



COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN

Country: United Republic of Tanzania

Planning Year: 2004

(a) Context and Beneficiary Populations

During the past few years, the traditional hospitality shown towards refugees by the Tanzanian authorities and host communities has been strained by growing insecurity, perceived to be caused by the refugees, pressure on limited natural resources exerted by higher numbers of refugees and accusations of support by refugees of rebel movements. The Government's current policy therefore focuses on voluntary repatriation as soon as possible. This effectively discourages local integration and inhibits efforts towards self-reliance. As a result, assistance and protection programmes for refugees are being delivered in a more restrictive and politically charged atmosphere.

Furthermore, the general decline of the assistance level coupled with restrictive measures introduced by the Government in the camps has resulted in a significant outflow of spontaneous returnees to Burundi, especially in the months of April, May and June 2003. The measures effectively restrict any movement of refugees out of the camps, even within the earlier allowed perimeter of four kilometres, hitting especially hard the recent arrivals who have not yet developed coping mechanisms and who have no means of substituting the food assistance, which for most of 2003 was inadequate due to a shortage of donations.

For all refugees in camps in north-western Tanzania, protection and assistance activities will need to be continued throughout 2004, while the facilitation and, if possible, promotion of large-scale voluntary repatriation to, particularly, Burundi and the DRC will depend on further progress being achieved through the various national, regional and international initiatives currently underway. For the Somali refugees, UNHCR is planning to phase out its support to the local settlement programme by the end of 2004.

Burundian refugees

UNHCR, as agreed by the Tripartite Commission (the Governments of Burundi and Tanzania and UNHCR) in January 2002, has, since March 2002, been facilitating voluntary repatriation of Burundian refugees who originate from nine secure provinces of Burundi. UNHCR had originally foreseen major repatriation movements during 2003, however, given slow progress in the peace process and the poor security situation in Burundi, repatriation movements could not be organised through three entry points as initially planned. Facilitated repatriation was undertaken only through the Kobero border point and only to the safer, northern and central areas of Burundi (Muyinga, Kirundo, Ngozi, Karuzi, Kayanza, Gitega, Muramvya and Bujumbura Mairie) due to continuing insecurity in the south and east. In March 2003, during the fifth meeting of the Tripartite Commission held in Dar es Salaam, UNHCR agreed to facilitate returns to three southern provinces of Burundi, Rutana and Makamba once the security situation allowed. The situation in Cankuzo in September 2003 was finally conducive for an additional border crossing to be opened between Tanzania and Burundi and the first convoy went through the Murusugamba crossing on 8 September.

If the situation in Burundi further improves, an acceleration of the voluntary repatriation is foreseen in 2004, with an eventual switch from facilitation to promotion of voluntary repatriation.

Congolese refugees

The Inter-Congolese Dialogue held in Sun City, South Africa, in March 2002, and the follow up agreements and other initiatives resulted in the installation of the transitional government in July 2003. Subsequently, a higher level of stability was reported in the Kivu provinces, from where the majority of Congolese refugees in Tanzania originate, and as a result a marked decline in the numbers of new arrivals from the DRC in the second half of the year.

If the situation continues to improve, UNHCR could start facilitating voluntary repatriation to the DRC in 2004.

In the meantime though, UNHCR ran out of space for additional new arrivals in Tanzania in the Lugufu refugee camps in Kigoma region, and the new arrivals could only be accommodated on the limited number of empty plots which have been identified in a verification exercise.

Somali refugees

In pursuit of the local settlement programme for Somali refugees, the development of a new site at Chogo in the Tanga Region was concluded in 2002, and 3,200 Somalis were moved to the settlement in April 2003. It is hoped that it will be possible by the end of 2004 to make a positive assessment of progress regarding food self-sufficiency, and that the Government will accept full responsibility for these refugees by the end of 2004 so that UNHCR can phase out its assistance programme for the group. In June 2003, the Government announced that it would consider favourably the Somalis' requests for the Tanzanian citizenship.

In addition, UNHCR will assist some 150 urban refugees and asylum-seekers in Dar es Salaam with counselling and some 200 refugee students with post-primary and distance education.

The table below shows the beneficiary planning figures:

| Country Of origin | 2002 | 2003 | | | End-2003 | 2004 | | | End-2004 |
|----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | Population end-2002 | Expected Influx | Expected Births | Expected Repat. | Population end-2003* | Expected influx | Expected Births. | Expected Repat. | Population end-2004 |
| Burundi | 370,861 | 10,000 | 15,000 | 60,000 | 309,000 | 6,000 | 12,500 | 63,500 | 264,000 |
| Congo | 140,301 | 7,000 | 6,000 | | 150,000 | | 6,500 | 10,000 | 146,500 |
| Rwanda | 2,717 | | | 2,717 | | | | | |
| Mixed | 2,001 | | | | 2,000 | | | | 2,000 |
| Somalia | 3,493 | | | | 3,200 | | 130 | | 3,330 |
| Total | 519,373 | 17,000 | 21,000 | 62,717 | 464,200 | 6,000 | 19,130 | 64,000 | 415,830 |

* the refugee population declined by some 8 per cent after the registration and population data verification undertaken in August 2003

The overall objective of UNHCR's presence in Tanzania is thus primarily related to the need for providing ongoing protection and material assistance to some (currently)

500,000 refugees (out of a total of almost one million estimated by the Government) from Burundi, the DRC, the small residual caseload from Rwandans, from Somalia, whilst facilitating, to the extent possible, voluntary repatriation to the countries of origin, particularly to Burundi. For most of these beneficiaries, protection and assistance activities will thus have to be continued for the year 2004, while large-scale voluntary repatriation will depend on conditions in the refugees' countries of origin. For the Somali refugees, on the other hand, a local settlement programme is being implemented.

UNHCR expects that some 1,000 refugees including those who lack prospects of local integration, women at risk, cases that are in need of legal and physical protection among others, will have been accepted for resettlement in 2003, and that 2,000 refugees will be accepted in 2004. The main receiving country in 2004 will be the USA.

In terms of specific objectives for 2004, UNHCR will:

- where conditions in the countries of origin permit, assist refugees from Burundi, and the DRC by facilitating and, if appropriate, promoting their voluntary repatriation.
- with the support the government of Tanzania, provide protection to refugees in Tanzania and ensure the provision of humanitarian assistance from the outset of arrival, until such time as a solution to their plight has been found; and further empower the refugees through more concrete self-reliance projects, vocational and health training.
- promote refugee law and help the Tanzanian authorities provide security in the refugee camps, ensuring that the camps retain an exclusively civilian and humanitarian character and that they accommodate only those persons entitled to humanitarian protection;
- continue to support the local integration of those refugees whom the Government has allowed to settle permanently in Tanzania.
- Promote and implement preventative and responsive strategies aimed at eliminating the incidence of sexual and gender based violence, sexual exploitation, and the reduction and control of HIV/AIDS in the refugee camps.

UNHCR, in partnership with the Government of Tanzania, will sign a Memorandum of Understanding outlining the security related measures to be undertaken to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps. UNHCR will continue to provide special assistance and support to the Tanzanian authorities through a range of measures (the "security package"), including the deployment and training of special police contingents.

UNHCR, in collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, and FAO will provide liaison services between bilateral donors and Tanzanian authorities to assist with the securing and placement of funding for the benefit of areas affected by the presence of refugees. Such funding would be targeted at strengthening local institutions, improving transport networks and infrastructure, assistance to local education and medical facilities. UNHCR will directly assist areas hosting refugees with environmental

rehabilitation in and around the refugee camps. DANIDA, JICA, and EuropeAid will fund some of these activities. In addition, UNHCR will support the central, regional and district authorities involved in the day-to-day management of refugee affairs.

The gradual empowerment of refugee women is also one of UNHCR's policy objectives in Tanzania. Efforts to involve more women in health care and education through training and public information campaigns will continue. Following a mission of the Inspector's General Office in December 2002, measures aimed at preventing and discouraging sexual and gender-based violence and exploitation were strengthened. These focused on prevention through awareness raising at the community level and the provision of proper legal, medical and psychosocial support to victims. All UNHCR staff signed the Code of conduct and the conduct of NGO partners was included in the governing clauses of all implementation agreements. Furthermore, a comprehensive approach to the problem of sexual and gender-based violence (SGV) will continue to focus on the prevention through awareness raising at the community level and the provision of proper legal, medical and psychosocial support to victims.

Training in the refugee camps will focus on the rights of refugee children, and relevant activities will be incorporated into education, community services and protection programmes. Child health care will focus on immunisation and childhood illnesses, especially those associated with anaemia and malnutrition. Community-based activities will continue to be implemented to engage adolescents in meaningful activities. In addition, programmes will be set up to provide education on topics pertinent to repatriation.

UNHCR will also maintain vigorous environmental protection programmes so as to prevent soil erosion and the depletion of wood and water resources. Reforestation will be encouraged in threatened camp environments and energy conservation measures will be introduced or strengthened. Other environmental concerns will continue to be addressed through vector control, medical waste disposal, household support and environmental education.

UNHCR Tanzania continues to regard voluntary repatriation as the most desirable durable solution and continues to work towards this objective. The Government of Tanzania has openly stated its opposition to the possibility of local integration in western Tanzania. While the conditions in the DRC and Burundi remain unsuitable for return, the UNHCR will work towards improving the physical protection of refugees and improving the opportunities for both women and children to participate in post primary and vocational programmes.