

Executive Summary
Democratic Republic of Congo
Planning Year: 2002

(a) Context and Beneficiary Populations

The assassination of President Laurent Desire Kabila in January 2001 and the transfer of the leadership in the country to his son Joseph Kabila have led to a political and military re-vitalization in the country and the region. The implementation of the Lusaka Cease fire agreement (signed in Lusaka in July 1999) is facilitated and the plan for the disengagement of the local and foreign forces (signed in Harare in December 2000), in conformity with the Lusaka Cease Fire Agreement, is being implemented. This development is having a significant impact on the political, social and economic situation in DRC as well as in the nine neighbouring countries bordering the DRC (Zambia, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Angola, Republic of Congo, CAR, Sudan and Uganda) that have either been involved in the conflict or have suffered the consequences of the conflict. Finally, it has an impact on UNHCR's Operational Priority Objectives in the DRC.

Since January 2001, much has changed on the DRC political, military, economic and social scenes for the better. Positive and encouraging developments have been taken. The Security Council Resolution 1341(2001) which demands that (a) the parties to the conflict in the DRC implement the disengagement plans as from 15 March 2001, (b) that all the parties to the Lusaka Cease Fire Agreement adopt plans for the complete withdrawal of their respective armed forces by 15 May 2001 has been adopted and is being implemented. President Kabila has liberalised political activity in the country. The former ex-President of Botswana M. Katumile Masire, who was rejected by the late president has now been recognised as Mediator for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, and preparations for the dialogue are underway. All concerned Parties to the DRC crisis show their commitment to comply with UN Security Council Resolution. Rwanda and its DRC ally Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD) on one hand and Uganda and its ally Front pour la Liberation du Congo (FLC) on the other have started the withdrawal of their respective troops from the front lines while MONUC is deploying additional troops and observers.

The diplomatic contacts have been intensified at both national and international levels. President Joseph Kabila who has been sworn in as the successor of the late president has been well received and supported in the United States, Europe and at the OAU Summits in Libya and Zambia. Importantly, IMF and WB missions have visited DRC to assess the economic situation and identify opportunities for financial injections into the DRC market in the near future.

MONUC is strengthening and expanding its presence in the main front lines to ensure the smooth and effective withdrawal of respective armies and armed forces in line with the Security Council Resolution 1341(2001). UN Agencies within the Country Team and the Humanitarian Co-ordination mechanism have been fielding inter-agency humanitarian mission to assess humanitarian needs. With the withdrawal of the belligerent parties the access by humanitarian organisations to populations in need, which has been a major impediment the past few years for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, will now be facilitated.

If the current political trend is maintained, including a progress of the national dialogue with the involvement of the DRC civil society, it is foreseen that a phased voluntary repatriation programme would be implemented before the end of year 2001. It is thus expected that DRC refugees in Zambia (40-45 000), Republic of Congo (98 000), (Central African Republic) 12 000, Tanzania (111 000), Uganda (8 800), Burundi (26 000), Rwanda (28 000), and Sudan (340), based on the positive progress will choose to return in a near future.

With regard to the DRC refugees hosted in the nine countries bordering DRC, UNHCR would expect to shift its operations in the region from care and maintenance programmes in host countries to voluntary repatriation and to reception and reintegration programmes in DRC in 2002. Among returnees, specific reintegration measures will be taken for especially women, children and adolescents who have been major victims of the conflict suffering terrible human rights abuses including rape as a "weapon of war". Particular attention will also be given to children who may have been inducted into armies and forced to participate in the warfare.

Given the linkage between peace and humanitarian actions in DRC, UNHCR would support in 2002 to the extent possible any initiatives aiming to address the humanitarian challenges in DRC that have affected a large number of the Congolese population. In so doing, UNHCR would urge the wider international community, bilateral and private mechanisms to provide financial and other support to humanitarian activities in DRC. Statistics available would indicate that there are some 2.3 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), some 16 million persons who do not have access to the most basic needs for life, such as food, and some 329 140 Congolese refugees who currently are outside of their country and who may opt to return to DRC.

Refugees hosted in DRC are mainly from the nine countries bordering the DRC. Those producing countries are still at war or have initiated peace process and/or a national dialogue. For the majority of the refugees the preferable and most durable solution of voluntary repatriation is not foreseeable for 2002. UNHCR expects to continue providing international protection by ensuring that physical security is granted by the host government and exploring opportunities for local settlement or resettlement to third countries, with the ultimate aim of achieving a satisfactory level of self reliance.

Persistent and/or chronic military conflicts and political instability in the countries of origin and the complex nature of the crisis in the DRC continue to be a serious threat for refugees in DRC for whom crossing the border is no longer enough to escape from persecution and find safety. Moreover, two years of rebellion in the DRC have left deep scars on the affected ethnic groups that have developed culture of "clanization". This has had as consequence that local settlement is decreasingly an option to be advocated. Therefore, UNHCR would focus on the promotion of resettlement as an alternative durable solution for the refugees.

The achievement of above operational priority objectives remains highly dependent on the attainment of corresponding funding level and close co-operation with development agencies that would provide a continuity and sustainability of the assistance commenced by the humanitarian agencies, including UNHCR. UNHCR's long-term objective is to progressively exit from care and maintenance assistance programmes for newly arriving or newly accessible refugees and local settlement/resettlement assistance programmes for long-time refugees while handing these responsibilities over to competent other agencies.

Overview of each beneficiary population in DRC.

<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Refugee/Returnee Population in 2002</i>	<i>Main Theme</i>
Angola	155 000	Care and Maintenance toward self-reliance.
Burundi	5 700	Local Settlement
Rwanda	10 000	Repatriation
Sudan	78 700	Local Settlement.
Uganda	14 000	Local Settlement
Urban	4 150	Care and Maintenance toward self-reliance.
Returnees	290 000	Repatriation/Initial Integration
<i>Total</i>	<i>557 550</i>	

(Planning numbers were co-ordinated during regional meeting in Mombasa, February 2001)

(b) Selected Programme Goals and Objectives.

Theme: National Refugee Status Determination.	
Main Goals: Support the Government in the implementation of the Refugee National Legislation as well as the establishment of National Eligibility Commission in DRC	
Principal Objectives (1) All asylum seekers have access to Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures which are non-discriminatory and in accordance with international standards. (2) All asylum seekers and recognized refugees benefit from national legislation, conforming to international standards.	Related outputs (a) National Eligibility Commission fully functioning (b) System for monitoring RSD established procedures/ consultative role of UNHCR respected. (c) NGOs and government officials responsible for RSD training. (a) Refugees and asylum seekers have access to law enforcement mechanisms (b) Law enforcement/ border officials trained.

Theme: Registration/Documentation of refugees.	
Main Goals: Support the DRC Government in undertaking registration/documentation exercise for all refugees throughout the DRC.	
Principal Objectives. Refugees are registered, and issued with identity (ID) cards and allowed to move unhindered.	Related outputs. Registration successfully undertaken of all refugees. ID documents/ration cards issued to all refugees. Civil acts issued to concerned refugees.

Name of beneficiary Population: Angolan refugees	
Main Goals: Ensure that international refugee protection standards are respected. Facilitate self-reliance activities for current refugees and continue to provide care and maintenance assistance to new arrivals.	
Principal Objectives. Refugees on sites produce sufficient basic food in quantity so that they can get an income generation.	Related outputs. Quantity of crop produced, seeds production cooperatives set up and agricultural monitors trained among refugees.

Name of beneficiary Population: Sudanese and Ugandan refugees	
Main Goals: Ensure that international refugee protection standards are respected. Work towards self-reliance for existing refugees in sectors such as health, crop production and education by the end of year 2002 and provide local settlement assistance to new arrivals. Facilitate repatriation to North Sudan where requested and feasible.	
Principal Objectives (1) Refugees are able to cover basics costs related to education and health. (2) Camp residents enjoy personal security and safety.	Related outputs (a) Total income generated by family during the year. (a) Police station functional and police contingent equipped and trained. (b) Effective enforcement of laws and orders, resulting in the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps.

Name of beneficiary Population: Rwandan/ Burundian Refugees.	
Main Goals: Ensure that international refugee protection standards are respected. Facilitate voluntary repatriation to Rwanda and Burundi. Continue to provide care and maintenance assistance to accessible refugees.	
Principal Objectives. (1) Refugees who express their willingness to be repatriated have access to UNHCR assistance and the return is carried out in safety and dignity. (2) Camp residents enjoy personal security and safety.	Related outputs. (a) Voluntary repatriation effectively carried out and no refugees refouled. (a) Police station functional and police contingent equipped and trained. (b) Effective enforcement of laws and orders, resulting in the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps

Name of beneficiary Population : DRC Returnees.

Main Goals: Ensure proper reception of DRC returnees in their areas of origin and provide international protection especially with regard to their properties.

Principal Objectives.

- (1) Refugees are repatriated to their area of origin and have access to land and their property.
- (2) Returnees enjoy legal protection and access to at least the same benefits and rights as other DRC citizens.

Related outputs.

- (a) Field monitoring visits to returnee areas for purposes of monitoring the progress of reintegration.
- (b) Corrective measures taken in accordance with the needs discovered during the monitoring.