

Zimbabwe: COP 2003

Part I: Executive Committee Summary

(a) Context and Beneficiary Population(s)

Zimbabwe is presently in experiencing a deep political and economic crisis. The disruptions in social services have brought the humanitarian imperative to the fore. On the other hand, the fragile political situation in the DRC and the prevailing ethnic conflicts in Burundi and Rwanda resulted in the outflow of a number of refugees into Zimbabwe. As there is no short-term prospects for peace in DRC, Burundi and Rwanda, the possibility of repatriation of refugees to these countries is still remote. Refugees from these countries have been accommodated in Tongogara Camp, Waterfalls Transit Centre and in urban areas.

Zimbabwe continues to receive a steady influx of refugees and asylum seekers mainly from the Great Lakes Region. The number totalling 9,472 by the end of 2001 made up of 8,706 refugees and 766 asylum seekers awaiting status determination. Fewer numbers of refugees came from Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania. In the coming months there is a potential for substantial increases in the number of refugees as the government's policy shift towards rural encampment is being strictly enforced.

There is a reorientation of local settlement activities in Zimbabwe aimed at identifying durable solutions with programming interventions for 2003. The LO will continue to strengthen self-sufficiency activities by meeting the priority needs of the refugees through provision of funds, technical advice and training on running small businesses. These would blend the core mandate relating to international protection with meeting the special needs of women and children, older refugees, staff welfare and the environment.

Protection activities will continue to be centred on individual status determination by the Zimbabwe Refugee Committee. LO Harare will continue to promote refugee law and interview techniques training for government officials and implementing partners.

The objectives for the 2003 programme include:

- The provision of continued protection, material assistance and self-reliance projects for the current 9,472 refugees; projected to be around 15,000 by the end of 2002 and close to 20,000 refugees by the end of 2003, if present trends continue.
- Consolidation of the emergency preparedness programme to attend the potential influx resulting from the continuing conflicts in Angola, the DRC and the resurgence of unrest in Burundi and contingency planning in the following areas:
 - Protection, reception and registration, aimed at ensuring that asylum seekers benefit from International Protection and emergency assistance.
 - Shelter, to settle new arrivals immediately in the camps. Delays at Waterfalls transit shall be kept to a minimum to lower costs of keeping refugees in urban setting.
 - Provision of water, health, nutrition and sanitation services, early detection and prevention of sound environmental sanitation will be given priority.
 - Social integration in all activities, consideration for family unity and protection of the most vulnerable, especially single women and children.

- Improved overall UNHCR co-ordination will ensure clarity of objectives, assignment of responsibilities and adequate and timely mobilisation of the necessary resources towards targeted outcomes and outputs.

Programme management

It is also the objective of UNHCR to enhance programme implementation, service delivery and monitoring through training in all sectors, with particular emphasis on operational security, administration and management, as well as emergency preparedness and response mechanisms.

Crosscutting issues

(i) Priority needs of refugee women and children will be met through the restoration of structures that will provide group activities aimed at meeting their personal protection and social development needs with emphasis of conveying life skills on survival and durable solutions. Education, community and social services will provide the enabling environment for these activities.

(ii) The social needs of adult refugees will be met through the promotion of public awareness and education on behavioural patterns that affect the reproductive health of the youth. In particular, awareness of such issues as STD/HIV/AIDS will be promoted through services such as health and community services, through peer education and community support for affected refugees.

(iii) Environment: The increased refugee population in the refugee hosting areas brought the threat of land degradation, soil depletion, water pollution and destruction of forests normally associated with effects of dense population concentrations. The aim in 2003/2004 will be to encourage and strengthen environmental awareness, education and protection/rehabilitation activities in the Tongogara camp.

Projected Population

The following are the planning figures of the beneficiary refugee populations at the beginning of the year that will be expected to continue to benefit from international protection by UNHCR.

Demographic Data by Beneficiary Population **as at 01 January 2002**

Name of Beneficiary Population - Refugees in Tongogara camp - Zimbabwe						
Age Group	Male (in absolute numbers)	(in %)	Female (in absolute numbers)	(in %)	Total (in absolute numbers)	(in%)
0-4	97	9.74	86	21.77	183	13.16
5-17	268	26.91	121	30.63	389	27.97
18-59	631	63.35	188	47.60	819	58.87
60 and >	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	996	71.52	395	28.48	1,391	100%

Name of Beneficiary Population - Refugees in urban areas - Zimbabwe						
Age Group	Male (in absolute numbers)	(in %)	Female (in absolute numbers)	(in %)	Total (in absolute numbers)	(in%)
0-4	259	4.98	381	17.96	658	8.99
5-17	779	14.99	424	19.99	1,170	15.99
18-59	4,156	80.03	1,316	62.05	5,487	75.02
60 and >	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	5,194	71	2,121	29	7,315	100%
Major locations: Harare, Bulawayo, Mutare and Masvingo						

(b) Main Programme Goals and Principal Objectives

Considering that a large-scale repatriation is not expected in the near future, UNHCR's protection and assistance activities in Zimbabwe will continue during the year 2003. Protection will include registering of bona fide refugees and providing them with identity cards as a measure of protection, and assisting Government authorities to enable them to assume this function by themselves.

Sector objectives, activities and targets pursued shall be as follows:

(i) Protection and Security:

- Ensuring that asylum-seekers continue to be granted admission and adherence to applicable protection standards;
- Undertaking basic refugee law promotion and training and accessions to refugee and other relevant refugee instruments;
- Improving operational security for refugees and humanitarian staff through participation of refugee leaders and adequate logistical support to the government.
- Ensuring staff welfare and safety.

(ii) Operations:

- Maintaining and enhancing the readiness of UNHCR, government, NGOs and other operators to anticipate, plan for and respond to continuing refugees influxes, with special attention to protection aspects and meeting the emergency needs of refugees.
- Addressing effectively the relief needs of refugees through traditional implementing partners, while moving progressively to restoring and securing their dignity, the ability to cope and attain self-sufficiency.
- Exploring prospects for, and encouraging the participation of, other agencies that are able not only to participate in meeting the needs of the refugees but do so with their own resources, especially as refugees move from depending on relief assistance to being increasingly self-reliant and self-sufficient.
- Linking refugee programmes to those of the Government and sister UN agencies to foster social and economic progress and particularly to alleviate poverty.
- Promoting the attainment of durable/permanent solutions, when feasible.
- Encouraging the effective empowerment of refugee women through their meaningful involvement in health and education and other community services.
- Engaging adolescents in community-based programmes to improve their possibilities of social insertion.

(iii) Durable Solutions:

- To explore and seize every opportunity to facilitate and promote voluntary repatriation in safety and dignity, through a repatriation plan;
- To ensure resettlement for deserving cases, in close consultation with resettlement countries.

(iv) Management

- To ensure adequate international and staffing requirements and presence in the key operational locations while simultaneously utilising available resources in the most optimal manner.
- To manage resources and operations efficiently, and apply and fully institutionalise the operational management system as implemented, the principles and practices of decentralisation and delegation.
- To ensure that the cross cutting policy priorities relating to women and gender equality, children, adolescents, HIV/AIDS and the environment are mainstreamed across the board.
- To ensure adequate Public information coverage and other related activities.

Name of Beneficiary Population # 1: Rural based refugees	
Main Goal(s) To protect refugees and ensure their wellbeing	
Principal Objective(s)	Related Outputs
Provision of all aspects of Protection including security, admission and registration Provision of care and maintenance assistance to refugees Provision of survival kits to refugees Provision of education and entrepreneurial skills to refugees Issuance of ID cards and other documents	Adequate field presence by Government Provide adequate material support to the Government and Implementing Partners so as to effectively discharge duties related to refugee matters and offer relevant training To provide and sustain essential services in the areas of food, health, education, water and sanitation, domestic needs; To strengthen minimum standards of services and promote refugee participation and self-reliance
Promotion of refugee self-sustenance	Provision of vocational training, small-scale business support and education for employment
Where feasible, assist or promote voluntary repatriation	As conditions in country of origin improve, prepare and agree with Government and UNHCR in the country of origin on a repatriation plan, through joint planning and tripartite agreements

Name of Beneficiary population # 2: Urban Refugees	
Main Goal(s): To protect and promote self-reliance of urban refugees	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
Issuance of ID cards and other relevant documents To provide limited assistance	Professional refugees on work permits able to work and earn a living Needy refugees provided with assistance in the areas of health, shelter and protection Students attending school in urban areas

Name of Theme # 1: Contingency Planning for Emergencies	
Main Goal(s): To Maintain in-country basic capacity to respond to emergency refugee influxes both in protection and assistance	
Principal Objective(s)	Related Outputs
To ensure key protection and policy issues To ensure adequate emergency response	Status determination and admission Women and children protected Contingency Plan updates, building of in-country capacity, revalidation of contingency sites
To improve overall management and co-ordination	Involvement of all interested parties, ensure adequate communication and joint planning

Name of Theme # 2: Institutional Support and Local Capacity Building	
Main Goal(s) To promote refugee law and support the authorities in the co-ordination of refugee affairs, sustain the goodwill of Zimbabwean Government and people towards refugees and asylum-seekers	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To ensure that the camps retain an exclusively civilian and humanitarian character	Strengthened government capacity to screen and provide security in the refugee camps and to separate armed elements upon entering Zimbabwe
To sustain the Government's capacity to co-ordinate refugee affairs and uphold its international asylum obligations	Improved capacity of the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees to co-ordinate and represent refugee protection to other branches of the Government.

Name of Theme # 3: Self Reliance Depending Durable Solutions	
Main Goal(s): To explore available self reliance pending durable solutions for small groups of refugees	
Principal Objectives	Related Outputs
To promote the local integration	Identifying up to 900 Individual cases to embark on income generating activities
To improve Resettlement options for refugees in Zimbabwe	40 families to be resettled in 2003