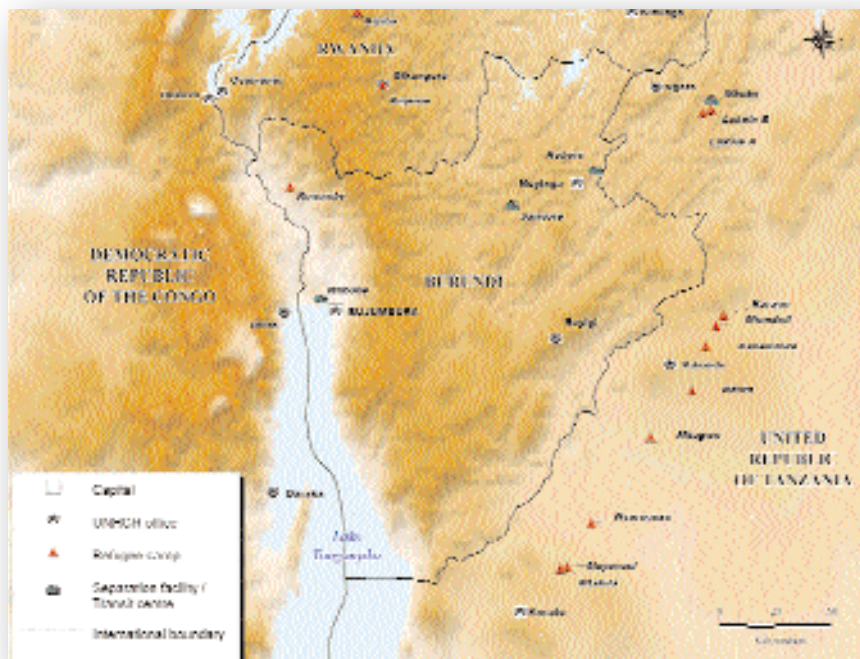


# Burundi in short

## Main Objectives

- Facilitate the voluntary repatriation of Burundi refugees in neighbouring countries, subject to minimum security conditions, and provide initial reintegration assistance to returnees.
- Protect and assist refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda and elsewhere, and identify lasting solutions, including voluntary repatriation and resettlement.
- Assist vulnerable groups and certain categories of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in provinces receiving large numbers of returnees.



## WORKING ENVIRONMENT

### Recent Developments

As a result of improvements in the security situation at the beginning of the year, the UN partially lifted country-wide security restrictions in Burundi. This allowed humanitarian agencies renewed access to the north and north-east of the country. Notwithstanding these positive developments, and the signature of the Arusha Peace Agreement in August 2000, hostilities continued and even escalated in many parts of the country. Despite appeals by the former South African President Nelson Mandela, who has been a mediator in the conflict, no cease-fire has yet been agreed upon by the warring parties. Renewed fighting in the south-eastern provinces, and an escalation of violence in some north-eastern provinces, forced large numbers of people to seek refuge in the United Republic of Tanzania. At

### PLANNING FIGURES

Population	Jan. 2001	Dec. 2001
Congolese (DRC) Refugees <sup>1</sup>	26,000	35,000
Rwandan Refugees	1,900	1,500
Urban Refugees <sup>2</sup>	700	1,100
Burundi Returnees <sup>3</sup>	265,000	340,000
Assisted IDPs	25,000	60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>318,600</b>	<b>437,600</b>

<sup>1</sup> In addition to 6,000 refugees in camps, the Government of Burundi estimates that there are 20,000 refugees from the DRC in other locations. Their status will be verified and the figures revised accordingly.

<sup>2</sup> Includes 500 Congolese (DRC) urban refugees assisted by UNHCR.

<sup>3</sup> Total number since 1996. An estimated 75,000 are expected to return in 2001.

### TOTAL REQUIREMENTS • USD 10,311,424

the time of writing, UNHCR's presence was limited to Bujumbura, Ruyigi and Muyinga provinces. In addition, subject to security provisions, activities were being carried out in the provinces of Cankuzo, Cibitoke, Kayanza, Kirundo and Ngozi.





Although the organised repatriation of refugees from neighbouring countries has not resumed, discussions on the subject are paving the way for the establishment of a Tripartite Commission comprising the Governments of the United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi, and UNHCR. A repatriation plan (covering various possible scenarios) has been drawn up and preparations made for the return of refugees once suitable conditions have been established. In addition, UN agencies in Burundi have jointly prepared an integrated plan for the reception of returnees.

Despite efforts to bring to an end the conflict, fighting in the DRC continued unabated, leading to new arrivals of Congolese refugees in Burundi. At the end of September 2000, UNHCR had registered over 3,000 new refugees, mainly from the DRC, with smaller numbers from Rwanda and Somalia.

## Constraints

Continuing violence and instability constituted the main constraint to the effective implementation of UNHCR's programme in Burundi. The monitoring of the conditions of the returnees once they are back in their homes is often difficult or impossible because of insecurity. The safety of humanitarian staff working in the field is a permanent source of concern to the Office. In 2000, insufficient funding and repeated budget cuts further limited UNHCR's activities and made long-term planning difficult.

## STRATEGY

### Protection and Solutions

Given the current situation in Burundi, refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania are reluctant to return. It is hoped, however, that overall circumstances in Burundi will improve and



that, by the middle of 2001, the implementation of the peace agreement will have created conditions conducive to the facilitation or promotion of voluntary repatriation. UNHCR has prepared a plan for the voluntary repatriation of up to 75,000 refugees in 2001. The plan also includes the provision of humanitarian assistance for around 25,000 IDPs in major areas of return in Burundi.

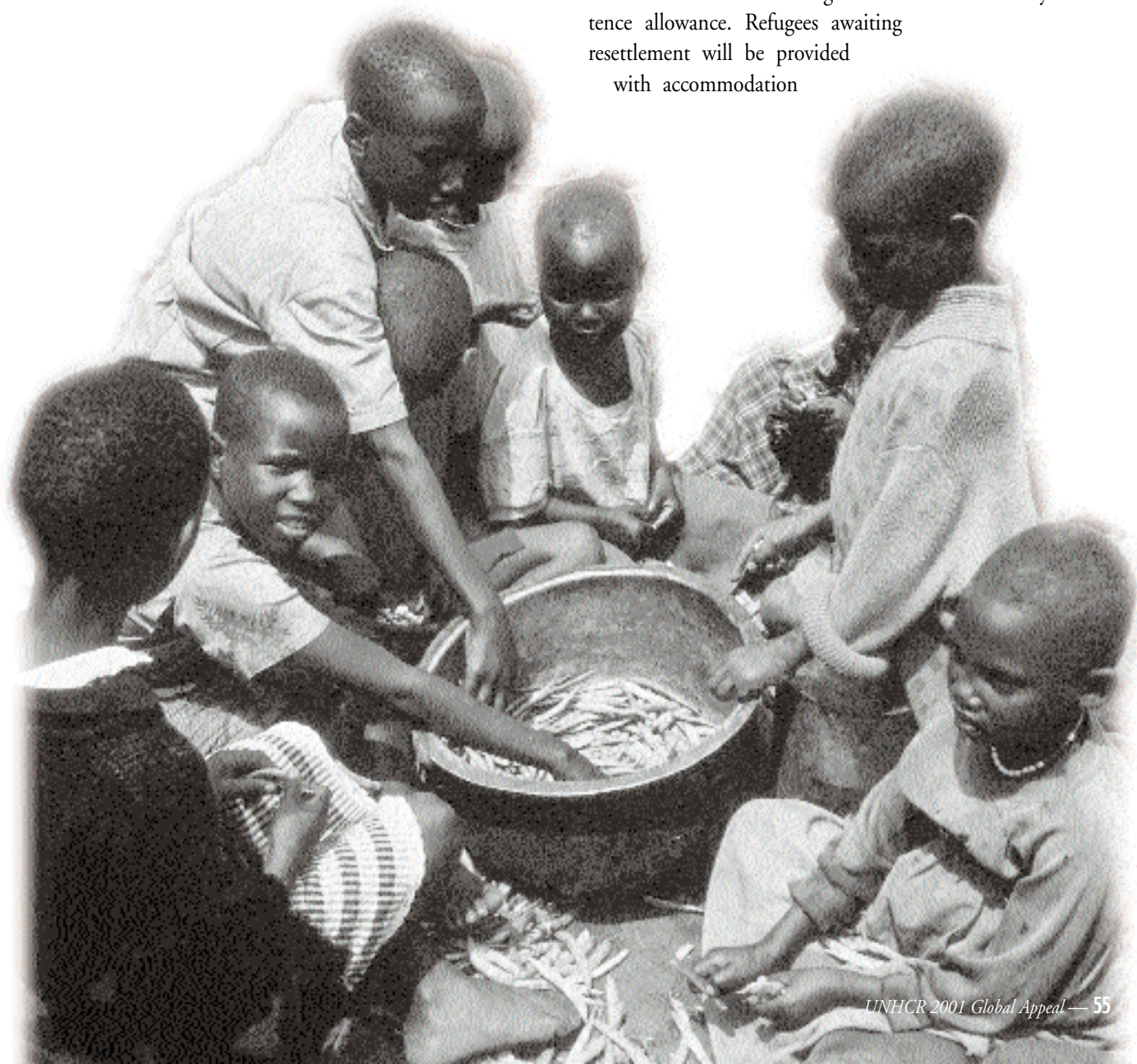
During 2001, UNHCR will continue to promote the protection of refugees in Burundi and ensure their well-being by giving them basic humanitarian assistance until more lasting solutions can be found. Whenever the security situation allows, the voluntary repatriation of refugees to the DRC will be facilitated. Other solutions, like resettlement, will also be explored.

UNHCR intends to promote peaceful co-existence and reconciliation through peace education programmes and public awareness campaigns. These include a project on Women for Peace and Development, which involves a series of meetings and seminars for women from various provinces, in which they will exchange ideas on peace building and explain how they view their role in the consolidation of peace in Burundi.

## Assistance

A comprehensive plan for the repatriation and reintegration of refugees, returnees and IDPs was recently developed jointly by UN agencies. The aim is to assist Burundi in the critical transition from civil war to stability, reconstruction and development. UNHCR's role will be to facilitate voluntary repatriation from countries of asylum, and support various activities to rebuild the country's social infrastructure. As much of the existing infrastructure in Burundi has been damaged, UNHCR will assist in the rehabilitation of schools, water systems and health facilities, and provide building materials for the construction of houses. UNHCR will also distribute seeds and agricultural tools, and initiate Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) to encourage self-reliance. Vulnerable returnees will receive special assistance, mainly in the form of household kits. UNHCR will aim to secure the full participation of beneficiaries in all projects.

Refugees in Burundi will continue to receive basic humanitarian assistance and services, including relief items, monthly food rations, medical care, educational assistance for school children and funding for income-generation projects on a case-by-case basis. Vulnerable urban refugees will receive a monthly subsistence allowance. Refugees awaiting resettlement will be provided with accommodation



while the authorities process their exit visas. The needs of refugee women and children, and the need to protect the environment, will be given priority in all UNHCR projects.

## Desired Impact

UNHCR's assistance for returnees will contribute to their smooth and durable reintegration and peaceful co-existence in their communities. Through UNHCR's efforts, refugees in Burundi should continue to enjoy asylum and have their basic needs met until such a time as voluntary repatriation or other durable solutions become possible.

## ORGANISATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

### Management

In 2001, UNHCR's programme in Burundi will be administered by a total of 93 staff (10 international and 83 national) and five United Nations Volunteers. To be able to monitor the situation and ensure that repatriation takes place in conditions of safety and dignity, UNHCR intends to establish a broader presence in the country. This will depend on an overall improvement of the security situation, as several locations are presently off limits to UN workers. Should security conditions permit, a new office will be opened in Makamba.

#### OFFICES

<b>Bujumbura</b>
Makamba (to be opened in 2001)
Muyinga
Ruyigi

### Co-ordination

UNHCR plans to work with seven government and ten NGO partners (eight international and two national NGOs). Close co-operation will continue with FAO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank. The Contact Group, which includes UN agencies, NGOs and donors, will hold weekly meetings to ensure co-ordination of humanitarian activities in Burundi. In addition, several sub-committees (with NGO representation) have been put in place to deal with technical issues at the sectoral level. The Security Management Team also meets once a week to discuss and co-ordinate all issues related to security in Burundi.

## PARTNERS

### Government Agencies

<i>Ministère de l'intérieur et de la sécurité publique</i>
<i>Ministère à la réinsertion et à la réinstallation des déplacés et des rapatriés</i>
<i>Ministère de la santé publique</i>
<i>Ministère de la justice et garde des sceaux</i>
<i>Ministère de la réforme institutionnelle et des droits de l'homme.</i>
<i>Ministère de l'action sociale et de la promotion de la femme</i>
<i>Police de l'air, des frontières et des étrangers</i>

### NGOs

Action Aid Burundi
Austrian Relief Programme
Association des Femmes
Centre des Femmes pour la Paix
Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
INTERSOS
International Rescue Committee
OXFAM (Quebec)
Stichting Rwanda Onderwijs 2000
World Vision/Ministère du Réveil en Afrique

## BUDGET (USD)

Activities and Services	Annual Programme
Protection, Monitoring and Co-ordination	1,582,265
Community Services	453,989
Crop Production	250,000
Domestic Needs/Household Support	1,088,591
Education	306,649
Food	50,000
Forestry	100,000
Health/Nutrition	621,077
Income Generation	307,979
Legal Assistance	520,745
Operational Support (to Agencies)	1,118,072
Sanitation	200,000
Shelter/Other Infrastructure	800,000
Transport/Logistics	1,643,298
Water (non-agricultural)	40,000
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>9,082,665</b>
Programme Support	1,228,759
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,311,424</b>