

## International Standard for Archival Description

- 1.1 Reference code** UNHCR 39/1
- 1.2 Title** Records of Branch Office in Brussels
- 1.3 Dates of creation** 1945-1963
- 1.4 Level** Series
- 1.5 Extent (quantity)** 4.6 m
- 2.2 Administrative/Biographical history** The International Refugee Organization (IRO) was created in July 1947. It was a non-permanent Specialized Agency of the United Nations; it was liquidated in February 1952. When UNHCR succeeded the IRO most of the records in Belgium were transferred to the new organization. UNHCR BO Brussels continued to file documents in the same series until the 1960's. All records transferred in 2003 from Brussels to UNHCR Archives in Geneva have been retained.
- 2.4 Immediate source of acquisition** The records were transferred from BO Brussels to UNHCR Archives in April 2003.
- 3.1 Scope and content** The records on BO Brussels include the records of the IRO office in Brussels. The records predate UNHCR in its mandate of relief, repatriation and displaced persons (DPs). These records contain General Correspondence of the IRO and the UNHCR BO in the immediate post World War II era. They cover the period of transition between the two international organizations. Although the records concern the Belgian sector, they also document larger issues through communications with Headquarters. The F series specifically contains files concerning the start and development of the IRO as well as the first years of UNHCR.
- As the same recordkeeping system was used by UNHCR BO Brussels, some files concerning new operations, such as Hungarian refugees from 1956, Chinese refugees in Hong Kong and Algerian refugees in Morocco and Tunisia were created. Nonetheless, most of the operations described in these records concern individuals affected by WWII. In the late period (1950-1963), the refugees and DPs still under the protection of UNHCR, mainly old, ill or handicapped people, were designated "hard core". In French, the contemporary term was "résidue" or "réfugiés résiduels".
- The records provide detail on methods of dealing with refugee issues in this period. In collaboration with private associations and government offices, the operations include financial assistance, aid for emigration, repatriation or resettlement, legal issues of compensation and restoration of goods, and professional integration in Belgium (with the specific case of DPs, recruitment for employment in the mining industries).
- 3.4 System of arrangement** The records are arranged in the original recordkeeping system of six series, from A to F. Though the C series is missing, a document of the F series states that the C series held the individual case files.
- 4.1 Conditions governing access** Records are subject to the General Restriction Policy of the UNHCR Archives
- 4.2 Conditions governing reproduction** Records are subject to the Copyright Policy of UNHCR
- 4.3 Languages** Predominantly French, with some English, German and Dutch

**4.5 Finding aids**

File list is available

**5.3 Related units**

UNHCR Fonds 3, Records of the International Refugee Organization

**7.2 Rules or conventions**

Internal UNHCR rules

**7.3 Date of description**

14 February 2006