

Kenya

Main objectives

- Deliver protection and assistance services for asylum-seekers and refugees, maintaining minimum standards of emergency humanitarian assistance (or better).
- Actively promote the voluntary, safe, and dignified repatriation of refugees.
- Vigorously pursue all other feasible durable solutions.
- Foster partnership between UNHCR and other partners.
- Continue to prioritize ethical conduct by staff.



Planning figures		
Population	Jan 2005	Dec 2005
Somalia (refugees)	151,002	147,152
Sudan (refugees)	58,135	42,300
Ethiopia (refugees)	10,630	9,435
Other refugees	8,816	8,482
Asylum-seekers	3,750	3,750
Total	232,333	211,119

Total requirements: USD 32,817,321

Working environment

Recent developments

The Government of Kenya remains determined to engage fully in refugee management. The Refugee Bill, which requires the creation of national refugee legislation and a Department for Refugee Affairs within the Ministry of Home Affairs, should, in principle, be adopted by Parliament in the second half of 2004.

Since the beginning of 2004, severe drought has affected five out of eight Kenyan provinces and threatened more than 3.3 million people with the

possibility of starvation. The Government declared a national drought disaster, and appealed for 166,000 metric tonnes of international food aid for the period from August 2004 to January 2005. The worst affected districts included the two main refugee-hosting areas, Turkana and Garrissa, where economic conditions are already marginal. The drought will undoubtedly further limit the prospects for local integration of refugees.

Persistent peace efforts by the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD), driven by the Government of Kenya, the Government of Sudan, and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), have led to the parties involved translating the 26 May 2004 Naivasha Agreements into a comprehensive plan of action for sustainable peace and development in Southern Sudan. This plan of action, expected to be finalized by the time of publication, could allow the commencement, in 2005, of organized voluntary return for more than 60,000 Sudanese refugees living in Kenya.

For Somalia, the inauguration of the national parliament in August 2004 by all parties to the Mbagathi peace process raised cautious hopes that a Government could be formed before the end of 2004. This would give the international community a chance to press for greater stability in Somalia, allowing for eventual large-scale voluntary repatriation.

With respect to refugees from the Great Lakes Region, negotiations on a Tripartite Agreement on voluntary repatriation of Rwandan refugees are under way, to be finalized, it is hoped, within the last quarter of 2004.



Among the Sudanese refugees, there are many unaccompanied minors like this one, "The Lost Girls of Sudan" in Kakuma camp. *UNHCR / W. Stone*

In 2003, over 4,000 refugees were resettled from Kenya. Although this figure outstrips the total for the Horn of Africa, Central and Southern Africa combined, it has had only a modest effect on the total refugee population of some 232,300 in need of durable solutions. It would unfortunately be unrealistic to expect greater numbers to be resettled from Kenya in 2005.

Sudanese refugees

UNHCR anticipates a considerable number of spontaneous returns to southern Sudan immediately after signature of the Comprehensive Plan of Action for Sudan. Measures to assist spontaneous returnees will therefore be put in place. However, it is only upon conclusion of a preparatory period, which will be six months after the signing of the comprehensive plan, that UNHCR will facilitate and promote large-scale organized voluntary

repatriation. UNHCR hopes that the international efforts in resolving the current Darfur crisis will not have adverse effects on the repatriation. A large number of refugees may choose to wait until basic infrastructure and services, in particular education, are established before returning home. In addition, there will be individuals who cannot return owing to well founded fear of persecution. These people will require continued protection and humanitarian assistance in 2005.

Somali refugees

Political volatility in 'Somaliland' may take some time to diminish sufficiently for safe return to be possible, even though the inauguration of a new 275-member Somali Federal Assembly in August 2004 raised hopes that a Government could be in place before the end of 2004. UNHCR does not expect that organized repatriation will be possible in 2005. It will therefore continue to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to the 151,000 Somali refugees in Kenya, pursue individual repatriation to safe areas within Somalia, and vigorously engage all stakeholders in the Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA) process. The CPA was launched in 2004 by a core group of countries, and UNHCR as a forum for dialogue. The aim is to identify ways to create peace in Somalia whilst strengthening the protection capacity of neighbouring countries hosting Somali refugees. In addition, UNHCR has established a country Joint Working Group in Kenya, comprising the Government, UNHCR and embassies of the core countries. The Joint Working Group met in 2004 to chart out the issues to be addressed on a sustained basis. A consultant was recruited to prepare a CPA working paper for the meeting of the Steering Committee in Geneva in September 2004. The paper will include the inputs of the Joint Working Group. An expert will also be engaged to work on the questions of integration and sustained livelihood in the context of the CPA.

Other Nationalities - Burundians, Congolese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Rwandans, Tanzanians, and Ugandans

Prospects for Rwandan repatriation are improving, as the legal foundations for the repatriation operation are finalized. It is expected that in 2005,

Burundians will continue to return individually and not necessarily under organized repatriation. For refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda, prospects for return are more remote. UNHCR will facilitate individual repatriation to areas of sustainable peace. However, alternative solutions will be found for a number of refugees who will not be able to return to their country of origin even if peace returns.

Constraints

Limited resources were a continuous constraint on effective implementation of the programme, making it impossible for UNHCR to meet and maintain minimum emergency standards of humanitarian assistance. However, some progress was made towards meeting standards in the sectors of food, sanitation and education.

In addition, the operation will face the continuing constraints of the challenging environmental, socio-economic and security conditions, and the encampment policy.

Strategy

Protection and solutions

UNHCR will concentrate on measures to promote and facilitate the involvement of the Government in protecting refugees and assuming an effective role in refugee management. These will include implementation of the new Refugee Act, training and other forms of capacity building, establishing a Government-based system for the reception of asylum-seekers, their registration, refugee status determination, issuance of documentation, and the prevention of arbitrary arrest and detention of refugees.

To further enhance the efficiency of camp population management, UNHCR will undertake a broad profiling of the Somali refugees in Dadaab. If developments in Somalia favour repatriation, UNHCR will adapt the Kenya operations accordingly.

As repatriation gains ground, it will be necessary to rethink the approach to resettlement. However, for 2005, resettlement will remain an important tool and maximum use will be made of the quotas available.

UNHCR will be required to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to the refugee population and focus its search for durable solutions by way of repatriation and resettlement in a third country.

Assistance

The repatriation of Sudanese refugees is expected to be under way in 2005. This exercise will involve increased preparatory and associated activities, but will not replace continued humanitarian assistance programmes for the remaining population. Capacity building of the Government of Kenya will be vital to facilitate the Government's greater managerial responsibility for refugees.

In 2005, planning will focus solely on core mandate responsibilities, plus life-saving and sustaining services within the expected budget, but there will be an inevitable increase in human and financial resource needs. UNHCR will continue to strive to improve physical safety and counter sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), as well as to raise the status of refugee women in their communities. The provision of adequate quantities of household fuel will minimize the need for female refugees to leave the camp to search for firewood (involving the risk of rape or sexual assault). However, these measures will remain contingent on measures to address other priority issues: malnutrition, high maternal mortality, inadequate shelter and domestic needs (especially for household fuel) and sanitary materials for females of child-bearing age.

UNHCR will consolidate the progress achieved in 2003 and 2004 in addressing weaknesses in the levels of assistance across the sectors of health care, shelter, nutrition, water and sanitation, primary education and other community services. Shelter and sanitation in particular will continue to receive special attention. Supplementary and complimentary feeding assistance will be

provided under the programme to curb the increase in nutritional deficiencies.

To combat the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the refugee population will benefit from a multi-sectoral approach to raising awareness, including reproductive health programmes, voluntary counselling and testing centres, and information materials. More than 20 condom dispensers will be in use throughout the camps.

Sustainable environmental management and rehabilitation will continue in the refugee hosting locations. UNHCR will support initiatives to rehabilitate the environment in areas vacated by Sudanese returnees.

Desired impact

UNHCR will aim to achieve the minimum standards of emergency humanitarian assistance in at least core protection and life-saving and life-sustaining activities. At the same time added attention will be given to UNHCR's global policy priorities on protection, women and children, HIV/AIDS, and the environment. The assistance provided will also enable refugees to develop coping mechanisms. The Office's capacity-building activities will enhance the Government's delivery of protection, allowing UNHCR to focus on the core mandated protection tasks. Support to the host communities will aim to foster harmony with refugees, thus minimizing protection problems and security-related incidents. All this is set in a context of possible repatriation, primarily of the Sudanese refugees; however, assistance programmes will be pursued for those still in need of asylum in Kenya.

Organization and implementation

Management structure

For the purposes of effective implementation and monitoring, the Kenya operation maintains sub-offices in Dadaab and Kakuma. The Branch Office in Nairobi provides coordination and liaises

with the donor community, implementing and operational partners, and civil society. It is also responsible for implementation of the urban refugee programme. The operations will be managed by 28 international staff, 101 national staff, seven JPOs, and six UNVs.

Coordination

UNHCR will continue to work closely with the Government of Kenya, handing over a part of its responsibilities to the Government when the Refugee Bill is adopted.

The Kenya Office will coordinate and plan its implementation of the Sudanese repatriation operation with the Regional Technical Support Services, other UNHCR offices assisting Sudanese refugees, Operation Lifeline Sudan, as well as the Sudanese authorities in both Khartoum and Southern Sudan.

The Office will collaborate with embassies of resettlement countries. It will also negotiate where possible with authorities of countries of origin to facilitate the return of refugees in exile in Kenya.

Offices
Nairobi
Dadaab
Kakuma
Lokichoggio
Partners
Government agencies
National Refugee Secretariat
NGOs
African Refugee Training and Employment Services
CARE International
Don Bosco
Handicap International
International Rescue Committee
Lutheran World Federation
National Council of Churches of Kenya
Others
<i>Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i>
IOM
WFP

Kenya

Budget (USD)	
Activities and services	Annual Programme
Protection, monitoring and coordination	5,684,315
Community services	1,078,225
Crop production	10,000
Domestic needs	2,220,880
Education	1,993,046
Forestry	763,000
Health	2,960,312
Income generation	256,103
Legal assistance	1,675,741
Livestock	12,000
Operational support (to agencies)	3,262,589
Sanitation	963,871
Shelter/other infrastructure	2,054,352
Transport/logistics	1,197,961
Water (non-agricultural)	843,559
Total operations	24,975,954
Programme support ¹	7,841,367
Total	32,817,321

¹Includes the costs for the regional support hub in Nairobi (USD 3,972,389).