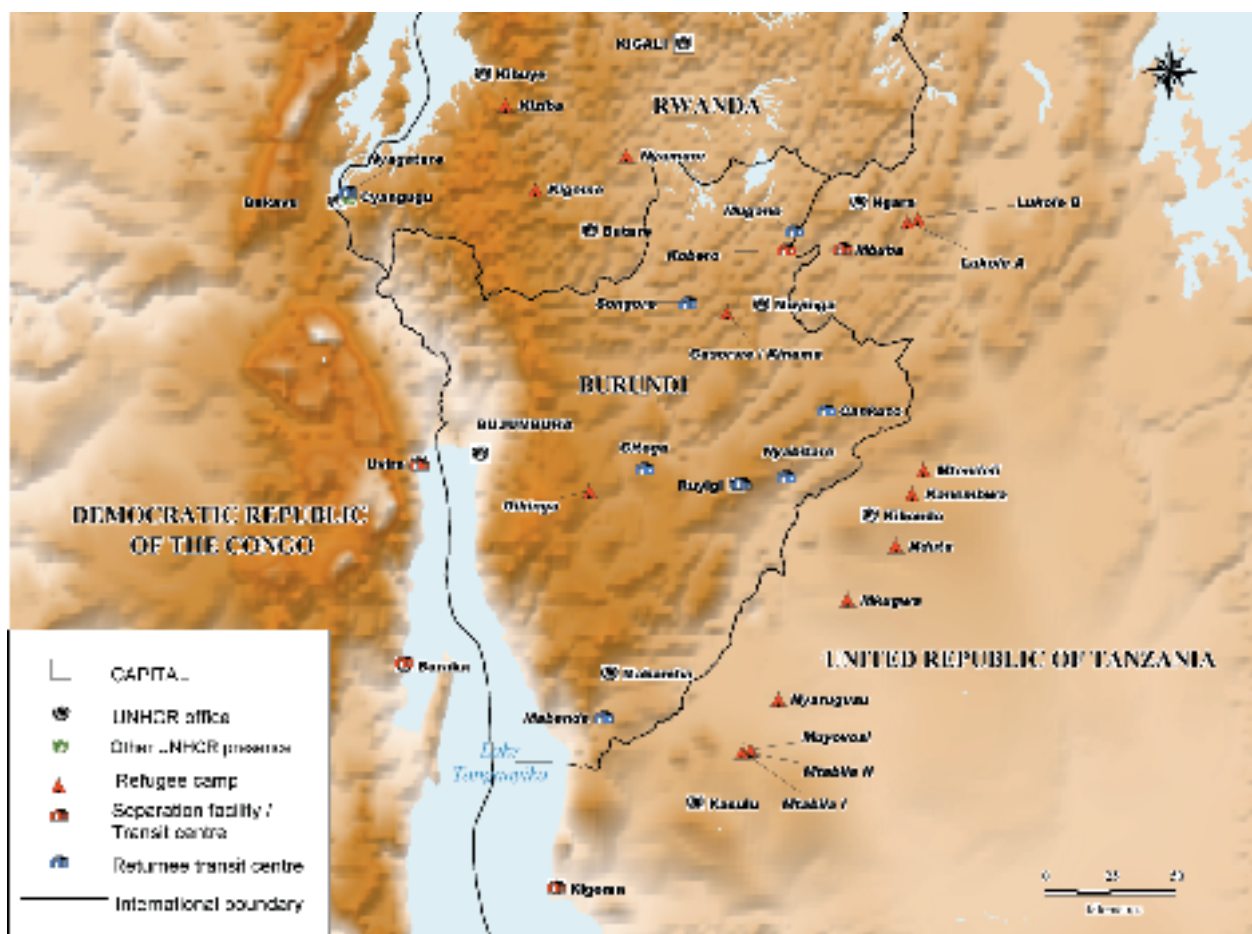


Burundi



Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives in Burundi were to ensure the voluntary character and the safety and dignity of the return of Burundian refugees, mainly from the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC); facilitate the reintegration of returnees into their communities of origin; continue to provide protection and basic assistance to DRC Congolese refugees until conditions in DRC favour their return; provide basic assistance for Rwandan asylum-seekers and determine their refugee status; and help to strengthen the national structures responsible for refugees and returnees pending the adoption of the draft national law on asylum.

Impact

- Of the roughly 68,000 Burundian refugees who repatriated in 2005, UNHCR facilitated the return of 67,000.
- UNHCR and its partners provided extensive reintegration assistance to all returnees, including targeted

assistance to those with special needs. Support for the Government in the provision of identity cards served to facilitate the participation of returnees in the electoral process.

- UNHCR and its partners provided international protection to some 20,400 DRC Congolese refugees, and some 19,900 asylum-seekers from the DRC and Rwanda. Basic material assistance was provided to some 32,300 refugees and asylum-seekers.
- The joint resettlement of 102 families, including 666 survivors of the 2004 Gatumba massacre, was pursued as a durable solution for this group and is expected to be completed by the end of 2006.
- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with WHO and UNICEF on support for national health infrastructure and schools. As part of the reintegration programme, UNHCR began to construct or rehabilitate 11 health centres designed to serve eight communes with a population of over 500,000, and some 250 classrooms, benefiting roughly 25,000 students.
- In August, the Governments of Burundi and Rwanda signed a tripartite agreement with UNHCR for the voluntary repatriation of 6,000 Burundians in Rwanda.

Working environment

The context

After a decade of civil war, democratic elections were held in Burundi from June to August 2005. The end of the transitional process was marked by the inauguration in late August 2005 of President Pierre Nkurunziza, leader of the former Hutu rebel movement CNDD-FDD (*Forces de Défense de la Démocratie – Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie*). President Nkurunziza has since formed a Government with balanced ethnic representation.

Insecurity was caused by continued fighting between the Government and the last remaining rebel group, the *Parti pour la Libération du Peuple Hutu – Front National de Libération* (FNL). Human rights violations remained a key concern. Overall, however, the security situation improved somewhat over the course of the year, giving UNHCR better access to some parts of the country. The reduction in the number of troops of the United Nations peacekeeping operation in Burundi (ONUB) by 40 per cent in December 2005, as requested by the Government, progressed smoothly, although the move was judged premature by many national and international observers. Since then, ONUB's revised mandate includes border patrols, including along Lake Tanganyika, and support to UNHCR's and WFP's humanitarian operations.

In 2005, almost 17,000 former rebels and combatants, including some 500 women and 3,000 child soldiers, were demobilized.

Constraints

The lingering threat of FNL activities in the eastern provinces of Bujumbura-rural, Cibitoke and Bubanza prevented UNHCR from facilitating most returns to these areas. Another constraint was the persistent drought towards the end of 2005, especially in the northern part of the country. The lack of food caused some 6,000 Burundians to move to Tanzania and a further 3,700 to

move to Rwanda. This cast a shadow on the reintegration of Burundians who had returned earlier in the year. Consequently, the flow of returnees from Tanzania to Burundi slowed down considerably (from 16,000 in August, down to 1,250 in December).

Those refugees who had fled the country in 1972, and who had been displaced several times since then, faced much greater reintegration problems upon return than those who fled Burundi from 1993 to 1996. For both groups, a primary concern was access to and/or recovery of land and property, but the so-called "1972 refugees" reported more difficulties.

In June, some 5,000 Rwandan asylum-seekers from Burundi were expelled after an agreement between the Governments of Burundi and Rwanda. Shortly after this incident, Rwandans started to re-enter Burundi, and at the end of 2005 the number of Rwandan asylum-seekers in Burundi was estimated at 8,700.

The political future of Burundi is closely tied to the overall situation in the Great Lakes region, especially the volatile security environment in eastern DRC. In November and December, UNHCR registered 800 new refugees from eastern DRC in refugee camps in Burundi.

Funding

UNHCR's operations in Burundi focused on two projects: 1) assistance and protection to refugees in Burundi as part of the Annual Programme; and 2) return and reintegration assistance to Burundian refugees launched as a Supplementary Appeal. The former was fully funded, but the latter experienced a significant funding shortfall towards the end of the year. As a result, the number of schools and health centres to be constructed had to be reduced from 49 to 44 and from 14 to 11 respectively. In addition, some unroofed houses were covered with plastic sheeting pending the resumption of construction activities in 2006. When alerted in October 2005 to the funding level of less than 48 per cent, donors responded generously and brought the final level to 71 per cent.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total in country	Of whom UNHCR assisted	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Returnees	From Tanzania	62,300	61,800	-	-
	From Rwanda	4,600	4,600	-	-
	From DRC	1,000	600	-	-
Refugees	DRC	20,400	18,000	53	67
IDPs		11,500	-	-	-
Asylum-seekers	DRC	11,200	5,700	-	-
	Rwanda	8,700	8,600	-	-



A family of Rwandan asylum-seekers sheltered at Songore transit centre. In 2005, thousands of asylum-seekers arrived in Burundi and received assistance from UNHCR. *UNHCR / C.-L. Grayson*

Achievements and impact

Protection and solutions

Generally, returnees faced the same socio-economic constraints as the local population. In most cases, returnees were not subject to discrimination or any threat to their personal safety. However, recovering land and property was a serious concern, especially for those returnees who had fled Burundi in 1972. Returnees benefited from a package of non-food items and a three-month food ration, provided by WFP, and were transported from the camps to their communities of origin by UNHCR. Those with special needs received particular attention.

In 2005, Burundi generously hosted over 40,000 refugees and asylum-seekers. Overall, the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers were respected, although there were instances of arrest and arbitrary detention. Recognized refugees from the age of 16 years onwards received a refugee identity card, guaranteeing their freedom of movement. There were some delays in the distribution of these cards during the reporting period. UNHCR protested at the highest levels when the Government of Burundi, in agreement with the Rwandan Government, forcibly repatriated some 5,000 Rwandan asylum-seekers in June 2005. It should be noted that the Office was in several cases denied access to detainees. As a result of UNHCR's interventions, the Government of Burundi agreed to allow refugee status determination for new arrivals after this incident.

Durable solutions for Congolese refugees included the resettlement of several people on protection and medical grounds, the processing of the group resettlement request of the survivors of the Gatumba massacre and a few requests for voluntary repatriation to the DRC.

Participatory assessments with different groups of concern marked the start of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming exercise in Burundi during the last quarter of 2005. The results will be used for the planning of activities in 2007 to better address the needs of these groups.

In the context of the High Commissioner's Five Commitments to Refugee Women, women were encouraged to participate in camp management, and in food and non-food item distribution committees. During 2005, the participation of women in most of these committees reached 50 per cent. All refugee women received sanitary and hygienic materials, and UNHCR assisted survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, ensuring that cases were referred and received specialized attention. Operational partners and UNHCR protection and community service staff continued to combat sexual and gender-based violence through awareness-raising.

Activities and assistance

Refugees

"Project Profile" software was used to register the refugee population sheltered in Gasorwe and Gihinga camps and to conduct a verification operation for urban refugees. Birth certificates were provided free of charge to refugee children.

Community services: All camp-based refugee women between 13 and 49 years of age received sanitary materials; and a total of 5,300 square metres of cloth was distributed. More than 10,000 people participated in community sensitization campaigns and more than 15,000 in recreational activities and sports events.

Domestic needs and household support: In the camps, basic non-food items were distributed to the refugees every six months, or more frequently if necessary.

Education: More than 2,100 refugee children attended school (1,500 in Gasorwe and 600 in Gihinga), while literacy courses were provided to 100 adults. Camp-based Congolese refugees were able to take the DRC's national exam at the *Ecole Congolaise de Bujumbura*. The success rate in the national exams was 72 per cent for primary schools.

Food: WFP provided food assistance to the refugees in the two camps and the transit centre in Kinama, Bujumbura, achieving the standard of 2,100 kilocalories per day. WFP also showed flexibility in covering the needs of the Rwandan asylum-seekers.

Health and nutrition: In the refugee camps, HIV/AIDS information and sensitization workshops were run, especially in Gasorwe, which participates in the Great Lakes Initiative for Africa (GLIA). Under the GLIA initiative, refugees, returnees and host communities stand to benefit from improved HIV prevention and AIDS treatment programmes.

Income generation: In Gasorwe camp, around 70 households benefited from micro-projects, including bakeries and woodwork. Most of the beneficiaries were women with special needs, such as heads of household and widows.

Sanitation: One latrine was available for every 13 people in both camps, while 28 people shared one shower in Gasorwe and 13 in Gihinga camp.

Shelter and infrastructures: Construction of shelters in Gasorwe and Gihinga camps was finalized in the last quarter of 2005. Additional infrastructure will be required for new arrivals. With the rehabilitation work undertaken in Gasorwe camp, living conditions improved considerably.

Water: The supply of water to refugees complied with UNHCR standard of 20 litres per person per day in both camps.

Returnees

Community services: UNHCR assisted unaccompanied minors and provided additional assistance for returnees with special needs.

Crop production: UNHCR and FAO jointly provided seeds and fertilizer for 45,000 returnee households.

Domestic needs and household support: Returnees received a package containing household and kitchen items, mosquito nets, as well as building and sanitary materials, in order to facilitate their reintegration.

Education: In areas of major return, 44 primary schools were constructed and dilapidated classrooms were rehabilitated. Roughly 25,000 pupils benefited from 250 additional classrooms.

Fisheries: A pilot project was launched on World Refugee Day in June 2005 with the aim of offering loans to associations formed voluntarily by the Lake Tanganyika fishing community. The project's success led UNHCR to provide 15 associations with fishing kits consisting of a motorized patrol boat and two connected outrigger fishing boats which drag a net between them; 448 families benefited from this project.

Food: Returnees received a three-month food ration from WFP. Returnees living in host families were sometimes obliged to share food with their hosts, which resulted on occasion in three-month rations being eaten within six weeks. Discussions with WFP to give returnees a six-month ration were still ongoing by the end of 2005.

Forestry: To replace the wood used for the construction of 23,000 houses, more than 1.5 million tree seedlings were grown and distributed to local communities and authorities.

Health and nutrition: Returnees were – in principle – granted three months of free health care. In practice, health centres did not always observe this regulation. UNHCR, in a joint effort with UNICEF, WHO and UNFPA, began to rehabilitate 11 health centres to support national health infrastructures. Five were completed in 2005.

Income generation: 15,000 returnees benefited from micro-projects such as bakeries, sewing shops and woodwork (see also Fisheries, above).

Legal assistance: Access to land and property recovery were among the major problems faced by returnees. Two local partners provided legal assistance and mediation services to solve land and property conflicts.

Operational support (to agencies): To ensure the effective management of the return and reintegration operation, UNHCR supported 20 implementing partners (nine international NGOs, nine national NGOs and two governmental counterparts), mainly in the form of office equipment, salaries, vehicles and training.

Shelter and infrastructure: Some 23,000 individual houses were constructed by returnees with UNHCR's assistance in the form of roofing materials, doors and windows. This benefited almost 115,000 returnees, including 11,500 IDPs. According to the results of a gap analysis carried out in October 2005, a further 17,000

returnee families were living in huts covered with plastic sheeting received from UNHCR upon their arrival.

Transport and logistics: Transport was provided for returnees from Tanzania, taking into account the requirements of those with special needs.

Water: In Ruyigi Province, two water tanks were installed in schools for the benefit of around 1,000 pupils. In order to provide clean water to health centres, 44 kilometres of water pipes were rehabilitated. In Cankuzo Province, a ten-kilometre water conveyance system was constructed for the benefit of 2,120 families (approximately 10,600 beneficiaries), and 40 water tanks were rehabilitated.

Organization and implementation

Management

The main office in the capital Bujumbura coordinated UNHCR's activities in collaboration with a sub-office in Ruyigi and two field offices in Makamba and Muyinga. UNHCR's activities were undertaken by 192 members of staff, including 36 internationals, 144 nationals and 12 international UNVs.

Working with others

UNHCR collaborated closely with other UN agencies and concluded Memoranda of Understanding with WHO and UNICEF with the aim of strengthening national health structures and providing returnees with free access to health care during the first three months after their arrival. Other UN partners included ONUB, UNDP and the World Bank, as well as UNFPA (in the fight against HIV/AIDS), FAO (for seeds and agricultural tools), and WFP (for food distribution).

Twenty-five NGOs and government partners cooperated with UNHCR in different sectors. Information was regularly shared with donors and the media.

Overall assessment

UNHCR provided international protection and humanitarian assistance to some 32,300 refugees and asylum-seekers in Burundi. A verification exercise allowed for the registration of the refugee population sheltered in Gasorwe and Gihinga camps. Progress was made on HIV/AIDS prevention through information and sensitization campaigns as part of the GLIA framework.

UNHCR also facilitated the return of 67,000 Burundian refugees and provided reintegration assistance to all returnees. Due to financial constraints, the number of schools and health centres due to be constructed as part of the reintegration programme had to be reduced and some of the construction work had to be postponed to 2006. Unroofed houses were covered with plastic sheeting as construction activities, including the supply of roofing materials, were also suspended for lack of funds. As a result of consultations with donors it was agreed that UNHCR should gradually hand over reintegration activities to other UN agencies and development organizations.

Offices

Bujumbura
Makamba
Muyinga
Ruyigi

Partners

Government agencies

Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique – Cartes Nationales d'Identité (CNI)
Police de l'Air, des Frontières et des Etrangers (PAFE)
Ministère de la solidarité nationale, des droits de la personne humaine et du genre – Commission nationale de réhabilitation des sinistrés (CNRS)

NGOs

Action contre la faim
African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
African Community Resource Centre
African Humanitarian Action
Association pour la Paix et le Développement
Association des femmes juristes
Austrian Relief Programme
Caritas
Centre pour l'autosuffisance et le développement intégré
Comunità Impegno Servizio Volontariato
Conseil pour l'éducation et le développement
International Catholic Migration Commission
International Medical Corps
International Rescue Committee
Jesuit Refugee Services
Ligue Iteka
Maison Shalom
Norwegian Refugee Council
Solidarités
Transcultural Psycho-social Organization
World Outreach Initiative
World Vision International

Others

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

Budget, income and expenditure (USD) Annual and supplementary programme budgets

	Final budget	Income from contributions ¹	Other funds available ²	Total funds available	Total expenditure
Annual programme	3,915,182	3,591,344	322,177	3,913,521	3,913,521
Supplementary programme ³	47,286,183	15,751,198	18,071,673	33,822,871	33,822,871
Total	51,201,365	19,342,542	18,393,850	37,736,392	37,736,392

¹ Includes income from contributions earmarked at the country level.

² Includes allocations by UNHCR from unearmarked or broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

³ The supplementary programme figures apply to the Supplementary Appeal for Repatriation and Reintegration of Burundian Refugees.

Note: The supplementary programme budget does not include a 7 per cent support cost that is recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR.

Financial Report (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' projects
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary programme budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,464,749	7,817,980	9,282,729	0
Community services	145,501	268,661	414,162	93,238
Crop production	0	254,953	254,953	0
Domestic needs and household support	185,657	721,680	907,337	26,397
Education	67,240	2,223,515	2,290,755	749,105
Food	7,277	680	7,957	14,796
Fisheries	0	200,234	200,234	0
Forestry	0	140,409	140,409	0
Health and nutrition	400,728	804,453	1,205,181	210,426
Income generation	0	205,787	205,787	26,484
Legal assistance	143,926	589,307	733,233	302,607
Operational support (to agencies)	121,787	1,936,289	2,058,076	312,319
Sanitation	0	6,803	6,803	16,991
Shelter and infrastructure	237,277	5,479,007	5,716,284	1,052,273
Transport and logistics	464	4,043,350	4,043,814	1,238,195
Water	15,525	55,915	71,440	3,713
Instalments to implementing partners	457,100	6,132,339	6,589,439	(4,046,544)
Sub-total operational activities	3,247,232	30,881,362	34,128,594	0
Programme support	666,289	2,941,509	3,607,798	0
Total expenditure	3,913,521	33,822,871	37,736,392	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(703,839)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	1,436,018	14,493,002	15,929,020	
Reporting received	(978,918)	(8,360,663)	(9,339,581)	
Balance	457,100	6,132,339	6,589,439	
Prior years' report				
Instalments with implementing partners				
Outstanding 1 January				4,335,450
Reporting received				(4,046,544)
Refunded to UNHCR				(357,323)
Adjustments				368,968
Balance				300,551