

CHAPTER XX

ASSISTANCE TO REFUGEES

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) continued in 1968 to provide protection and assistance for refugees. Significant progress was made, particularly in the fields of international protection, rural settlement of refugees and co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations

family, especially the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organiza-

tion (UNESCO) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

ACTIVITIES IN 1968

INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION

Protection to refugees was provided by UNHCR, in particular by ensuring that they were granted asylum. Following the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly on 14 December 1967 of the Declaration on Territorial Asylum,¹ the questions of asylum and non-expulsion, vital for refugees, were discussed by the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme, the International Conference on Human Rights held in Teheran, Iran, the Conference on the Freedom of Movement held in Bangalore, India, and by other conferences held in connexion with the International Human Rights Year, 1968. These conferences also promoted accessions to inter-governmental legal instruments for the protection of refugees.

These accessions and various national legislation were indicative of the increasing attention given by the Governments of countries where new problems of refugees had arisen, particularly in Africa, to the legal aspects of the work for refugees.

Finland became a party to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, bringing the total number of parties to 54. Australia, Denmark, Ireland and Italy withdrew reservations to certain articles applying mainly to travel and the right to work.

An additional 19 States acceded to the 1967 Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees, which extended the personal scope of the 1951 Convention (by removing the dateline of 1 January 1961) and made the Convention applicable to new groups of refugees. This brought the number of accessions to 28.²

The Refugee Commission of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), at a meeting held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17 to 23 June 1968, approved the text of a draft convention governing the specific aspects of the problem of refugees in Africa. This draft Convention was designed to complement the 1951 Convention on the Status of Refugees.

The United Kingdom acceded to the European Agreement of 1959 on the Abolition of Visas for Refugees, bringing the number of accessions to 12. Further accessions were also made to other agreements of interest to refugees, such as the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, and the 1956 Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance.

Legislation for the benefit of refugees was adopted in a number of countries in respect of such matters as right of residence and right to work (Austria), issue of travel documents (Botswana), issue of identity documents (Central African Republic), naturalization (Greece), the practice of refugees as chemists (Federal Republic of Germany) and the determination of refugee status (Senegal).

The Office of the High Commissioner continued to promote settlement of indemnification claims in the Federal Republic of Germany. The Office distributed to certain categories of victims of the national socialist régime, who did not qualify under existing legislation, more than \$1 million put at its disposal for this purpose by the Federal Republic of Germany.

MATERIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMMES

The UNHCR Programme for 1968 for which the financial target was \$4,631,600, benefited some 36,000 refugees, most of whom were being settled on the land in Africa. In addition, some 28,000 refugees benefited from legal assistance and/or supplementary aid. As in the past, supporting contributions in cash, kind and services were made available in the countries where programmes were being implemented, and substantial bilateral aid was also given by other Governments. Trust funds earmarked for essential assistance outside the UNHCR Programme were committed by UNHCR in the amount

¹ See Y.U.N., 1967, pp. 760-61, text of resolution 2312(XXII) containing the Declaration.

² The States which had acceded were: Algeria, Argentina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Gambia, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Holy See, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Senegal, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, United States, Yugoslavia.

of \$927,000. The sum of \$321,770 was allocated from the emergency fund during the year.

ASSISTANCE TO AFRICAN REFUGEES

RWANDESE REFUGEES

The total number of Rwandese refugees at the end of 1968 was approximately 160,000, some 52,000 of whom were in Burundi, 24,000 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 70,000 in Uganda and 13,500 in the United Republic of Tanzania.

In Burundi, pending the implementation of a UNDP (Special Fund component) integrated rural development project, an interim rural development project was successfully carried out in four settlements—Muremba, Kigamba, Kayongozi and Mugeru—in a co-operative effort of the Government of Burundi, UNDP, UNHCR, the Association International de développement rural outre mer (AIDR) and the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (OXFAM). In September 1968, the Government of Burundi submitted a request to UNDP for an integrated development project—to benefit refugees and the local population—to cover the Mosso-Cankuzo area where the four refugee settlements were located. About 18,000 Rwandese refugees in Burundi who were not in settlements succeeded in integrating themselves among the local rural population.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the integration and zonal development project, administered by ILO, in the Kivu Province, reached its final stages when it concentrated mainly on co-operative and community development. The development of co-operatives was to continue for two years.

In seven Rwandese settlements in Uganda, the refugees reached subsistence level and received only limited assistance. In the United Republic of Tanzania, further assistance was given in 1968 towards the economic viability of the Mwesi settlement.

SUDANESE REFUGEES

At the end of 1968, the number of Sudanese refugees was estimated at 152,000, of whom 68,000 were in the Central African Republic,

66,000 in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and 68,500 in Uganda.

In the Central African Republic, the transfer of the refugees from the borders to the settlement area in M'boki was completed. As a result of agricultural progress, the refugees were able to grow a considerable part of their food requirements. Progress was also made with regard to the infrastructure: roads and bridges were constructed, water supplies improved, and health and educational facilities set up.

The settlement plan for Sudanese refugees in the north-east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo was delayed by events, and implementation was deferred to 1969. In view of new arrivals of refugees in Uganda between November 1967 and April 1968, the size of the Nakapiripirit Settlement was increased. At the end of 1968, an allocation from the emergency fund was made to meet the urgent needs of the newcomers for clothing, blankets and household goods and to finance their transfer to the settlement area.

REFUGEES FROM DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

There were an estimated 67,000 Congolese refugees at the end of 1968: some 20,000 in Burundi, 5,000 in the Central African Republic, 7,300 in the Sudan, 34,200 in Uganda and 600 in the United Republic of Tanzania. Most of a group of approximately 600 Congolese refugees in the Chipungu area of Zambia returned voluntarily to their country in 1968.

The number of Congolese refugees in Burundi fluctuated in direct relation to events in the neighbouring Kivu Province of the Congo, and no assistance towards settlement was allocated to this group by UNHCR in the period under consideration. During 1968, 725 Congolese refugees were assisted by the High Commissioner's Office to return voluntarily to their country of origin.

The spontaneous repatriation of 9,000 Congolese refugees reduced the number in the Central African Republic to 5,000, located in the M'Bomou region. This remaining group wished to settle in the Central African Republic.

In the Sudan, an emergency fund allocation

was made to assist a group of some 2,500 newly arrived Congolese refugees. A land settlement project was planned for those who did not wish to be repatriated.

The Congolese refugees previously living in Kyaka in Uganda were transferred during 1968 to the existing Congolese-Sudanese settlement at Agaga-Acolpii. In the settlement of Congolese and Malawian refugees at Pangale in the United Republic of Tanzania, improvements were made in agriculture, water supplies, health, community services and education.

REFUGEES FROM PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES

REFUGEES FROM PORTUGUESE GUINEA

Refugees from Portuguese Guinea in the Casamance region of Senegal numbered approximately 57,000 at the end of 1968. The collective projects intended to facilitate the integration of the refugees into the Senegalese community were nearly completed. Improvements in health services, education and community development were made, including the construction of seven primary schools. Assistance was also given on an individual basis to refugees in urban areas.

ANGOLAN REFUGEES

At the end of 1968, there was a total of some 361,000 Angolan refugees, of whom about 350,000 were in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, 7,900 in Zambia and a new group of 3,500 in Botswana. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, assistance was given by UNHCR to new arrivals, and to certain other groups still in need. In Zambia, the number of Angolan refugees rose to 7,900, including 1,700 who arrived in 1968. Allocations from the emergency fund were made to meet the basic needs of the new arrivals, for whom a new settlement was to be established. A group of some 3,500 Angolan refugees entered Botswana in 1968 and were to be resettled with the help of another emergency fund allocation.

OTHER AFRICAN REFUGEES

The number of refugees from Mozambique in the United Republic of Tanzania rose by

about 6,000 during the year. The new arrivals went to the three existing settlements. Progress was made in agricultural projects at these and at a fourth settlement of 1,350 Mozambiquan refugees, and additional educational facilities were made available.

Emergency assistance continued for the group of some 30,000 refugees from Ethiopia in the Sudan, pending the completion of resettlement plans. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, plans were considered for a solution to the problems of a group of refugees from Zambia belonging to the Lumpa sect. In addition, there were individual refugees of various nationalities, many of whom lived in urban areas. Some of these continued to benefit from the United Nations Educational and Training Programme, others were to be aided by the Bureau for the Placement and Education of Refugees, established in Addis Ababa during 1968 under the auspices of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

EUROPEAN REFUGEES

The Office of the High Commissioner continued its primary task of international protection for European refugees, whose numbers were greater in 1968 than in the two previous years. Funds were allocated, under the UNHCR 1968 programme, for the local settlement or resettlement of needy refugees who could not benefit from other sources of help. Meanwhile, responsibility for European refugees was increasingly taken over by local authorities and voluntary agencies.

The Office maintained its efforts to promote emigration opportunities in co-operation with the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration (ICSM); in consequence of the response of immigration countries, many refugees emigrated in 1968 without financial contribution from UNHCR. Excellent progress was made in the resettlement of handicapped refugees.

During 1988, UNHCR strengthened its representation in Latin America, and projects for handicapped and aged refugees of European origin and for assistance towards local settlement and immigration were carried out there.

OTHER GROUPS OF REFUGEES

In India, Sikkim and Bhutan there were some 55,000 Tibetan refugees for whom the Government of India and the Central Relief Committee of India continued to provide considerable assistance.

Funds raised by national committees during the European Refugee Campaign of 1966 continued to be used to assist an estimated 24,000 refugees. In addition, there were some special groups, in particular about 2,500 aged, infirm and destitute refugees, who faced acute hardship. In 1968, UNHCR contributed towards accommodation for the aged among them, in the settlements in Mysore State, South India. Funds were also made available towards the financing of a medical programme in North India.

The 7,700 Tibetan refugees still in Nepal continued to receive assistance from UNHCR, the Nepal Red Cross Society and the local authorities. All housing was completed in the organized settlements, which became increasingly self-supporting through assistance given under the UNHCR programmes, in particular for vocational training or establishment in small businesses.

In Macao, where the number of Chinese refugees remained at approximately 74,000, the implementation of projects delayed by earlier events was resumed; two vocational training centres, a home for refugee women and girls and an extension to a school were completed.

The Chinese refugees in Hong Kong also continued to receive aid from the local authorities.

The aid given in 1967 to a group of refugees of Arab origin from Zanzibar, who had sought asylum in the Trucial State of Dubai, was extended in 1968 to groups of those refugees in other countries of the region, particularly in Qatar.

EDUCATION

The High Commissioner's Office continued to promote the education and training of refugees, particularly in Africa. Special trust funds in the amount of \$292,000 were allocated for this purpose during 1968.

DECISIONS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

At its mid-1968 session, the Economic and Social Council considered the annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, covering the period from 1 April 1967 to 31 March 1968. On 29 July 1968, the Council unanimously adopted a resolution (1345(XLV)), taking note with satisfaction of the report prepared by the High Commissioner for transmission to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session later in 1968.

DECISIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Later in the year, the General Assembly, at its twenty-third session, referred the report of the High Commissioner to its Third (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) Committee. On 19 November 1968, the Third Committee approved by acclamation the text of a draft resolution concerning the report, and on 6 December, the General Assembly adopted the text as its resolution 2399(XXIII).

By the preamble to this resolution, the Assembly: (a) took note of the progress achieved in the field of international protection of refugees who were the High Commissioner's concern and in the search for permanent solutions to their problems through voluntary repatriation, integration in countries of asylum, or resettlement in other countries; (b) recognized the positive effects of the High Commissioner's work on economic and social conditions of the refugees in the countries concerned; (c) commended the encouraging results achieved in the field of inter-agency co-operation with other members of the United Nations system; (d) noted there would be an increased programme to cover additional needs of refugees; (e) noted with appreciation the sizable increase in contributions from certain countries and also expressed concern at the difficulties still facing the High Commissioner in financing his programme.

By the operative paragraphs of the resolution, the Assembly: (1) requested the High Commissioner to continue to provide international

protection and assistance to refugees who were his concern, while giving special attention to new groups of refugees, in particular in Africa; (2) urged member States of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies to continue to lend their support to the High Commissioner by facilitating voluntary repatriation, local integration, or resettlement of refugees who were his concern, improving the legal status of refugees in their territory, inter alia, by acceding to the international instruments relating to refugees and by treating new refugee situations in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on Territorial Asylum and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, providing the High Commissioner with the necessary financial means for the accomplishment of his task and by drawing the attention of the governing bodies of other organs in the United Nations system to the need of supporting the High Commissioner in his efforts to ensure that the requirements of refugees were taken into full account. (For text of resolution see DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES below.)

The Assembly's resolution was sponsored in the Third Committee by: Austria, Burundi, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Iran, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands,

Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia and Yugoslavia.

On 15 November, the General Assembly, on the proposal of the Secretary-General, re-elected by acclamation Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for a further term of five years beginning 1 January 1969.

In other action pertaining to refugees, the General Assembly adopted a resolution (2397 (XXIII)), on the United Nations Trust Fund for South Africa, by which it decided to revise the purposes of the Fund to provide, inter alia, legal assistance to persons persecuted under the legislation of South Africa and relief and education to such persons and their dependents. The General Assembly also adopted a resolution (2426(XXIII)) dealing with the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and a resolution (2431 (XXIII)) by which it noted with concern that voluntary contributions in 1968 to the United Nations Educational and Training Programme for Southern Africa had been inadequate. (See pp. 125, 733-34 and 736-37.)

GOVERNMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS PAID, PLEDGED OR CONDITIONALLY PLEDGED
TOWARDS THE FINANCING OF THE UNHCR PROGRAMME FOR 1968

(As at 28 February 1969, in U.S. dollars)

Government	Amount	Government	Amount	Government	Amount
Abu Dhabi (State of)	6,269	Federal Republic of		Luxembourg	3,000
Algeria	7,000	Germany	325,000	Madagascar	2,877
Australia	150,000	Finland	40,000	Malawi	360
Austria	24,000	France	389,242	Malaysia	1,000
Belgium	180,000	Gabon	1,020	Mauritania	612
Botswana	500	Gambia	240	Morocco	9,960
Brazil	10,000	Ghana	3,000	Nepal	2,000
Cameroon	408	Greece	13,000	Netherlands	146,945
Canada	324,070	Holy See	2,500	New Zealand	22,400
Central African Republic	1,800	Iceland	2,807	Niger	510
China	7,500	India	2,000	Nigeria	5,000
Colombia	1,000	Iran	5,000	Norway	208,237
Congo, Democratic		Ireland	7,500	Philippines	1,250
Republic of	1,000	Israel	7,500	Portugal	4,000
Cyprus	240	Italy	3,000	San Marino	1,600
Dahomey	500	Ivory Coast	3,060	Saudi Arabia	8,000
Denmark	205,333	Japan	20,000	Sudan	2,872
Dominican Republic	1,000	Kenya	1,000	Sweden	300,000
Dubai	2,075	Libya	3,000	Switzerland	152,778

Government	Amount	Government	Amount	Government	Amount
Togo	1,633	United Kingdom	287,977	Venezuela	4,000
Tunisia	2,500	United Republic of		Yugoslavia	10,000
Turkey	5,000	Tanzania	3,500	Zambia	2,000
Uganda	5,000	United States	600,000		
				Total	3,546,575

DOCUMENTARY REFERENCES

DECISIONS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL—45TH SESSION
Plenary Meeting 1554.

ANNUAL REPORT OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

E/4555. Annual report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

RESOLUTION 1345(xLv), as proposed by Council President and orally amended by Iran, adopted by Council on 29 July 1968, meeting 1554.

The Economic and Social Council

Takes note with satisfaction of the report prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for transmission to the General Assembly at its twenty-third session.

DECISIONS OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—23RD SESSION
Third Committee, meetings 1611-1613.
Plenary Meeting 1735.

A/7203. Report of Economic and Social Council to General Assembly, Chapter XIII, Section A.

A/7211 and Corr.2 and Add.1. Report of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, including report on 19th session of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme, 21 October-1 November 1968.

A/C.3/L.1622. Austria, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Iran, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Sudan, Tunisia, Yugoslavia: draft resolution.

A/C.3/L.162:/Rev.1. Austria, Colombia, Ecuador, Finland, France, Iran, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Senegal, Sudan, Tunisia, Yugoslavia: revised draft resolution, co-sponsored orally by Burundi, and amended orally by United Republic of Tanzania, adopted by acclamation by Third Committee on 19 November 1968, meeting 1613.

A/7369. Report of Third Committee.

RESOLUTION 2399 (xxiii), as proposed by Third Committee, A/7369, adopted unanimously by Assembly on 6 December 1968, meeting 1735.

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees and having heard his statement,

Taking note of the progress achieved in the field of international protection of refugees who are the High Commissioner's concern and in the search for permanent solutions of their problems through voluntary repatriation, integration in countries of asylum or resettlement in other countries,

Recognizing the positive effects of the High Commissioner's work on economic and social conditions of the refugees in the countries concerned,

Commending the encouraging results achieved in the field of inter-agency co-operation with the support of the Governments concerned and the other members of the United Nations system and noting with appreciation the untiring activities of the non-governmental organizations working on behalf of refugees.

Noting that the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme has approved an increased programme to cover additional needs of refugees, particularly in Africa,

Noting with appreciation the sizable increase in contributions from certain countries, and also the increase in the number of contributing countries,

Expressing concern, however, about the difficulties still facing the High Commissioner in financing his programme,

1. Requests the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to continue to provide international protection and assistance to refugees who are his concern, while giving special attention to new groups of refugees, particularly in Africa, in conformity with the relevant General Assembly resolutions and the directives of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme;

2. Urges States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies to continue to lend their support to the High Commissioner's humanitarian task by:

(a) Facilitating the voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement of refugees who are the High Commissioner's concern;

(b) Improving the legal status of refugees residing in their territory, *inter alia*, by acceding to the international instruments relating to refugees and by treating new refugee situations in accordance with the principles and spirit of the Declaration on Territorial Asylum and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(c) Providing the High Commissioner with the necessary means of accomplishing the task incumbent upon him and, in particular, by enabling him to reach the financial targets established with the approval of the Executive Committee;

(d) Drawing the attention of the governing bodies

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of other organs in the United Nations system to the need to support the High Commissioner in his efforts to ensure that the requirements of refugees, including education and training, are taken into full account.

ELECTION OF UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—23RD SESSION
Plenary Meeting 1720.

A/7317. Election of High Commissioner. Note by Secretary-General.

A/7218. Resolutions adopted by General Assembly during its 23rd session, 24 September-21 December 1968, p. xv.

CONTRIBUTION PLEDGES

GENERAL ASSEMBLY—23RD SESSION
Ad Hoc Committee of General Assembly for Announce-

ment of Voluntary Contributions to Programme of UNHCR, meeting 1, 6 December 1968.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

A/AC.96/405. List of documents issued at 19th session of Executive Committee of High Commissioner's Programme.

A/AC.96/390 and Corr.1. Report on UNHCR current operations in 1967.

A/AC.96/407. Report on UNHCR current operations in 1968.

HCR Bulletin. Quarterly record of activities. Published by UNHCR, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland. No. 1 (January-March 1968) ; No. 2 (April-June 1968) ; No. 3 (July-September 1968) ; No. 4 (October-December 1968).

Final Act of International Conference on Human Rights, Teheran, Iran, 22 April-13 May 1968 (A/CONF.32/41), Resolution XIII. U.N.P. Sales No.: E/68.XIV.2.