

## Part I : Executive Committee Summary

### (a) Context and Beneficiary Populations

Since the signing of the two Peace Agreements in December 1999 in Pointe Noire and in Brazzaville, by the government and the various factions involved in a conflict that started in June 1997, prospects for a lasting peace in Congo Brazzaville have increasingly brightened. The social and economic situation positively evolved throughout the year 2000 with the financial injection from the French Oil Company (Elf) into the Congo economy. A Committee of Reconciliation was created against a background of rather fragile internal political situation.

In March 2001, the long-awaited National Dialogue ("*Dialogue National Sans Exclusive*") took place under the auspices of President Omar Bongo of Gabon but not all concerned parties accepted the proposed framework. A draft proposal of a new Constitution adopted by the National Dialogue was approved by a referendum on 20 January 2002. The Presidential election took place on 10 March 2002. The parliamentary election is scheduled to take place in June 2002. This positive evolution towards peace was overshadowed by the trial involving the former President, Mr Pascal Lissouba, culminating in a sentence of 30 years imprisonment with hard labour.

UNHCR has agreed with the government to support the National Eligibility Commission - which replaces the Ministerial Commission - formed to address humanitarian matters that arose from the influx of Rwandan refugees in May 1997. If the prevailing positive political and social climate is maintained and if the parliamentary election takes place smoothly, the National Committee for Assistance to Refugees (CNAR), through the National Eligibility Commission, will effectively and efficiently address in 2003 individual protection cases in the Republic of the Congo. Voluntary repatriation, the most durable solution, will be promoted on a case by case basis, pending the improvement of security conditions in the countries of origin. UNHCR will implement humanitarian assistance programmes in favour of new refugees, while opportunities for local settlement or resettlement to third countries will be explored for old caseload refugees, with a view of ensuring sustainable and high level of self reliance. It is also expected that the DRC refugees who have settled in the North will repatriate to their province of origin in DRC in 2003 if the conditions do not allow return during 2002.

Unless renewed social unrest in the region triggers a fresh influx into RoC, it is hoped that the overall refugee caseload in RoC will have significantly diminished by the end of 2002. In the event of a meaningful change in the size of the refugee population, UNHCR will review its staffing and operations, downsizing resources to commensurate proportions.

In 2003, UNHCR is expecting the repatriation of 30,000 DRC refugees living in Northern RoC to their province of origin (Equateur), as well as of 1,000 CAR refugees living in Northern RoC and Brazzaville to Bangui and its surrounding area.

### Overview of Each Beneficiary Population in RoC

<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Number in 2002</i>	<i>Themes being addressed</i>
Angola	15,430	Humanitarian assistance towards self reliance / Repatriation
Burundi	105	Repatriation / Local settlement
Rwanda	6,700	Repatriation / Local Settlement
DRC	84,280	Humanitarian assistance towards self reliance / Repatriation
CAR	1,450	Humanitarian assistance towards self reliance / Repatriation
Urban	3,500	Humanitarian assistance towards self-reliance / Repatriation
<b>Total</b>	<b>111,465</b>	

**(b) Selected Programme Goals and Objectives**

<b>Theme:</b> National legislation conforming to international standards	
<b>Main Goals:</b> Support the Government in the implementation of the Refugee National Legislation.	
<b>Principal Objectives</b>	<b>Related outputs</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All asylum seekers have access to refugee status determination procedures that are non-discriminatory and in accordance with international standards.</li> <li>2. All asylum seekers and recognized refugees benefit from national legislation, conforming to international standards.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CNAR fully operational.</li> <li>2. System for monitoring refugee status determination procedures in place/ consultative role of UNHCR.</li> <li>3. Government officials responsible for refugee status determination trained.</li> <li>4. Refugees and asylum seekers have access to law enforcement mechanisms</li> <li>5. Law enforcement/border officials trained.</li> </ol>

<b>Theme:</b> Verification/Documentation of refugees	
<b>Main Goals:</b> Compile updated refugee statistics/Prepare database for identification of areas of origin in view of a potential voluntary repatriation.	
<b>Principal Objectives</b>	<b>Related outputs</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refugees are registered, issued ID cards and allowed to move unhindered.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Registration successfully undertaken.</li> <li>2. ID documents/ration cards issued.</li> <li>3. Database elaborated.</li> </ol>

<b>Name of beneficiary Population:</b> Refugees from DRC and CAR	
<b>Main Goals:</b> Provide social orientation to refugees for capacity building toward self-reliance. Ensure rights of refugees are respected. Provide humanitarian assistance to DRC and CAR accessible refugees.	
<b>Principal Objectives</b>	<b>Related outputs</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Needy refugees receive required assistance.</li> <li>2. Refugees who expressed their will to be repatriated have access to UNHCR assistance and the return is carried out in safety and dignity.</li> <li>3. Refugees unwilling to return enjoy continued safe asylum, are protected against refoulement and treated according to basic human rights standards.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refugees repatriated voluntarily.</li> <li>2. Residual caseloads able to enjoy continuity of asylum from persecution.</li> <li>3. Humanitarian assistance or Repatriation facilities offered to refugees.</li> <li>4. Assistance activities in some sectors implemented either by refugees themselves or by other UN agencies.</li> </ol>

<b>Name of beneficiary Population:</b> Angolan refugees from Cabinda province.	
<b>Main Goals:</b> Encourage spontaneous return to Cabinda. Provide necessary facilitation as required.	
<b>Principal Objectives</b>	<b>Related outputs</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Needy refugees receive UNHCR assistance to become self sufficient.</li> <li>2. Refugees expressing their will to repatriate have access to UNHCR assistance and the return is carried out in safety and dignity.</li> <li>3. Refugees unwilling to return can enjoy continuity of safe asylum.</li> <li>4. UNHCR gradually phase out by the end of the year 2003.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Local Settlement or Repatriation facilities offered to refugees.</li> <li>2. Refugees are able to enjoy safe asylum from persecution.</li> <li>3. Effective enforcement of law and order.</li> <li>4. Refugees repatriated voluntarily.</li> </ol>