

# East and Horn of Africa

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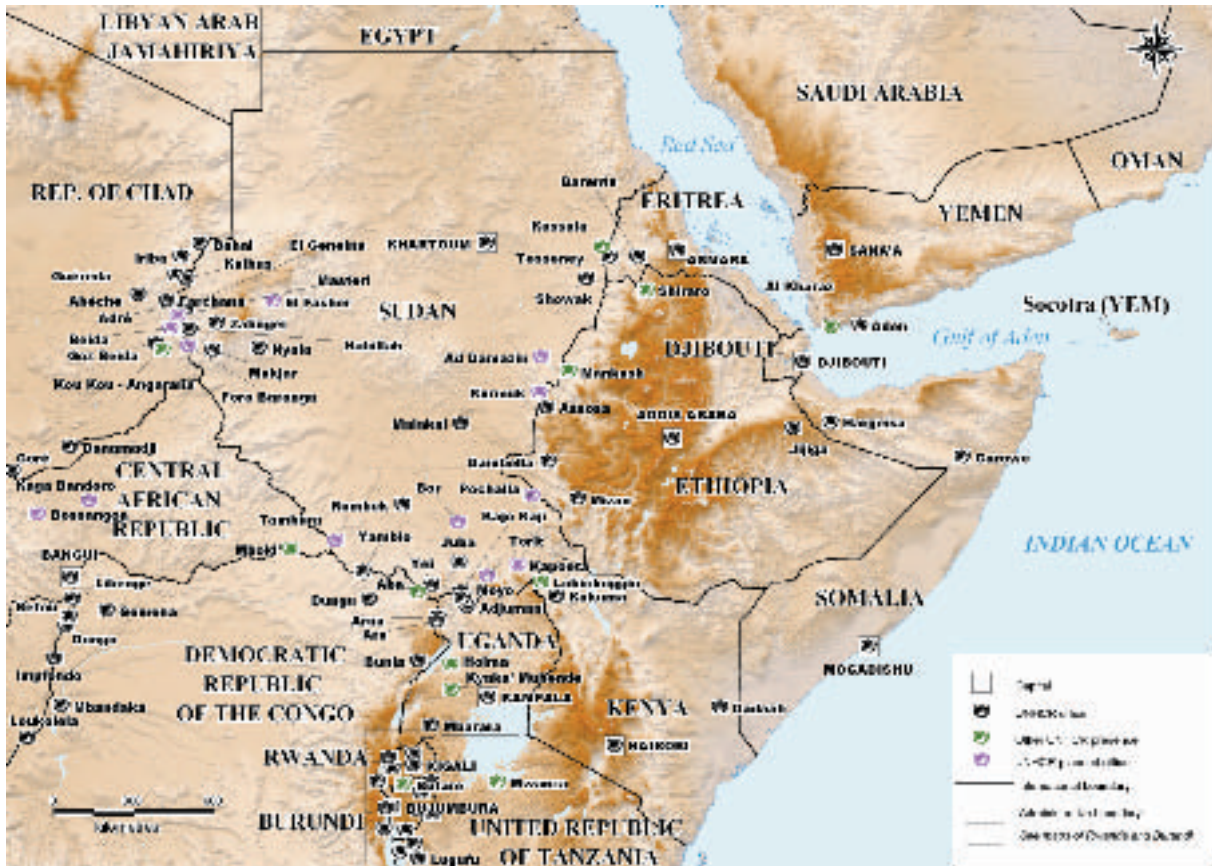
## Recent developments

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Durable solutions remain the region's fundamental overall objective both in terms of voluntary repatriation and reintegration, as well as in terms of local integration and self-sufficiency. In Ethiopia, the voluntary repatriation of Somalis to "Somaliland" was completed in June 2005, leading to the closure of seven Somali refugee camps. Today a residual group of some 10,000 refugees from south and central Somalia is being hosted in one camp. By mid-June 2005 over 4,000 refugees had returned from Djibouti to "Somaliland", and it is expected that another 4,000 refugees will have repatriated by the year's end. A small, but significant voluntary repatriation of Somalis to "Puntland" also took place.

Considerable efforts were made to enhance peace-building initiatives in the region. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) on 9 January 2005, as well as the adoption of a new Transitional Constitution in July 2005, have paved the way for the inauguration of a Government of National Unity and the commencement of a six-year interim period.

Djibouti  
Eritrea  
Ethiopia  
Kenya  
Somalia  
Sudan  
(see under Chad/Sudan situation)  
Uganda




Another notable development was the successful relocation in June 2005 of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government (TFG) from Nairobi to Somalia, despite differences within the TFG on the place of relocation and the deployment of forces to support it (see Somalia chapter for details). The existence of the TFG brings with it renewed hope for the voluntary repatriation of some 350,000 Somali refugees from Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Yemen, although it is likely that refugees will prefer to see the situation stabilize before deciding to repatriate in large numbers. In the meantime, a multi-pronged Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) for Somalia, initiated in August 2004, will benefit returnees, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other groups with specific needs in communities where returnees and IDPs live.

In July 2005, the African Union Peace and Security Council (AU/PSC) reaffirmed support for the deployment of Phase 1 of an Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Peace Support Mission in Somalia (IGASOM), which is expected to be taken over subsequently by the African Union. The AU/PSC also reiterated its request for

the UN Security Council to expedite an exemption of the arms embargo to allow for the IGASOM deployment.

The overall military situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea remained tense, with a build up of troops on both sides of the border. In Ethiopia, although the outcome of the general election in May 2005 fuelled continued political tension, the parties continued their endeavours to resolve the impasse.

The region continued to implement the most advanced of UNHCR's HIV/AIDS refugee intervention programmes in Africa. Over the years, many of the countries have implemented comprehensive HIV/AIDS interventions for refugees and surrounding host communities; this includes prevention of mother-to-child transmission and the provision of antiretroviral treatment. After many years of planning, the implementation of the Great Lakes Initiative on AIDS will begin in 2006; this includes Kenya. The planned repatriation to Sudan from surrounding countries contains a strong HIV/AIDS component that includes a related repatriation package as well as strong



Ethiopia: Convoy taking refugees back to "Somaliland" from Aisha camp. Only 15 metres of each side of the road have been cleared of landmines; the rest of this former frontline mountain area is still full of mines. *UNHCR / B. Heger*

coordination and communication mechanisms among agencies and governments. HIV surveillance has been undertaken among Sudanese refugees in Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia. Results to date show a lower than expected HIV prevalence with a high level of awareness.

While there has been considerable progress in the promotion and implementation of durable solutions in the region, the overall security environment remained a source of anxiety. The border demarcation dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea led to travel restrictions. Attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army in Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan resulted in outflows of Sudanese to Uganda. In 2004-2005, more than 18,000 Sudanese had sought asylum in Uganda and another 4,000 in Kenya. Insecurity in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continued to affect Uganda, leading to the massive outflow of some 20,000 Congolese into Uganda. The majority, however, eventually returned to DRC and a residual group of 8,000 was transferred to Kyaka II in south-west Uganda. Camp safety and security and related access issues are another area of

major concern in most of the operations, and this continues to affect the security of refugees and staff. Furthermore, despite the welcome move of the Somali Transitional Federal Government from Kenya to Somalia, the security situation in south and central Somalia has remained volatile. Another notable constraint was the unpredictability of funding for the programmes, posing serious challenges to ensuring effective programme delivery. Several important policy priority activities, such as environmental activities, or sustainable return activities, had to be deferred due to insufficient resources.

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## Strategic objectives

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One of UNHCR's main objectives at the regional level is to strengthen its partnerships with the African Union (AU), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and IGAD. In collaboration with IGAD and with other UN agencies,

UNHCR will continue to promote the implementation of the signed peace accords, which remain vital for the consolidation of peace and stability in both Sudan and Somalia, as well as in the implementation of the planned voluntary repatriations.

UNHCR's strategic objectives also include the improvement of the institution of asylum through national refugee legislation. In this respect, it should be noted that Ethiopia adopted its national refugee legislation in mid-2004 and Kenya and Uganda expect to adopt their national refugee legislations in 2005/2006. UNHCR intends to support the Governments of these three countries with the implementation of their national legislations, especially in establishing appropriate structures and developing capacity.

The promotion of voluntary repatriation will remain a priority for UNHCR and in 2006 it is expected that some 34,000 Sudanese will be assisted to return to their areas of origin (10,000 in Kenya, 14,000 in Ethiopia and 10,000 in Uganda). Likewise, some 10,000 Somalis will be assisted to return (5,000 in Djibouti and 5,000 in Kenya). UNHCR will also play an active role in facilitating resettlement initiatives and in this respect it is envisaged that over 5,500 individuals will be targeted in Kenya, Ethiopia and Djibouti. Other durable solution initiatives will be actively pursued, such as self-sufficiency, development assistance for refugees (DAR), and UNHCR's exit strategy will include camp rehabilitation and consolidation. Programmes in the region will ensure attention to policy priorities for refugee women, children and older people. In Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, multifunctional teams are expected to be established by the end of 2005 to ensure of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in 2006. In the same vein, UNHCR will implement global priority programmes in line with *Agenda for Protection* goals: gender equality and empowerment of women, education and combating HIV/AIDS. Improvements will be made in data collection, registration and the application of standards and indicators in all sectors. These efforts are expected to improve the quality of programmes through the reinforcement of results-based management. In Somalia and Uganda, UNHCR will also continue to work closely with other UN agencies on the formulation and implementation of return plans for internally displaced people.

## Operations

UNHCR's operations in **Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia** and **Uganda** are described in separate chapters. Operations in **Sudan** will be described in the Chad/Sudan chapters.

In **Djibouti**, UNHCR will focus on pursuing durable solutions for refugees through voluntary repatriation to "Somaliland", "Puntland" and Ethiopia. Resettlement of refugees will also be given priority. Other programme activities include performing individual refugee status verification for those refugees who opt not to return, and seeking appropriate durable solutions for them; consolidating all camp-based refugees and services into one camp at Ali Adde; addressing refugee protection issues and concerns according to international refugee protection principles; rehabilitating refugee-impacted areas; and strengthening the Government's capacity to coordinate refugee affairs. UNHCR will ensure that adequate assistance is delivered in accordance with UNHCR standards. This will include health and social services, along with a primary school in the camp. It is envisaged that with the camp consolidation, re-registration and profiling of the refugee population will be more feasible.

The lack of a logistics implementing partner continues to render repatriation operations time consuming for UNHCR staff. In addition, the lack of infrastructure, particularly education facilities and roads, in "Somaliland", along with Somali refugees' long-term dependence on international assistance in camps, discourage refugees from repatriation. Another notable constraint continues to be food pipeline and supply challenges. There has been a 50 per cent cut in food rations since March 2005.

The **Regional Support Hub (RSH)** in Nairobi provides support to 17 UNHCR operations in the East and Horn of Africa and in Central Africa and the Great Lakes. Its main objective is to coordinate the implementation of global policy priorities with all country operations under its purview. It brings together expertise in durable solutions, registration, refugee women and children, geographic information systems and public information. RSH



applies this expertise to specific objectives related to the enhancement of durable solutions, in particular resettlement, support for the implementation of peace processes, registration and documentation of refugees, prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence and advocacy. Another important area of support covers financial control, supply chain and field safety, where the RSH assists offices to improve their internal control mechanisms and comply with security standards. The staff welfare department also plays a key role in counselling staff. The RSH consists of 14 regional staff, two field service staff and two experts seconded from the International Catholic Migration Commission.

### The African Union Liaison Unit in Addis Ababa

The process of transforming the Organization of African Unity into the new African Union (AU) has been achieved, with a large number of the newly appointed staff at the AU Commission taking up their assignments in early 2005. However, progress is slow, due in part to the limited capacity of the Commission to implement the heavy work programme it has set for itself, coupled with the challenges of managing the numerous offers for support and partnership. With regard to

UNHCR's interaction with the AU, there is a need to complement the strong existing partnership by simultaneously strengthening relations with interdepartmental fora and with the Department of Peace and Security.

The appointment of a UNHCR NEPAD Programme Coordinator has significantly enhanced the Office's capacity to support NEPAD and the activities of the UN system Sub-Cluster on Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Recovery. The absence of a mechanism within which the AU/NEPAD can interact and provide leadership and guidance to UN agencies continues to slow down progress. UNHCR has established strong working relationships and developed joint work programmes with the AU, IGAD, AfDB, ECA and other UN agencies that should facilitate the realization of the broad NEPAD goals and the objectives of the sub-cluster.

The status of recovery and reconstruction in some 14 post-conflict countries will be assessed in partnership with the AU, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and NEPAD. Assessment reports will provide the basis for design and implementation of comprehensive and integrated programmes, including the reintegration and rehabilitation of displaced populations.

<b>Budget (USD)</b>			
<b>Country</b>	<b>Annual Programme Budget</b>	<b>Supplementary Programme Budget<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Total</b>
Regional Support Hub (Nairobi, Kenya)	5,083,850	0	<b>5,083,850</b>
Djibouti	3,326,894	0	<b>3,326,894</b>
Eritrea	9,212,440	0	<b>9,212,440</b>
Ethiopia	15,332,397	0	<b>15,332,397</b>
Kenya	29,984,562	0	<b>29,984,562</b>
Somalia	7,155,371	0	<b>7,155,371</b>
Sudan	12,860,950	185,000	<b>13,045,950</b>
Uganda	16,250,358	705,890	<b>16,956,248</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>99,206,821</b>	<b>890,890</b>	<b>100,097,711</b>

<sup>1</sup> The figures refer to the supplementary programme for the repatriation and reintegration of Congolese (DRC) refugees. The requirements for Darfur and South Sudan will be communicated at a later date.

Note: The Supplementary Programme Budget does not include a 7% support cost (USD 62,362) that is recovered from each contribution received to meet indirect costs in UNHCR (field and headquarters).