

COUNTRY OPERATIONS PLAN

Country: United Republic of Tanzania

Planning Year: 2002

Executive Committee Summary

(a) Context and Beneficiary Populations

Tanzania continues to receive refugees from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Rwanda, and is the country most seriously affected by refugee flows in the Great Lakes Region. In particular, continued civil and political unrest in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) hinders voluntary repatriation to these countries and causes new influxes of refugees. At the time of writing, there were some 528,000 assisted refugees in Tanzania (some 381,500 Burundians, 115,000 Congolese, 28,000 Rwandans and 3,000 Somalis). In addition, Government figures indicate that there are some 170,000 Burundians in settlements and a further 300,000 living in villages in north-western Tanzania, none of whom are being assisted by UNHCR.

While it is too early to tell whether the assumption of power in the DRC by Joseph Kabila, the son of President Laurent Kabila who was assassinated on 16 January 2001, will have positive and lasting effects on the DRC peace process, initial indications are that progress is being made. UNHCR therefore envisages the repatriation of 50,000 Congolese refugees in 2002.

Furthermore, the signature of the Burundi peace accord on 28 August 2000 in Arusha (Tanzania) enhanced prospects for voluntary repatriation to Burundi. UNHCR thus envisages the repatriation of up to 75,000 Burundians in the second half of 2001, with a further 288,000 refugees repatriating in 2002.

As concerns the political environment in Tanzania, the traditional hospitality shown towards refugees over the past few years by the Tanzanian authorities and host communities has been strained by growing insecurity (perceived to be caused by the refugees) and the pressure on limited natural resources exerted by higher numbers of refugees. Furthermore, in the context of the preparations of the national elections held in October 2000, the issue of the refugee presence in Tanzania became further politicized, and the Government policy against local integration as an optional durable solution for Burundi refugees was reinforced. The Government's current approach therefore continues to be focused on temporary asylum with a view to repatriation as soon as possible. This effectively precludes any possibility of local integration and inhibits efforts towards self-reliance.

At the same time, both within and outside the refugee camps, the refugees' safety is threatened mainly by criminal and/or politically motivated elements within the refugee community, resulting in serious injury and, in some cases, death.

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) 528,000 refugees (out of a total of almost one million estimated by the Government) from Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda and Somalia, whilst facilitating and promoting, to the extent possible, voluntary repatriation to the countries of origin. For most of these beneficiaries, protection and assistance activities will thus have to be continued for the year 2002, while large-scale voluntary repatriation will depend on significant political progress being achieved through the various national, regional and international initiatives currently underway. For the Somali refugees, on the other hand, a local

settlement programme is being implemented. A functioning tripartite mechanism is in place and repatriation will continue to be pursued for the Rwandan refugees in Tanzania.

UNHCR will thus continue to focus on the search for lasting solutions for the refugee population. As noted above, while large-scale voluntary repatriation will depend on positive developments in the region, other circumstances may demand UNHCR's attention to the principle of *non-refoulement* of refugees and the requirement that any repatriation be voluntary. At the same time, UNHCR's advocacy will have to include some measure of integration for those refugees who will decide not to return to their country of origin.

The main features of UNHCR's operations in Tanzania during 2002 will therefore be the protection of, and the provision of care and maintenance assistance to, an average of some 320,000 refugees from Burundi, the DRC, Rwanda and Somalia. In terms of specific objectives for 2002, UNHCR will:

- where conditions in the countries of origin permit, assist refugees from Burundi, Rwanda and the DRC by facilitating and, if appropriate, promoting their voluntary repatriation;
- protect refugees and ensure their well-being through the provision of essential services while they remain in Tanzania;
- 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;
- maintain the support and goodwill of the Tanzanian Government and people towards refugees and asylum-seekers by providing tangible benefits to the local population in areas affected by the presence of refugees; and
- continue to support the local integration of those refugees whom the Government has allowed to settle permanently in Tanzania.

The above-mentioned beneficiary figures were agreed upon in a February 2001 Great Lakes Regional Strategic Operations Planning Workshop on the following basis:

Country of origin	2000	2001		2002			
	Population end-2000	expected influx	Expected repatriation	population end-2001	expected influx	expected repatriation	population end-2002
Burundi	369,000	36,000	75,000	330,000	0	288,000	42,000
Congo	111,000	12,000	2,000	121,000	6,000	50,000	77,000
Rwanda	28,000	4,000	3,000	29,000	4,000	3,000	30,000
Somalia	3,000	0	0	3,000	0	0	3,000
Total	511,000	52,000	80,000	483,000	10,000	341,000	152,000

In order to maintain the civilian and humanitarian character of the refugee camps, UNHCR will also 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.

Subject to the availability of funding, UNHCR will continue to assist areas affected by the presence of refugees by strengthening local institutions, transport networks and infrastructure. Areas hosting refugees will benefit from the construction or rehabilitation of water facilities, roads, health centres and schools, as well as environmental rehabilitation in and around the refugee camps. Some of these activities will be funded by JICA, within the framework of a new cooperation agreement between the two agencies. 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. 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 psycho-social 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 immunization 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's protection staff will continue to concentrate their training and promotion efforts on refugee rights and legal procedures relating to sexual offences and the criminal code, also through the holding of refugee law and policy workshops for government officials, lawyers, NGO staff, refugee leaders, health and community services officials, and others.

UNHCR's activities and presence in Tanzania should therefore result in a lasting solution for many refugees by facilitating repatriation and providing assistance to those wishing to return to their country of origin. By assisting and supporting the authorities in their task of providing security in the refugee camps, the civilian and humanitarian character of the camps should be preserved.

Operational budgetary requirements for 2002 are the following:

Project	Beneficiaries	US\$
CM/203	Somali and urban refugees	1,244,949
CM/270	Burundi and Rwandan refugees in the Kagera Region	2,970,678
CM/271	Burundi and Congolese refugees in the Kigoma and Kasulu Districts (Kigoma Region)	4,576,170
CM/272	Institutional support and rehabilitation of refugee affected areas	3,726,851
CM/275	Burundi refugees in the Kibondo District (Kigoma Region)	2,967,110
RP/370	Repatriation of Burundian, Congolese and Rwandan refugees	2,895,622
Total		18,381,380

In view of the above, the number of UNHCR offices in Tanzania and the related post levels and administrative costs in 2002 would have been expected to remain similar to current levels. However, as a result of the recommendations made by "Action 2", substantial post and administrative budget reductions are envisaged for the Tanzania programme for 2001 and 2002, i.e. a discontinuation of 24 posts during 2001 and ABOD reductions of US\$ 469,900 and \$ 251,938 in 2001 and 2002 respectively. Assuming that these reductions will be implemented (no formal submission has as yet been requested by Headquarters), no further post changes are envisaged for 2002.

(b) Selected Programme Goals and Objectives

Name of Beneficiary Population: Burundi refugees in the Kigoma and Kagera Regions	
Main Goal(s): ensuring asylum, care and maintenance assistance for the existing caseload and for new arrivals, and facilitating voluntary repatriation.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To protect the Burundian refugees and ensure their well-being through the provision of essential services while they remain in Tanzania.	A well organized care and maintenance programme ensuring sufficient food, reasonable health, primary education and water, as well as community services targeting the vulnerable refugees, women and children.
Where conditions in Burundi permit, to assist refugees from Burundi by facilitating and, if appropriate, promoting, their voluntary repatriation.	An organized repatriation of some 288,000 Burundian refugees during the course of 2002.
To ensure adequate emergency preparedness and response.	The maintenance of sufficient capacity to receive, accommodate and assist new refugees in the camps and way stations.

Name of Beneficiary Population: Congolese refugees in the Kigoma Region	
Main Goal(s): ensuring asylum, care and maintenance assistance for the existing caseload and for new arrivals, and facilitating voluntary repatriation.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To protect the Congolese refugees and ensure their well-being through the provision of essential services while they remain in Tanzania.	A well organized care and maintenance programme ensuring sufficient food, reasonable health, primary education and water, as well as community services targeting the vulnerable refugees, women and children.
Where conditions in the DRC permit, to assist refugees from the DRC by facilitating and, if appropriate, promoting, their voluntary repatriation.	An organized repatriation of some 50,000 Congolese refugees during the course of 2002.
To ensure adequate emergency preparedness and response.	The maintenance of sufficient capacity to receive, accommodate and assist new refugees in the camps and way stations.

Name of Beneficiary Population: Rwandan refugees in the Kagera Region	
Main Goal(s): ensuring asylum, care and maintenance assistance for the existing caseload and for new arrivals, and facilitating voluntary repatriation.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To protect the Rwandan refugees and ensure their well-being through the provision of essential services while they remain in Tanzania.	A well organized care and maintenance programme ensuring sufficient food, reasonable health, primary education and water, as well as community services targeting the vulnerable refugees, women and children.
To continue facilitating the ongoing small-scale voluntary repatriation and to promote an organized repatriation if and when conditions in Rwanda permit.	Continuation of organized repatriation to Rwanda during the course of 2002.
To ensure adequate emergency preparedness and response.	The maintenance of sufficient capacity to receive, accommodate and assist new refugees in the camps and way stations.

Name of Beneficiary Population: Somali refugees in the Tanga Region	
Main Goal(s): ensuring care and maintenance assistance pending local integration of the caseload.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To protect the Somali refugees and ensure their well-being through the provision of essential services.	A well organized care and maintenance programme ensuring sufficient food, reasonable health, primary education and water, as well as community services targeting the vulnerable refugees, women and children.
To continue to promote local integration of the caseload.	Progress in the preparation of the site allocated by the Government for the local integration of the caseload.

Name of Theme: Promotion of Refugee Law and Security in the Refugee Camps	
Main Goal(s): to maintain security in and around the refugee camps.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To promote refugee law and to assist the regional and district authorities in maintaining security in and around 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.	The presence of 278 operational policemen and women in the refugee camps. Training programmes and workshops for the regional and district authorities and government interlocutors (magistrates, prosecutors, security personnel, immigration officers, etc.) dealing with refugees.

Name of Theme: Institutional Support, Rehabilitation of Refugee Affected Areas, and Awareness Building	
Main Goal(s): to maintain the support and goodwill of the Tanzanian Government and people towards refugees and asylum-seekers.	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
The provision of tangible benefits to the local population in areas affected by the presence of refugees so as to minimize the adverse impact of the refugees' presence on the host communities.	Support to refugee hosting regions and districts through capacity building and related material assistance (e.g. rehabilitation and/or construction of schools and/or dispensaries, water systems, etc.).
To counter the negative sentiments towards refugees in the Tanzanian public.	Information material for the general public, especially for local populations in the refugee affected areas.