

Part I : Executive Committee Summary

(a) Context and Beneficiary Populations

Since January 2001, encouraging developments have occurred on the DRC political, social and military scene, with the adoption and effective implementation of the Security Council Resolution No. 1341 which demands that (a) the parties to the conflict in the DRC begin to fully implement the disengagement plans as of 15 March 2001 ; (b) all the parties to the Lusaka Cease Fire Agreement adopt plans for the complete withdrawal of their armed forces by 15 May 2001.

Diplomatic contacts have intensified at both the national and international level. After being sworn in as the successor of the late Head of State, President Joseph Kabila visited and met key officials in the USA and Europe. He also represented his nation at the OAU Summit in Syrte, Libya. Mr. Ketumile Masire - rejected by the late president as facilitator - has been recognized and reinstated to facilitate the proceedings of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. Missions from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank visited Kinshasa to assess the country's economic situation and identify areas for financial backing in the short term. In addition, in recent months, a range of developments have occurred that underpin commitment by all concerned to find a solution to the DRC crisis, including several high level missions from various countries to support the peace process.

The UN Security Council issued Resolution No. 1376 on 9 November 2001, authorizing the *Mission des Nations Unies au Congo* (MONUC) to embark on the implementation of its Phase III. The resolution prescribes the disarmament by MONUC of all armed groups and the monitoring of the total withdrawal of foreign troops from the DRC territory.

The first round of the Inter-Congolese dialogue - key to the peace process in the DRC - aborted as the quorum could not be met, when only 80 delegates out of 350 foreseen, turned up in October 2001 in Addis Ababa, mainly due to lack of funds for travelling. The DRC Government team pulled out in mid-session of the dialogue, leaving the non-armed opposition group and two rebel movements behind, as the conditions for an inclusive dialogue were not met. On 25 February 2002, the participants concerned with the Inter-Congolese Dialogue went into session in the South African town of Sun City. The negotiations were suspended from 14 to 20 March following continued conflict and the capture of Moliro city by RCD forces in Katanga Province. The Security Council issued Resolution No. 1399 on 19 March, which not only condemned the RCD movement but also insisted on the necessity of its withdrawal from Moliro.

Not being able to reach a global solution, the Kinshasa Government, the rebel movement MLC and some additional parties, signed a partial agreement on 19 April for the management of the transitional phase to democratic elections, while notably RCD/Goma, UDPS and other parties decided not to be part of the Sun-City accord. President Kabila was to retain the presidency with the MLC leader, J.-P. Bemba, as Prime Minister for the transitional period. However discussions aiming at enlarging the agreement are still underway and should the RCD/Goma and other armed and non-armed groups agree to join the coalition for peace, this decision could be reviewed.

If the current political climate continues to prevail in the coming months and considering that the national dialogue is already involving all key stakeholders, UNHCR foresees a phased voluntary repatriation before the end of the year 2003. Meanwhile, the conditions are expected to become conducive for the DRC refugees in Zambia (40-45,000), RoC (84,280), CAR (12,000), Tanzania (117,500), Uganda (10,000), Burundi (26,000) and Rwanda (28,000) to return to their country. The politico-military climate has increasingly improved in recent months, with Rwanda and RCD allies pulling out their troops, and Uganda and FLC allies withdrawing from hitherto occupied frontlines. Against this background, MONUC is deploying further troops and observers, thus creating favourable security conditions for the humanitarian organisations, including UNHCR, to move freely and access the persons in need of relief assistance.

With regard to the DRC refugees, residing mainly in the neighbouring countries, the focus of UNHCR operations in the region will shift from provision of humanitarian assistance to voluntary repatriation and reintegration upon arrival in DRC.

Based on available statistics the number of returnee women, children and adolescents will be comparatively high. It is known that through the war in DRC and neighbouring states, they were the prime victims of armed hostilities. Atrocious human rights violations including rape were used as a "weapon of war". Countless children were abducted and forcibly recruited and thrown in battlefields for the various armies.

Given the linkage between the peace process and humanitarian interventions in DRC, UNHCR will support, to the extent possible, any initiative designed to address the humanitarian challenges that are affecting a large number of the Congolese population. In order to achieve its objectives, UNHCR will appeal to the international community and to the bilateral and private agencies to provide the necessary financial support. Reliable available statistics indicate that there is some 2.1 million internally displaced persons countrywide living mostly in difficult conditions. Additionally, there are some 16 million people feared to be on the brink of starvation. Some 336,500 Congolese refugees are reported to be residing in neighbouring states and may opt to repatriate and reintegrate their areas of origin in DRC as soon as the conditions become conducive.

The majority of the refugees hosted in DRC originate from neighbouring countries, that are either still at war or have initiated peace process and/or National Dialogue, and the promotion of voluntary repatriation - the most durable solution - will remain unachievable for most of them throughout 2002. There is a substantial number of refugees though who may readily opt for voluntary repatriation should a positive political development occur in their countries of origin, such as the Central African Republic and Angola where peace prospects have become brighter following the death of the UNITA leader, Dr. Jonas Savimbi. UNHCR will continue to provide international protection, ensure that the host government grants physical security and explore avenues for local settlement, focusing on the attainment of a high and satisfactory level of self-reliance. However, the recurring military conflicts and rather chronic political instability in the countries of origin, exacerbated by the complex nature of DRC crisis itself continue to pose a serious threat to refugees in DRC. Fleeing across territorial boundaries is no longer enough to circumvent persecution. In addition, three years of rebellion have inflicted deep scares on some clans and ethnic groups. The clans most affected have steadfastly developed a culture of "clanization". In light of this trend there is a likelihood that the local settlement programmes stand less chance of being accomplished. Bearing this in mind, UNHCR will seek in 2003 to promote resettlement assistance activities.

The achievement of the above operational priority objectives remains highly dependent on the availability of sufficient funds and on a close cooperation with UN development-oriented agencies concerned with the facilitation of UNHCR implementing its phase out strategy. Working in close cooperation and coordination with other UN agencies, UNHCR will try to progressively phase out from humanitarian assistance programmes for the newly-arrived or newly-accessed refugees, and from local settlement/resettlement assistance programmes for the old caseloads.

New Refugee Situations

Central African Refugees

The failed *coup d'état* in Bangui on 27 May 2001 mounted by mutineers and other defected soldiers of the CAR army triggered a massive cross-border exodus of some 22,000 people mainly from Bangui to Zongo, in the Equateur province of the DRC. The majority are Yakoma, the same ethnic origin as the former Head of State, General Andre Kolingba, who led the coup attempt. A considerable number of people also scattered inside CAR or crossed the borders into other countries. At the request of the rebel MLC leader, the local authorities have identified, separated and relocated former soldiers from the rest of the civilian refugees from Zongo to a site in Bokilio in November 2001 in a joint operation by MONUC/MLC/UNHCR. A refugee settlement for civilians was identified in Mole but contrary to the expectation, only a few thousand of the civilian refugees agreed to be transferred. BO Kinshasa is exploring the possibility of a voluntary repatriation. If this prospect is successful, it is foreseen that only a few residual refugees will remain, for which relocation to other parts of the DRC or resettlement will be suitable durable solutions.

Angolan Refugees

An influx of Angolan refugees occurred in August 2001, primarily in Ngidinga and then in Kimvula in Bas-Congo province, following renewed fighting between the UNITA and the MPLA governmental troops in northern Angola. This population numbering 15,000 mainly originates from Beu, a rural zone in north Angola. They fled over night and are completely deprived of personal belongings. The transfer of these refugees to five villages identified for their local integration, situated 60 km away from the Angolan border, was completed by the end of the year 2001. They will be integrated locally and benefit from the distribution of food and non-food items and basic assistance.

A new Angolan caseload has been identified in Tembo and surrounding villages in Bandundu Province where some 15,000 Angolan refugees remain unassisted very near to the border (less than 5 kms). BO Kinshasa will request the local authorities to identify villages of integration for this caseload as well.

Overview of Each Beneficiary Population in DRC

<i>Country of origin</i>	<i>Number in 2002</i>	<i>Themes being addressed</i>
Angola	193,935	Humanitarian assistance towards self-reliance
Burundi	19,475	Local Settlement and registration (if accessible)
Rwanda	29,955	Repatriation and registration (if accessible)
Sudan	75,085	Local Settlement and registration
Uganda	20,750	Local Settlement and registration
Central African Republic	7,000	Humanitarian assistance and repatriation
Congolese RoC	2,835	Humanitarian assistance towards self-reliance
Urban (*)	3,300	Humanitarian assistance towards self-reliance
Returnees (**)	100,000	Repatriation and reintegration
Total	452,335	

(*) Various nationalities in the city of Kinshasa. The urban refugees assisted in the cities of Bukavu, Lubumbashi and Goma are included in the category of Burundian refugees (583).

(**) As several countries in the region will be concerned by an organised repatriation to DRC, a regional repatriation plan will be presented separately to donors for funding at opportune time and the costs related to this repatriation are thus not included in the COP.

(b) Selected Programme Goals and Objectives

Theme: National Refugee Status Determination	
Main Goals: Support the Government in the adoption and implementation of the National Refugee Legislation as well as the establishment of National Eligibility Commission	
Principal Objectives	Related outputs
1. All asylum seekers have access to Refugee Status Determination (RSD) procedures which are non-discriminatory and in accordance with international standards.	1. (a) National Eligibility Commission fully functioning ; (b) System for monitoring RSD procedures/ consultative role of UNHCR in place ; (c) NGOs and government officials responsible for RSD trained.
2. All asylum seekers and recognized refugees benefit from national legislation, conforming to international standards.	2. (a) Refugees and asylum seekers have access to Law enforcement mechanisms ; (b) Law enforcement/ border officials trained.
Theme: Registration/Documentation of refugees	
Main Goals: Continue to support the DRC Government in undertaking registration/documentation exercise for all refugees throughout the DRC.	
Principal Objectives	Related outputs
1. Refugees are registered, issued identity (ID) cards and allowed to move freely.	1. Registration successfully undertaken. ID documents/ration cards issued.

Name of Beneficiary Population: Angolan Refugees	
Main Goals: Reinforce self-reliance activities for existing refugees living in Bas Congo, Bandundu and Katanga Provinces pending the promotion of voluntary repatriation and continue to provide humanitarian assistance to new arrivals, mainly in Bas-Congo.	
Principal Objectives	Related outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refugees on sites produce sufficient basic food to generate an income. 2. Newly-arrived refugees receive basic NFI's and Food items parallel to their inclusion in self reliance activities programme. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantity of crop produced, seeds production cooperatives set up and agricultural monitors trained among refugees. 2. Newly arrived refugees benefit from humanitarian assistance during the reception phase, and are able to harvest for the following season.

Name of Beneficiary Population: Sudanese and Ugandan Refugees	
Main Goals: Continue the on going self-reliance activities mainly in sectors such as health, crop production and education and provide local settlement assistance to new arrivals. Facilitate repatriation to North Sudan where requested and feasible. Ensure international refugee standards are respected.	
Principal Objectives	Related outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refugees are able to cover education and health basic costs related to their families. 2. Camp-based refugees enjoy personal security and safety. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Total income generated by family during the year. 2. 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: Facilitate voluntary repatriation to Rwanda. Continue to provide humanitarian assistance to urban refugees in Bukavu, Goma, Lubumbashi and Kinshasa. Continue to provide international protection to locally settled refugees in Kasai Oriental province (Mbuji-Mayi).	
Principal Objectives	Related outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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-based refugees enjoy personal security and safety. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Voluntary repatriation effectively carried out and no reports of refoulement received. 2. Police station functional and police contingent equipped and trained. 3. Laws and orders effectively reinforced, resulting in the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps.

Name of beneficiary Population : DRC Returnees	
Main Goals: Continue to ensure proper reception to returnees in their areas of origin and provide international protection especially with regard to their rights and properties.	
Principal Objectives	Related outputs
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Returnees are repatriated to their area of origin and have access to land. 2. Returnees enjoy legal protection and adequate protection is granted to the most vulnerable. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Field monitoring visits to returnee areas. 2. Production of protection monitoring reports.

Name of beneficiary Population : RoC and CAR refugees

Main Goals: Information campaign and voluntary repatriation of the residual caseload of RoC and CAR refugees.

Principal Objectives

1. Information campaign is maintained to promote voluntary repatriation.
2. Returnees are repatriated to their areas of origin and have access to land ownership.

Related outputs

1. Refugees well informed of the situation in their countries of origin
2. Reception of returnees is organized in the country of origin.