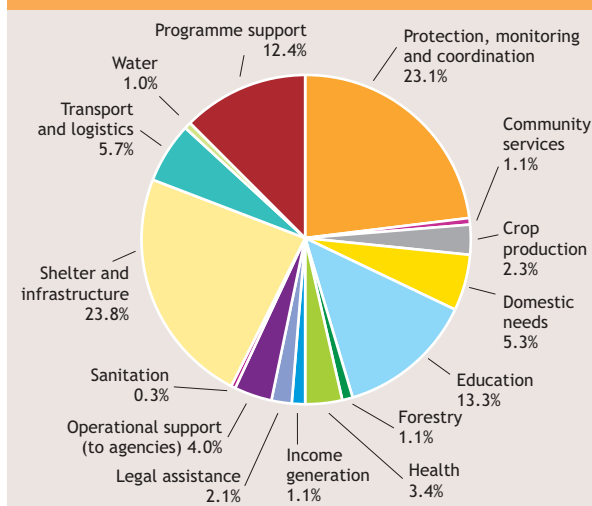
**NGOs:** African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, African Humanitarian Action, *Association des femmes juristes, Comunità Impegno Servizio Volontariato, Conseil pour l'éducation et le développement*, International Rescue Committee, Jesuite Refugee Services, *Ligue Iteka, Norwegian Refugee Council*, Transcultural Psychosocial Organization - Health Net International (TPO), World Outreach Initiatives.

**Others:** *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ).*

## Budget (USD)

Activities and services	Annual Programme Budget	
	2006	2007
Protection, monitoring and coordination	8,606,312	6,116,212
Community services	408,200	353,602
Crop production	874,400	105,970
Domestic needs	1,981,660	1,140,203
Education	4,966,470	188,110
Food	0	53,199
Forestry	395,820	220,833
Health	1,251,680	866,967
Income generation	400,000	339,363
Legal assistance	767,280	816,283
Operational support (to agencies)	1,475,970	942,464
Sanitation	100,500	88,620
Shelter and infrastructure	8,875,920	6,350,813
Transport and logistics	2,114,200	2,037,976
Water	387,900	194,604
<b>Total operations</b>	<b>32,606,312</b>	<b>19,815,219</b>
Programme support	4,627,850	3,977,188
<b>Total</b>	<b>37,234,162</b>	<b>23,792,407</b>

### 2006 Annual Programme Budget by sector



### 2007 Annual Programme Budget by sector

