

RWANDA



Operational highlights

- UNHCR protected and assisted almost 53,200 refugees in four camps. The majority of the refugees hailed from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi. The Office also aided 1,900 urban refugees and 350 asylum-seekers.
- Some 8,600 Rwandan refugees, arriving mainly from the DRC, were helped to return to their communities of origin.

Working environment

The political and security situation in Rwanda was calm in 2008, despite concerns in neighbouring countries. Diplomatic relations were restored between Rwanda and the DRC, enabling the creation of a Tripartite Technical Working Group of officials from both governments and UNHCR. The group met for the first time in Kigali in July 2008, raising hopes that a future tripartite agreement would lead to the organized voluntary repatriation of DRC refugees.

Persons of concern					
Type of population	Origin	Total	Of whom assisted by UNHCR	Per cent female	Per cent under 18
Refugees	DRC	52,400	52,400	55	59
	Burundi	2,600	2,600	50	57
	Various	30	30	31	28
Asylum-seekers	DRC	240	-	-	-
	Various	110	-	-	-
Returnees (refugees)	From DRC	8,100	8,100	-	-
	From Uganda	3,200	10	-	-
	Various	500	500	-	-
Total		67,180	63,640		



Congolese refugee women at Nyagatare Transit Center, near Cyangugu, southwestern Rwanda

UNHCR / C. ALFREY

Despite efforts by the Government of Rwanda to conclude genocide trials, *Gacaca*, or community-justice, courts are still operational in some districts. Their jurisdictions have been enlarged to ease the pressure on the civil courts.

As a member of the East African Community, Rwanda attracted international investment. It also began a series of development projects to try and increase employment. So far, however, the standard of living in the country has not improved.

Generally, Rwandans remained tolerant of asylum-seekers.

Achievements and impact

Main objectives

UNHCR's main objectives for 2008 were to ensure comprehensive protection and assistance for all camp-based and urban refugees in Rwanda; promote the voluntary repatriation of Rwandans in exile; and pursue resettlement for refugees with specific protection and health concerns. Furthermore, UNHCR sought to build the Government's capacity to clear refugee status determination (RSD) backlogs. The Office also sought to strengthen its partners' ability to provide international protection and manage programmes.

Protection and solutions

In 2008, UNHCR and its partners conducted a verification and profiling exercise which included a survey of the intentions of camp residents. Although 85 per cent of those polled expressed a willingness to return home, repatriation largely depended on the situation in countries of origin, as

well as geo-political developments in the Great Lakes Region. Local integration in Rwanda is not an option due to the shortage of land. Resettlement remained the main durable solution of choice for refugees who met the required criteria.

Discussions on the issuance of refugee identity cards by the Immigration Department moved slowly. It is hoped that immigration officials will sign a sub-agreement with UNHCR and commence processing in the near future.

Activities and assistance

Refugees

Community services: In 2008, the office focused on activities aimed at reducing sexual and gender-based violence, identifying and registering unaccompanied and separated children, and increasing the monitoring of child protection. It also trained implementing partners in Voluntary HIV Counselling and Testing and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission in all camps.

Domestic needs and household support: Essential non-food items and firewood were distributed in all camps and transit centres. Nonetheless, the quantity distributed remained inadequate.

Education: All refugee children of primary-school age were enrolled in schools within the camps. The refugees' success rates in national exams were commendable, at 67 per cent for primary and 86 per cent for lower secondary students.

In 2008, UNHCR covered tuition fees for 89 students in public and private secondary schools, while some 80 new DAFI scholarships were awarded.

Forestry: UNHCR conducted an environmental audit within the three camps, namely, Kiziba, Nyabiheke, Gihembe and the surrounding communities. In order to fully meet the nutritional requirements of the Kiziba and Nyabiheke camps, permaculture activities were also supported in order to increase the production of vegetables.

Health and nutrition: Camp-based refugee patients consulted camp health facilities some 90,550 times, and only 2.5 per cent required referrals to district or central hospitals for additional care. In Gihembe and Kiziba, all refugees in need of anti-retroviral treatment received it. However, refugees in Nyabiheke and Kigeme camps, as well as urban refugees in Kigali, had access only to basic health care and not to HIV care or treatment.

Legal assistance: The camp-based refugee database was regularly updated through the continuous sharing of information by UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda. However, due to a lack of computers, software and skilled staff, the *Commission Nationale des Réfugiés* (CNR) did not regularly update the database.

Legal support included training, sensitization and counselling on different protection topics such as child protection, sexual and gender-based violence as well as claims for asylum.

Operational support (to other agencies): Financial support was provided to UNHCR's partners, and training sessions were organized to build their capacity as well as that of government staff.

Sanitation: In 2008, some 312 latrines were constructed, and 140 old latrines were either repaired or decommissioned. Some 70 new showers were provided and 200 rehabilitated. More than 7 km of drainage ditches and 125 garbage pits were constructed or rehabilitated. Regular cleaning and maintenance were organized by refugee committees.

Shelter and infrastructure: UNHCR helped construct 1,260 new shelters and repaired some 3,000 houses to accommodate refugees transferred from the transit centres and improve living conditions in the camps. More than 300 kitchens were fitted with improved cooking stoves, while 35 communal kitchens were also constructed. UNHCR maintained more than 10 km of road and repaired bridges to ease vehicular access to the camps.

Transport and logistics: Due to budget constraints, new trucks could not be bought and costly repairs could not be made to old ones. Nonetheless, there was no disruption in service delivery or transfers of refugees.

Water: UNHCR continued to provide 15 litres of water per refugee per day in all camps. However, the provision of energy and water in the camps was not up to standards due to problems with the national gas- and water-supply systems.

Returnees

Domestic needs and household support: Some 8,600 returnees received domestic items.

Shelter and infrastructure: To cope with the transfer of refugees to Nyabiheke, the infrastructure of the camp was rehabilitated.

Sanitation: The camps were cleaned and maintained on a daily basis.

Health and nutrition: Returnees were medically screened on arrival at the transit centres and received basic health assistance. Those with serious medical conditions were referred to hospitals.

Transport and logistics: UNHCR provided transport for returning Rwandan refugees. Trucks were used to transfer returnee packages.

Water: Water was regularly provided to returnees and three water points were constructed.

○ Constraints

Military operations and political uncertainty in the eastern parts of the DRC and in Burundi, were the main constraints hampering the voluntary repatriation of refugees. An influx of Congolese continued throughout the year. The scarcity of land in Rwanda meant that local integration and self-reliance were not viable options for refugees in the country.

| Financial information |

The Rwandan operation was fully funded in 2008. However, in order to provide basic assistance, improve living conditions in the camps and distribute packages to returnees, UNHCR developed partnerships and raised funds from local donors, other UN agencies and NGOs.

Since 2003, UNHCR's annual programme expenditures have been relatively stable. In 2005, expenditure was higher due to a supplementary budget for the return and reintegration of refugees from Burundi, a programme established in 2004 and again mainstreamed to the annual programme in 2006. In 2007, the expenditure increased because of more activities for returning Rwandans.

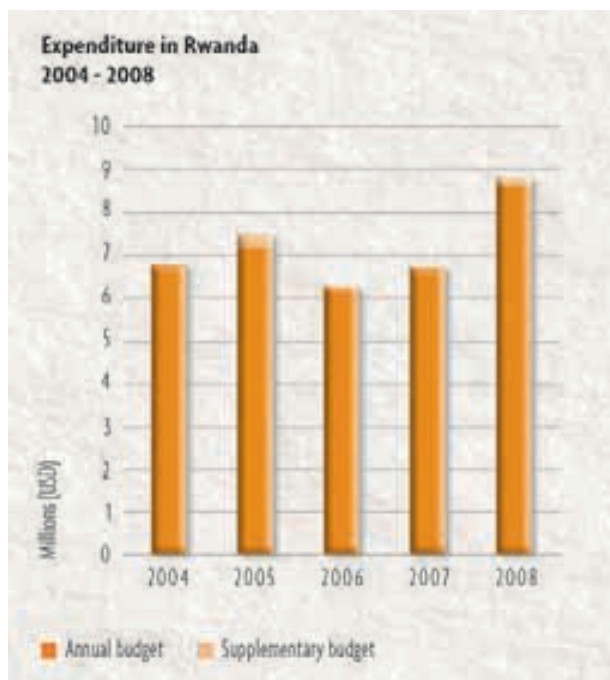
| Organization and implementation |

In 2008, the UNHCR operation was run by a team of 51 staff, including 34 locals (26 general staff, two National Officers, four UNVs and two consultants) and 17 internationals (seven professional, two ICMC consultants and eight UNVs).

| Working with others |

UNHCR worked in close cooperation with national authorities as well as implementing and operational partners. The Government and UNHCR co-chaired the Disaster Management Task Force on behalf of the UN Country Team.

In the context of the One UN initiative, UNHCR was engaged in four core areas: social protection, health, HIV and AIDS, and education.



Overall assessment

UNHCR benefited from its partnerships with other UN Agencies and NGOs, especially in the sectors where the partners had more expertise and resources, such as education, health/nutrition, disaster management, environmental management and food storage.

Several attempts to resume voluntary repatriation to Burundi and to close Kigeme Camp were unsuccessful. However, additional land has been allocated in Nyabiheke, and the Burundian refugees that are unwilling to return will be transferred there.

The results of the verification exercise indicated that the majority of Congolese refugees (85 per cent) were ready to repatriate voluntarily should security conditions permit. Ongoing tripartite discussions between Rwanda, the DRC and UNHCR may pave the way for repatriation in the near future.

Partners

Implementing partners

Government agencies: Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance, Community Development and Social Affairs; National Council for Refugees (CNR)

NGOs: African Humanitarian Action, American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Relief Services, Forum for African Women Educationists

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit*

Operational partners

NGOs: American Refugee Committee, Jesuit Relief Service

Others: *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ)/BMZ*

Budget, income and expenditure in Rwanda (USD)

	Final budget	Income from contributions	Other funds available	Total funds available ¹	Total expenditure
Annual budget	8,856,308	2,477,789	6,153,515	8,631,305	8,608,207
Water and sanitation SB	100,000	0	95,493	95,493	95,492
Anaemia control and prevention SB	41,000	0	40,000	40,000	40,000
Avian and human influenza preparedness SB	35,000	0	35,000	35,000	35,000
Supplementary budget subtotal	176,000	0	170,492	170,492	170,492
Total	9,032,308	2,477,789	6,324,008	8,801,797	8,778,699

Note: Supplementary programmes do not include seven per cent support costs that are recovered from contributions to meet indirect costs for UNHCR. Income from contributions includes contributions earmarked at the country level. Other funds available include transfers from unearmarked and broadly earmarked contributions, opening balance and adjustments.

¹ Total funds available include currency adjustments.

Financial report for UNHCR's operations in Rwanda (USD)

Expenditure breakdown	Current year's projects			Prior years' project
	Annual programme budget	Supplementary programme budget	Total	Annual and supplementary budgets
Protection, monitoring and coordination	1,490,250	0	1,490,250	0
Community services	28,418	0	28,418	5,570
Domestic needs and household support	597,221	0	597,221	9,867
Education	493,317	0	493,317	210,003
Forestry	23,830	0	23,830	0
Health and nutrition	868,227	40,000	908,227	273,419
Legal assistance	315,281	0	315,281	588
Operational support (to agencies)	486,729	0	486,729	91,138
Sanitation	186,275	88,327	274,602	1,900
Shelter and infrastructure	318,719	0	318,719	6,559
Transport and logistics	1,097,765	0	1,097,765	32,450
Water	216,502	42,165	258,667	9,243
Instalments to implementing partners	1,328,227	0	1,328,227	(640,737)
Subtotal operational activities	7,450,761	170,492	7,621,253	0
Programme support	1,157,446	0	1,157,446	0
Total expenditure	8,608,207	170,492	8,778,699	0
Cancellation on prior years' expenditure				(16,377)
Instalments with implementing partners				
Payments made	3,593,790	0	3,593,790	
Reporting received	(2,265,563)	0	(2,265,563)	
Balance	1,328,227	0	1,328,227	
Outstanding 1st January				694,495
Reporting received				(640,737)
Refunded to UNHCR				(1,234)
Currency adjustment				0
Outstanding 31st December				52,524