



Relief workers and local officials gradually transferred refugees from public buildings into large communal shelters while awaiting construction of a new refugee camp 25 miles (40 km) from the border. The new camp remained unready and unoccupied by year's end.

The influx included about 1,000 soldiers who had allegedly participated in their country's failed coup attempt, prompting local Congolese officials to express alarm at the security threat posed by the soldiers. UNHCR and UN peacekeeping troops already stationed in Congo-Kinshasa transferred 2,500 soldiers and their family members to a separate site late in the year.

Several thousand refugees spontaneously repatriated to Central African Republic in the final weeks of the year, according to unconfirmed reports. An estimated 20,000 refugees remained in Congo-Kinshasa at the end of 2001.

Refugees from Burundi An estimated 20,000 Burundian refugees were in Congo-Kinshasa at the end of 2001, but their exact number and condition were impossible to ascertain. Most lived on their own in eastern Congo and sought to remain inconspicuous for their own protection. Virtually all were ethnic Hutu.

Most Burundian refugees were believed to live near the town of Uvira in South Kivu Province. Others lived in towns such as Mbuji-Mayi in East Kasai Province, Goma in North Kivu Province, Lubumbashi in Katanga Province, and Bukavu in South Kivu Province. UNHCR provided humanitarian assistance to about 1,000 Burundians.

Refugees from Uganda An estimated 10,000 Ugandan refugees remained in northeast Congo-Kinshasa, largely beyond the reach of humanitarian programs. UNHCR was able to deliver small amounts of aid to about 1,000 refugees in early 2001 for the first time in three years.

Some Ugandan refugees had fled their country during the 1980s, while others had fled more recently, crossing the border periodically to escape armed Ugandan guerrillas operating on both sides of the border. Significant numbers of Ugandan refugees are believed to have spontaneously repatriated during the year as security conditions improved in western Uganda.

Asylum Seekers from Rwanda More than 1 million Rwandan refugees—virtually all of them ethnic Hutu—fled to Congo-Kinshasa in 1994. The overwhelming majority have repatriated since 1996, including some 15,000 who returned to Rwanda with help from UNHCR during 2001. Aid workers in Congo-Kinshasa reunited 450 unaccompanied refugee children with their families in Rwanda during the year.

About 2,000 Rwandan refugees continued to receive regular UNHCR assistance, primarily in the city of Mbuji-Mayi in East Kasai Province, as well as three other urban areas. UNHCR renovated four schools and four health centers used

by refugees and local residents. The agency also repaired local roads and distributed seeds and farm equipment.

Tens of thousands of Rwandans, however, lived in inaccessible areas, and their refugee status remained uncertain. UNHCR and Congolese government officials were unable to conduct official interviews to determine which individuals had legitimate asylum claims, and which were disqualified from refugee status because of participation in Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

The U.S. Committee for Refugees therefore lists an estimated 30,000 Rwandans in the country as people of undetermined status living in "refugee-like" conditions. UNHCR acknowledged in 1999 that uncertainty over many Rwandans' background made the agency's interaction with them politically "delicate." ■

Côte d'Ivoire

Côte d'Ivoire hosted more than 100,000 refugees at the end of 2001, including about 100,000 from Liberia, some 2,000 from Sierra Leone, and at least 1,000 urban refugees from more than two dozen other countries.

Several thousand Liberian refugees repatriated during the year, while 10,000 or more new Liberian refugees arrived in Côte d'Ivoire.

At least 10,000 residents of Côte d'Ivoire—and perhaps far more—fled political and ethnic violence in their home areas, becoming internally displaced during the year. It was unclear how many remained displaced at year's end.

Refugees from Liberia Liberian refugees fled to Côte d'Ivoire in the early 1990s, escaping civil war in their own country. Their numbers in Côte d'Ivoire peaked at about 300,000 in the mid-1990s. Nearly 100,000 refugees formally repatriated to Liberia during 1996-2000 after the civil war ended, but persistent poor security in Liberia pushed about 15,000 new refugees into Côte d'Ivoire during 1999-2000. At the start of 2001, approximately 90,000 Liberian refugees were living in Côte d'Ivoire.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) originally expected 10,000 Liberians to depart Côte d'Ivoire and return home during 2001, but only 2,000 formally repatriated. Renewed violence in Liberia forced UNHCR to suspend its repatriation program and shift its limited funds to humanitarian assistance for thousands of new Liberian refugees arriving in Côte d'Ivoire.

Some 7,000 new refugees settled in Nicla camp in western Côte d'Ivoire, doubling the camp's size. However, refugees who were a different ethnicity than the camp's predominantly ethnic Krahn population chose to live elsewhere in Côte d'Ivoire, without assistance.

New arrivals at Nicla camp received food, construction materials, cooking supplies, blankets, sleeping mats, and land for farming. Funding problems, however, initially

slowed food deliveries, according to Refugees International.

Only refugees at Nicla camp received aid. Most Liberian refugees who have lived in Côte d'Ivoire for nearly ten years resided in 200 villages spread along Côte d'Ivoire's border with Liberia, about 300 miles (500 km) from Abidjan, the capital.

Disagreements continued to surface among aid workers about whether long-term Liberian refugees were able to support themselves without assistance. Food distribution to long-term refugees at Nicla camp ceased at the start of 2001, but resumed when assessments by the government, UNHCR, and the World Food Program (WFP) found that "refugees were in urgent need of food assistance."

UNHCR observed in mid-2001 that "there has been little improvement in the level of self-sufficiency" of Liberian refugees. Some aid agencies warned that relatively little farmland was available to the refugee population, hindering their ability to feed themselves.

Efforts to integrate Liberian refugee students into Ivorian schools met with partial success during the year but remained a controversial initiative. Refugees, local residents, and Ivorian government officials have resisted school integration for years, but UNHCR and international donors have long regarded school integration as the best solution for long-term refugee students.

A special education conference in May warned that school integration faced many challenges, including local teacher shortages, limited education budgets, lack of classroom space, language differences between Liberian students and local pupils, age differences among students, and anti-foreigner attitudes among many Ivorian residents.

About \$16 million and 320 new classrooms were required for full integration of refugee students into local schools, one study concluded. UNHCR, with financial backing from the U.S. government, pledged to build 90 new classrooms. WFP offered to provide school lunches.

Nearly 20,000 Liberian students studied at special refugee schools during 2001. Many of the schools had Ivorian teachers and followed Côte d'Ivoire's official education curriculum.

Some 13,000 refugee children received vaccinations against tetanus and meningitis during 2001. Health workers expressed concern about a high level of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases among the refugee population. UNHCR funded health care for the poorest refugee families and improved efforts to reunite refugee children who had become separated from their families in Liberia.

UNHCR closed two offices in the border towns of Danane and Tabou during the year, and planned to close a third office in the border town of Guiglo in early 2002. The office closures were unpopular among Liberian refugees and left them "terrified," according to a UNHCR relief worker on the scene. UNHCR closed the offices because of budget constraints and its assessment that most refugees were well-integrated locally.

General Refugee Issues In a change opposed by UNHCR, the government's refugee agency, known as the Service for Aid and Assistance to Refugees and Stateless Persons, transferred from the Interior Ministry to the Defense Ministry during 2000-2001. Some analysts regarded the administrative change as an indication that Ivorian officials increasingly regarded refugees and other foreigners as potential security risks.

As in previous years, most refugees in Côte d'Ivoire lacked identity documents, leaving the refugee population vulnerable to harassment and arbitrary detention by police. A joint program by the government and UNHCR to issue identity cards began in 1999, but made little progress during 2000 and 2001 because many police regarded the documents as invalid. Refugees living in the capital, Abidjan, continued to receive new identity cards, however.

The government maintained a policy of barring urban refugee students from attending public schools if the students had begun their education outside the country, forcing many urban refugee students to attend private schools. UNHCR provided financial stipends to needy refugee families unable to afford private school fees.

More than 500 refugees in Côte d'Ivoire permanently resettled abroad, including in the United States, as part of an international resettlement program.

Violence in Côte d'Ivoire Political and communal violence have rocked Côte d'Ivoire repeatedly since 1999, undermining the country's reputation for relative stability compared to its neighbors.

Local tensions over domestic elections, an economic downturn, and land disputes have increasingly targeted immigrants who have lived in the country for a generation or more. The country's 15 million residents include an estimated 4 million or more immigrants from poorer African countries.

In 1999, at least 10,000 immigrants from neighboring Burkina Faso fled from southwest Côte d'Ivoire because of violence and threats against them by Ivoriens.

In 2000, tens of thousands of immigrants and Ivoriens fled communal violence in the west and southwest. Tens of thousands of immigrants reportedly departed the country and returned to Burkina Faso, further disrupting the country's faltering economy. The massive population displacement "contains the seeds of serious destabilization," a UN humanitarian document warned in late 2000.

In 2001, Ivorian authorities blamed neighboring governments for a failed coup attempt in the capital, aggravating anti-foreigner sentiments. Violence linked to municipal elections pushed 2,000 people from their homes in southwest Côte d'Ivoire in March. The displaced included Ivorian citizens and immigrants from Mali, Burkina Faso, Liberia, and Guinea.

In May, ethnic clashes sparked by land-ownership disputes killed six persons and displaced 2,000 people about



250 miles (400 km) west of the capital, Abidjan. Immigrants from Burkina Faso were among the victims. The International Committee of the Red Cross distributed food, blankets, and soap to the displaced.

In August, more than 1,000 Malian immigrants living in central Côte d'Ivoire fled ethnic violence and moved into five camps in the major city of Bouake, while thousands of other immigrants reportedly fled to the homes of friends or relatives.

The Ivorien Human Rights League criticized mistreatment of foreigners, charging that police routinely destroyed immigrants' identity documents, stole their possessions, and subjected foreigners to "degrading treatment" in an effort to push them from the country.

"The political and social climate remains tense," a UN report warned. Immigrants and migrant workers from neighboring countries, "fearing hostilities, have been fleeing the country en masse, despite the government's public plea for calm and a halt to the harassment of foreigners," the report noted. ■

Djibouti

More than 22,000 refugees lived in Djibouti at year's end, including some 20,000 from Somalia and more than 2,000 from Ethiopia.

Refugees from Somalia and Ethiopia Most Somali refugees in Djibouti arrived during 1988-90 as a result of civil war in Somalia. The majority of those who remained in Djibouti at the end of 2001 were originally from northern Somalia, the self-declared independent territory of "Somaliland." Most resided in two camps near Djibouti's borders with Somalia and Ethiopia. Nearly 12,000 lived in Ali Adde camp, and some 10,000 in Holl Holl camp.

Despite traditionally difficult living conditions in the Ali Adde and Holl Holl camps and an expressed interest in returning home, few Somali refugees registered for voluntary repatriation with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) during 2001. The Djibouti-Somaliland border reopened in early November after an eight-month closure caused by political tensions between authorities in Djibouti and Somaliland, but no refugees repatriated to northern Somalia during the last two months of 2001.

"It appears that refugees are afraid that, in their absence, they may have lost their land," a UNHCR report noted. UNHCR continued to administer reforestation and fuel-efficient mud-stove projects to limit environmental degradation in and around Ali Adde and Holl Holl camps.

In January, several hundred southern Somali refugees repatriated from northeastern Djibouti's Obock camp to Mogadishu, Somalia in UNHCR-chartered planes. UNHCR transferred the remaining Somali refugees to Ali Adde and Holl Holl and closed Obock refugee camp.

More than 2,000 Ethiopian refugees lived in Djibouti at year's end. The approximately 1,000 who lived in UNHCR-administered camps were the only ones remaining of nearly 40,000 Ethiopians who fled to Djibouti years earlier to escape civil war; most repatriated during 1994-96 after the civil war ended.

During early 2001, Djibouti authorities allowed into the country approximately 100 Ethiopian university students who had fled violent clashes with Ethiopian security forces in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital. Although they lived under the care of UNHCR in Ali Adde camp, the Djibouti government's Organization of National Affairs for Refugees denied the students refugee status.

Djiboutian Refugees An armed insurgency in the early 1990s uprooted more than 100,000 Djiboutians. A 1994 peace agreement enabled most uprooted people to return home.

In November 2001, UNHCR and Ethiopian government authorities assisted with the voluntary repatriation of the final 500 ethnic Afar Djiboutian refugees from northeastern Ethiopia to their places of origin in Djibouti. ■

Egypt

Egypt hosted approximately 75,000 refugees and asylum seekers at the end of 2001, including some 50,000 Palestinians, about 18,000 Sudanese, nearly 4,000 Somalis, and more than 3,000 refugees from various other countries.

Palestinians Most Palestinian refugees in Egypt were displaced from the West Bank and Gaza by the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The Palestinian refugee population was believed to number 50,000 or more persons at the end of 2001, with some estimates placing the number as high as 70,000.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees on a case-by-case basis.

Refugee Status Determination Egypt has no domestic asylum laws. As in previous years, the Egyptian government in 2001 allowed UNHCR to determine the refugee status of individual asylum seekers.

During 2001, more than 1,000 families seeking asylum in Egypt contacted UNHCR each month. Approximately 6,000 persons were granted refugee status. More than 20,000 status determination cases were pending at year's end.

UNHCR interviewed about 10,000 Sudanese asylum applicants during the year and granted refugee status to about 3,000. Some 15,000 Sudanese awaited asylum interviews at year's end.

More than 1,000 recognized Somali refugees lived in Egypt, including nearly 500 Somali asylum seekers whom were granted refugee status during the year. About 3,000

Somalis awaited screening interviews. During 2001, UNHCR “de-registered” nearly 2,000 Somali refugees, most of whom had not contacted UNHCR for assistance since 1996.

The number of asylum seekers in Egypt has increased ten-fold during the past four years. In June, UNHCR deployed additional staff to Cairo to address the growing backlog of asylum applications. The increase in staff “would double the processing capacity of the office,” UNHCR reported.

During 2001, Egyptian authorities agreed to provide registration cards to asylum seekers, enabling them to obtain temporary resident status and enhance their legal protection. UNHCR provided technical assistance to relevant Egyptian authorities in preparation for the eventual transfer of responsibility for registration and refugee status determination to the government of Egypt.

Refugee Living Conditions Three million or more Sudanese lived in Egypt in 2001, according to various estimates. It was unclear how many Sudanese remained in Egypt because they feared persecution in Sudan, and how many resided in Egypt for economic and other reasons.

Until the late 1980s, Egyptian law made migration from Sudan to Egypt extraordinarily easy and automatically granted permanent resident status to Sudanese migrants. Egyptian officials even offered citizenship to many Sudanese residents. Egyptian authorities later tightened legal restrictions on Sudanese, however.

While most restrictions on Sudanese and other refugees remained in place during 2001, Egyptian authorities removed the phrase “prohibited to work” from renewed residence permits provided to UNHCR-recognized refugees. As a result, refugees in practice received clearance to work legally in Egypt, although many worked in poorly paid jobs that made local integration difficult. Egyptian laws still barred refugees from government-subsidized health care and forced them to pay higher housing costs than Egyptian citizens.

Most of the more than 7,000 recognized non-Palestinian refugees in Egypt received limited aid from UNHCR. Refugees characterized by UNHCR as “the most needy” received a monthly subsistence allowance, partial education grants, medical care, and vocational training.

Financial constraints, however, curtailed UNHCR’s assistance programs during 2001. The relief agency was only able to help impoverished refugees found eligible by a strict Needs Assessment Committee managed jointly by the government of Egypt and UNHCR. Financial constraints also forced UNHCR to reduce already inadequate refugee subsistence allowances by 20 percent.

UNHCR continued to seek opportunities to reduce the dependency of refugees who had struggled for years to reach minimal levels of self-sufficiency in Egypt’s destitute refugee and immigrant communities.

Resettlement Nearly 2,000 refugees in Egypt permanently resettled in the United States, Canada, Australia, and Eu-

rope during 2001 as part of a formal resettlement process administered by UNHCR, other agencies, and foreign governments. Nearly 1,800 Sudanese and more than 200 Somalis resettled abroad. ■

Eritrea

Approximately 305,000 Eritreans were refugees at the end of 2001, including an estimated 300,000 in Sudan, about 4,000 in Ethiopia, and more than 1,000 in Yemen.

Approximately 90,000 Eritreans were internally displaced at year’s end. Some 33,000 refugees repatriated during the year, primarily from Sudan.

Eritrea hosted more than 1,000 refugees from Somalia and about 1,000 from Sudan.

Pre-2001 Events Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after three decades of deadly conflict. While Eritrea immediately received international recognition as a sovereign nation, the demarcation of its border with Ethiopia remained a matter of disagreement.

Between 1998 and 2000, war raged between Eritrea and Ethiopia over the 620-mile (1,000 km) frontier between the two countries, displacing hundreds of thousands of citizens from both nations.

In June 2000, after Ethiopia launched a military offensive into Eritrea and achieved a clear military advantage, the governments of Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a ceasefire agreement. The two countries signed a formal peace accord in December, officially ending the bloody two-year war. Analysts estimated that the war killed more than 100,000 Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers and an untold number of civilians, and left more than 1 million persons uprooted on both sides of the border.

The United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) deployed 3,000 of its mandated 4,200 peacekeepers and military observers to Eritrea by late 2000 to monitor the establishment a Temporary Security Zone, extending 15 miles (25 km) into Eritrea along the two countries’ shared border. Ethiopian and Eritrean troops, however, still occupied large areas of Eritrea within the buffer zone, impeding the return of uprooted Eritreans and creating “an unstable situation for peacekeepers,” according to the UN secretary-general.

At the end of 2000, approximately 300,000 Eritreans were refugees and some 300,000 remained internally displaced.

Eritrean Repatriation The peace agreement remained in effect during 2001, creating conditions that enabled large numbers of refugees and internally displaced Eritreans to return home. Nearly 33,000 refugees officially repatriated to Eritrea from Sudan during 2001.

A fourth Tripartite Agreement between the UN High



Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the governments of Eritrea and Sudan in March 2001 updated the legal framework for the repatriation of Eritrean refugees. UNHCR launched the repatriation operation in May.

An estimated 21,000 Eritrean refugees voluntarily returned from Sudan during the first phase. UNHCR utilized more than 150 trucks, ambulances, and buses to transport home more than 11,000 long-term refugees who had fled Eritrea during its 30-year war for independence, and more than 9,000 short-term refugees uprooted during the recent border war with Ethiopia. More than 95 percent of the returnees resettled in southwest Eritrea's Gash Barka Zone.

After heavy seasonal rains suspended the repatriation program in July, UNHCR resumed the operation in October. An additional 10,000 Eritreans voluntarily returned during the last two months of 2001, including approximately 1,000 persons who returned by sea on UNHCR-organized boats from Port Sudan to the Eritrean port city of Massawa.

UNHCR expected more refugees to repatriate during 2001, "but the beginning of Ramadan (a Muslim holy month) and the fact that many refugees waited to harvest crops they had planted in Sudan contributed to the reduced number of prospective returnees," the refugee agency reported.

Returnees received a one-year food supply from the World Food Program (WFP). UNHCR provided blankets, mosquito nets, a cooking stove, basic kitchen essentials, soap, and a water barrel to each returnee family. UNHCR also issued agricultural tools, material to construct traditional homes, and a cash grant equivalent to \$200 per family. Returnees received medical exams and information on the danger of landmines before reaching their chosen final destination. Eritrean authorities reportedly provided land to returnees to construct their homes and cultivate new crops.

Following a site visit to Eritrea during 2001, the U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) issued a report, *Getting Home is Only Half the Challenge: Refugee Reintegration in War-Ravaged Eritrea*, which examined the many challenges facing Eritrea's returning refugee and internally displaced populations in a country devastated by war and impoverishment.

The USCR report noted that many refugees had waited as long as 34 years to return home, and recommended that "rapid voluntary repatriation of Eritrean refugees can—if properly conducted—actually help the country's reconstruction." The report also noted that more international and indigenous humanitarian agencies operated in Eritrea during 2001 than ever before, providing refugees an opportunity for community-based relief and rehabilitation.

USCR urged international donors to commit multi-year funding for reintegration and reconstruction projects in Eritrea and warned that without such programs, substantial population migrations would be inevitable in the future. USCR also urged the Eritrean government to develop clearly defined policies to improve its working relationships with international humanitarian agencies.

UNHCR received about \$20 million of the \$23 million it requested from international donors to support reintegration programs.

Internally Displaced Eritreans Approximately 90,000 war-uprooted Eritreans remained displaced throughout the country at year's end.

As 2001 began, Eritrea's 300,000 internally displaced people included an estimated 210,000 civilians living in more than 20 camps in the zones of Gash Barka, Debub, and Southern Red Sea. An additional 75,000 lived in makeshift camps and host communities.

Improved border security in April enabled Eritrean authorities to begin restoring basic government services in the border region, and preparing for the return and reintegration of tens of thousands of uprooted Eritreans. UNHCR and the government's Eritrean Relief and Refugee Commission (ERREC) urged uprooted Eritreans to delay their return until areas along the border were deemed fully safe and capable of receiving returnees.

By year's end, approximately 200,000 internally displaced Eritreans returned to their villages on the border, where they found widespread destruction of businesses, places of worship, homes, schools, and the region's water and transportation infrastructure.

Tens of thousands of others could not return to their areas of origin near the border because of lingering danger, including the presence of an estimated 1 million landmines. The absence of basic health care and education services also hindered their return.

Eritreans who remained displaced by the war—including some 10,000 encamped in caves and open fields—relied exclusively on relief organizations for their daily needs.

UNHCR provided soap and blankets to some 50,000 internally displaced persons, and hygiene materials to more than 17,000 internally displaced women during 2001. Budget constraints forced the refugee agency to terminate its assistance to internally displaced persons at year's end.

Ethiopian authorities deported approximately 75,000 persons to Eritrea during the two-year border war. The majority of the deportees integrated into communities throughout Eritrea. At least 15,000 persons of Eritrean descent remained internally displaced at year's end, primarily in camps in Gash Barka Zone.

"Eritrea's displaced populations are in dire need of the support of the international community to resettle and resume food production," the UN Food and Agriculture Organization reported in November.

Humanitarian Conditions Eritrea continued to struggle to recover from destruction caused by two years of warfare with Ethiopia. Amid severe drought in most of the country and unexpected heavy seasonal rains in the southwest, humanitarian conditions for returnees and internally displaced

persons were often grim. Hundreds of thousands of Eritreans left their homes because of drought.

The tens of thousands of returnees who settled in the fertile but heavily damaged border zones of Debub and Gash Barka outnumbered existing residents, placing enormous stress on already limited resources in many villages and towns. UNHCR rehabilitated water infrastructures, constructed schools, and established health-care facilities in some returnee areas.

Residents of Debub and Gash Barka Zones had traditionally generated more than 70 percent of Eritrea's annual food production, but the aftermath of war and fear of landmines severely hampered food production in 2001. Low crop yields forced some 1 million Eritreans to rely on humanitarian agencies for food. "The country is agriculturally crippled," WFP reported in June.

UN relief agencies appealed to international donors for \$133 million to assist Eritreans during 2001, but had received only half that amount by late in the year.

UN relief agencies and the Eritrean government launched a landmine awareness education campaign for all returnees. Lack of funds slowed the removal of thousands of landmines from Eritrea's prime agricultural and returnee areas, however. ■

Ethiopia

Ethiopia hosted nearly 115,000 refugees at the end of 2001, including more than 80,000 Sudanese, about 30,000 Somalis, and more than 4,000 Eritreans.

Approximately 15,000 Ethiopians were refugees or asylum seekers at the end of 2001, including nearly 5,000 in Kenya, some 2,000 in Sudan, more than 2,000 in Djibouti, more than 1,000 in Yemen, and some 3,000 new Ethiopian asylum applicants in Europe and the United States. Some 10,000 Ethiopians lived in refugee-like circumstances in Sudan.

An estimated 100,000 Ethiopians were internally displaced at year's end.

Approximately 10,000 Ethiopian refugees repatriated during 2001, mostly from Sudan.

Uprooted Ethiopians The year began with approximately 300,000 Ethiopians internally displaced. Most were displaced in the northern regions of Afar and Tigray as a result of the 1998-2000 border war with Eritrea.

An additional 10,000 persons in western Ethiopia fled their homes to escape clashes between local government forces and ethnic Amhara militias in early 2001. From January to March, land disputes escalated into violence between ethnic Oromos and ethnic Amharas in western Oromiya region, where former military dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam forcibly resettled thousands of Amharas after Ethiopia's 1984 famine. Fighting killed some 100 people

and displaced more than 10,000 mostly Amhara civilians north across the Blue Nile River.

In April, riots erupted in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa, after Ethiopian security forces attempted to quell student protests. The violence killed about 50 persons, injured an additional 300, and caused extensive property damage. Although the riots did not cause major population displacement, approximately 250 students fled to neighboring countries, including more than 100 to Kenya and nearly 100 to Djibouti.

In June, following the assassination of a prominent government security official, several hundred Ethiopian civilians and about 50 Ethiopian soldiers fled to Kenya, where most were granted political asylum. No other major violent displacements of Ethiopian residents occurred during 2001.

Most persons who had been uprooted during the border war with Eritrea returned to their areas of origin and started to rebuild their lives. However, approximately 100,000 Ethiopians remained internally displaced at year's end.

The international humanitarian community continued to provide an estimated 50,000 war-displaced civilians, many of whom remained in caves in Tigray region, with food, water, shelter, and health and education services at year's end.

"Displaced Ethiopians have been unable to achieve any self-sufficiency due to security concerns, presence of landmines, or psychological fears of the former conflict," the World Food Program (WFP) reported in November. The lack of rehabilitated health clinics and water infrastructure also presented risks to many displaced Ethiopians returning to their areas of origin, particularly children.

During 2001, an estimated 25,000 persons of Ethiopian descent voluntarily returned to Ethiopia from Eritrea. Most had lived for many years in and around Asmara, the Eritrean capital. Several thousand of the returnees received transportation and border-crossing assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross. The Ethiopian government accepted "full responsibility for their transport and relocation within Ethiopia," a UN report declared.

An estimated 20,000 new Ethiopian returnees, however, remained internally displaced in northern Ethiopia at year's end. Nearly all of the displaced returnees struggled to survive on monthly WFP food rations. "The aim of this food assistance has been to save lives until such time as beneficiaries are in a position to return home and recommence agriculture and economic activities," a WFP report stated.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) appealed to donors for more than \$23 million to fund refugee and returnee reintegration programs in Ethiopia during 2001. By early November, however, donor nations had provided only about one-third of the funding requested.

Repatriation of Ethiopian Refugees Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians fled their country during the 1974-1991



Going to School

Sitting quietly in a classroom filled with adolescent boys, this young Sudanese refugee was one of a handful of girls in her primary school class.

Young Sudanese refugee girls rarely have the opportunity to attend school. More typically, daily life for girls in western Ethiopia's Fugnido refugee camp involves staying at home to cook and clean.

Although more than half of Sudanese refugee children in Ethiopia attend school, fewer than 50 percent of Fugnido's more than 5,000 primary school students in 2001 were female. Fewer than 1 percent of secondary school students were female—a telling figure that illustrates the reality of life for most Sudanese refugee girls.

Fugnido, the largest of five refugee camps in western Ethiopia, shelters almost 30,000 Sudanese, primarily ethnic Nuer.



Photo: USCR/J. Frushone

reign of military dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam. In 1991, a rebel group deposed Mengistu, triggering the return of hundreds of thousands of Ethiopian refugees.

During the past decade, an estimated 800,000 or more Ethiopian refugees have voluntarily repatriated from Djibouti, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and other countries.

In September 1999, UNHCR declared that a "fundamental and durable change" had taken place in Ethiopia with the end of the Mengistu regime and that most Ethiopian refugees who fled their country prior to 1991 no longer had a "valid fear of persecution." The UNHCR declaration, which became official in March 2000, effectively withdrew automatic refugee status for Ethiopians who had fled the country before 1991. Refugees who claimed to have "compelling reasons" for not wanting to return to Ethiopia were required to submit to individual screening interviews in asylum countries to determine their legal status.

Between January and March 2001, more than 10,000 pre-1991 Ethiopian refugees voluntarily repatriated from Sudan to their places of origin, primarily to northwestern Ethiopia, on UNHCR-chartered trucks. UNHCR provided returnees basic household goods, blankets, plastic sheeting, an in-transit food and travel allowance, and a reintegration cash grant equal to \$95. WFP provided returnees with a nine-month food supply. The Ethiopian government provided assurances of arable land to each returnee family.

At year's end up to 2,000 Ethiopians remained in Sudan.

Refugees from Somalia Somali refugees fled to Ethiopia during the early and mid-1990s to escape civil war. Nearly 90 percent of all Somali refugees living in Ethiopia originated from northwest Somalia, known as "Somaliland."

An estimated 30,000 Somali refugees remained in five long-established camps in eastern Ethiopia at the end of 2001. In June, UNHCR closed the Darwanaji and Teferiber refugee camps after assisting with the voluntary repatriation of approximately 9,000 and 12,000 Somalis, respectively. In December, UNHCR assisted with the voluntary repatriation of the final 2,500 Somali refugees living in Daror camp, and prepared to close the camp. UNHCR planned to turn over the water system and health and education facilities of Daror camp to the local community.

Some 25,000 Somalis repatriated during 2001, primarily to Somaliland. UNHCR officially reported that nearly 55,000 Somalis repatriated, but that number was greatly inflated as a result of massive fraud in eastern Ethiopia's refugee program.

An estimated 4,000 Ethiopian nationals of ethnic Somali descent, many of whom lived side-by-side with genuine Somali refugees for as long as a decade, dispersed from eastern Ethiopia's refugee camps. Ethiopian nationals who chose to leave the camps voluntarily received the

same nine-month food supply, plastic sheeting, and blankets that repatriating Somali refugees received from WFP and UNHCR.

Unknown thousands of additional Somali refugees continued to live outside established camps in urban and rural areas in Ethiopia.

During 2001, UNHCR provided nutrition, health, and education services to camp residents, and also distributed more than 2,000 fuel-efficient stoves. Through food-for-work programs funded by WFP, Somali refugees raised and transplanted more than 650,000 tree seedlings to lessen environmental degradation in and around the camps.

Following site visits to eastern Ethiopia's Somali refugee camps in May and August 2001, the U.S. Committee for Refugees (USCR) issued a December report, *Welcome Home to Nothing: Refugees Repatriate to a Forgotten Somaliland*, which examined the repatriation of refugees from Ethiopia to Somaliland.

The USCR report noted that many Somali refugees had lived under the care of the international community in Ethiopia's eastern refugee camps for more than ten years and had grown dependent on relief agencies for basic services. The report urged international donors to give UNHCR enough financial support to keep the voluntary repatriation and camp closures on schedule, and to work collectively so that Somali refugee returnees dependent on international humanitarian agencies would become self-reliant.

Refugees from Sudan Civil war in Sudan has pushed waves of refugees into Ethiopia since the 1980s, with the Sudanese refugee population in Ethiopia peaking at more than 300,000 in 1991. Although the population subsequently declined, new refugee influxes have continued.

Some 10,000 new refugees fled from Sudan to western Ethiopia during 2001, bringing the number of Sudanese refugees in Ethiopia at year's end to more than 80,000.

The refugees lived in four long-established camps and a newly created camp, Yarenja, in western Ethiopia. The largest camp, Fugnido, housed nearly 30,000 people, primarily ethnic Nuer. More than 15,000 additional ethnic Nuer refugees lived in Dimma camp. Some 15,000 ethnic Uduk refugees lived in Bonga camp, while about 13,000 ethnically mixed refugees resided at Sherkole camp.

More than 8,000 ethnically mixed refugees, including some 1,000 new refugees who fled the Blue Nile and Upper Nile regions of southern Sudan during 2001, resided further north at the newly constructed Yarenja camp.

UNHCR administered several programs for Sudanese refugee women and children, the majority of camp residents, including a new food distribution system to facilitate participation by more women in Fugnido, Dimma, and Bonga camps. The number of women participating in adult-literacy programs, vocational-skills training, and income-generation projects also increased, while enrollment of school-aged children exceeded 50 percent.

Although many refugees had been farmers in Sudan, Ethiopian authorities refused to make more agricultural land available to the refugee population, limiting opportunities for refugees to improve their nutrition through agricultural activities. UNHCR and the Ethiopian government's Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs provided seeds and farming tools to selected Sudanese families, but land allocation strategies meant that many experienced farmers lacked land, while many inexperienced farmers received land, according to UNHCR. UNHCR also provided chickens and cattle to selected families.

"For the foreseeable future, durable solutions in terms of voluntary repatriation will not be available for most Sudanese refugees located in settlements in western Ethiopia," a UNHCR report noted.

Other Refugees Some 4,000 ethnic Kunama Eritrean refugees, who fled in May 2000 because of warfare and discrimination in Eritrea, remained in Ethiopia at year's end. Lack of funds prohibited UNHCR from opening a new refugee camp in Grat Reeda, northeast Tigray region, to accommodate the Eritrean population. UNHCR maintained limited water, sanitation, and health care facilities in Wa'ala Nhibi, the remote temporary site housing the refugees. ■

Gabon

Gabon hosted more than 20,000 refugees at the end of 2001, including some 17,000 from Congo-Brazzaville and about 3,000 from more than two dozen other countries.

Refugees from Congo-Brazzaville Refugees fled to Gabon in 1999 to escape civil war in Congo-Brazzaville. Despite a second year of relative peace in Congo-Brazzaville during 2001, most refugees remained cautious about returning home because interludes of peace have repeatedly been followed by war.

About 90 percent of the Congolese refugee population lived in three southern provinces along Gabon's border with Congo-Brazzaville, primarily in urban areas. Two-fifths of the refugees were younger than age 18, according to statistics compiled by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

A majority of refugees received partial assistance, including food, special rations for malnourished children, tools and seeds for farming, and education benefits. About 80 percent of refugee children attended government schools with stipends from UNHCR to pay for fees, books, and uniforms. UNHCR provided funding to construct ten new classrooms at schools with large refugee enrollments.

Refugees received support to pay for health care. UNHCR prepared to launch an HIV/AIDS awareness campaign among the refugee population, which included distribution of free condoms.



The World Food Program announced in July that it faced a funding shortfall of \$300,000 for food to 12,000 Congolese refugees. The agency warned of an imminent “tense and critical situation” if international donors failed to provide 930 tons of food to cover a six-month period.

Gabon’s Ministry of Interior asked Congolese military officers seeking asylum in Gabon to return home or leave the country in March for security reasons. UNHCR agreed to seek international resettlement of up to 200 former Congolese soldiers who were in Gabon. More than 30 refugees of various nationalities in Gabon permanently resettled outside the region during the year.

A government process to review asylum claims began to take shape during 2001. The government took initial steps to form a National Commission for Refugees, and UNHCR provided training to the commission’s members. At least 500 asylum claims awaited government review at year’s end. ■

Gambia

Gambia hosted about 15,000 refugees at the end of 2001, including nearly 10,000 from Sierra Leone and about 5,000 from Senegal. Up to 10,000 new refugees fled to Gambia during the year, but many of them repatriated a few months later.

Refugees from Sierra Leone Civil war in Sierra Leone pushed some 10,000 refugees into Gambia during the 1990s.

The vast majority of Sierra Leonean refugees lived in villages and in the capital, Banjul, where they generally supported themselves and did not require humanitarian assistance. About 1,000 refugees lived in two small camps, where the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) provided food, water, health care, educational assistance, farming programs, and training to help refugees earn income.

Refugees from Senegal Some 5,000 Senegalese refugees lived in Gambia at the start of 2001, pushed from their country during 1997-98 by an armed insurgency.

A wave of violence in Senegal in mid-2001 temporarily pushed another 10,000 refugees into Gambia. Most new refugees moved in with Gambian residents in 60 villages. Generous local families in the border zone each provided shelter to an average of nearly two dozen refugees, a survey found; some households accommodated as many as 100 refugees. When villagers quickly depleted their own food stocks, local aid workers and the World Food Program distributed emergency rations.

UNHCR attempted to alleviate conditions by moving new refugee arrivals to camps farther from the border. Gambian officials urged the refugee population to choose between relocation within Senegal or voluntary repatriation. Most new arrivals resisted the transfer and chose to stay in

the border zone without assistance, although some returned home to Senegal.

Approximately 5,000 refugees had repatriated by July—about two months after their arrival. Additional repatriations might have occurred later in the year. UNHCR reported that 200 refugees repatriated involuntarily under pressure by Gambian authorities.

The refugee population’s sudden arrival and departure, and refugees’ reluctance to leave Gambia’s border area, “made it difficult to plan appropriate interventions,” UNHCR reported. ■

Ghana

Ghana hosted about 12,000 refugees at the end of 2001, including some 9,000 from Liberia, about 2,000 from Sierra Leone, and nearly 1,000 from Togo. About 1,000 new asylum seekers entered the country during the year.

Approximately 10,000 Ghanaian refugees remained in Togo at year’s end.

Refugees from Liberia Thousands of Liberian refugees and asylum seekers fled to Ghana in 1990-91 to escape Liberia’s civil war. Smaller numbers arrived in subsequent years, including about 1,000 new asylum seekers during 2001.

Most Liberian asylum seekers lived in Buduburam camp, 25 miles (40 km) from Accra, the capital. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) halted its aid program to Buduburam camp in 2000 because most camp occupants were judged to be economically self-sufficient. Concerns remained, however, that Liberian families’ efforts to support themselves were hampered by high unemployment rates in Ghana. Many refugee families relied on remittances from relatives and friends living abroad.

During 2001, UNHCR helped the government conduct individual interviews of Buduburam camp occupants for the first time to assess their claims to refugee status. The screening procedure concluded that only 4,000 of 15,000 Liberian asylum seekers merited refugee status.

Simmering tensions between Liberian refugees and the local population erupted into violence in early 2001. After refugees in Buduburam camp clashed with Ghanaian police during a dispute, local residents attempted to retaliate. Refugee leaders blamed newly arrived Liberian asylum seekers for instigating the melee. Rising crime and prostitution were also problems in the vicinity of Buduburam camp.

Ghanaian authorities reiterated their plan to close Buduburam camp eventually and move genuine Liberian refugees to a new site where they would receive training to acquire new skills to support themselves economically. However, many Liberian refugees continued to oppose the planned move, and the camp remained open all year.

The Ghanaian government blocked entry to about 160 Liberian passengers when their ship docked in Ghana

in June. Although authorities allowed non-Liberian passengers to disembark, they ordered the ship to depart before UNHCR or Ghana's Refugee Commission could determine whether any Liberian passengers were seeking asylum. The ship eventually landed in Nigeria, where some Liberian passengers applied for asylum.

Approximately 600 Liberian refugees departed Ghana during 2001 to resettle permanently in the United States and other Western nations as part of a formal international resettlement program.

Refugees from Sierra Leone About 2,000 refugees who fled civil war in Sierra Leone during the 1990s continued to live in Ghana.

About half of the refugees resided at Krisan camp, where UNHCR provided food, shelter, water, health care, and education. More than 80 percent of children at the camp attended primary school. The camp offered land for farming, and about 200 refugee families have participated in special agricultural projects and skills training.

Most other Sierra Leonean refugees lived in Accra. About 200 Sierra Leonean refugees left Ghana during 2001 to resettle permanently abroad, including in the United States, as part of an organized international resettlement program.

Uprooted Ghanaians Ethnic conflict linked to land disputes uprooted about 100,000 people in northern Ghana during 1994-95, including at least 10,000 Ghanaians who fled to neighboring Togo.

Although most uprooted families returned to their homes after the violence subsided, some 10,000 Ghanaian refugees remained in Togo during 2001. Ghanaian officials joined with UNHCR to meet with the refugees during the year and encourage them to repatriate, but relatively few registered to do so.

Three days of violence in northeast Ghana killed 30 to 50 people and temporarily displaced 5,000 persons in December. Government officials planned to establish a commission to investigate the violence. ■

Guinea

Guinea hosted about 190,000 refugees at the end of 2001, including approximately 100,000 from Sierra Leone and some 90,000 from Liberia. At least 70,000 refugees repatriated from Guinea to Sierra Leone during the year.

An estimated 100,000 Guineans were internally displaced at year's end, although some estimates ranged much higher. About 5,000 Guineans applied for asylum in industrialized countries during 2001.

General Refugee Issues Throughout the 1990s, Guinea hosted more refugees than most other African countries. But

a combination of remote refugee locations, poor roads, inadequate funding, mismanagement by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), uncertainty over the size of the refugee population, and corruption within the Guinean government and among some aid workers conspired to weaken refugee assistance and protection.

A UNHCR assessment in January 2001 found numerous flaws in the relief operation in Guinea. "Minimum standards of assistance are barely met by the program," the report asserted.

"The UNHCR program in...Guinea has long suffered from uncertainty about the numbers of refugees being assisted there," the UNHCR study acknowledged. "There is a high level of skepticism and uncertainty about the reliability of the figures on the part of key partners and others." The report charged that a 1999 census of the refugee population was "tainted by corruption."

The assessment found that food assistance was irregular and often failed to reach the neediest refugees. Many houses for refugees offered poor protection from the region's heavy rains, according to the study.

The report suggested that UNHCR lacked enough "qualified and experienced staff" in Guinea and noted that demoralized aid workers on the ground "express frustration and a degree of hopelessness" about UNHCR operations and the failure to meet refugees' needs.

UNHCR took steps to improve its program in Guinea during 2001, but difficulties continued. When the year began, UNHCR estimated that more than 400,000 refugees lived in the country. By year's end, the agency judged that fewer than 200,000 refugees resided in Guinea. Although refugee repatriations to Sierra Leone accounted for about one-third of the decline, most of the dramatic reduction was apparently the result of inflated UNHCR estimates in previous years.

Refugees from Sierra Leone: Before Relocation More than a quarter-million Sierra Leonean refugees lived in Guinea at the start of 2001. Most had fled an armed insurgency and brutal human rights abuses in their country during the 1990s. The vast majority of refugees had settled into camps and villages within a few miles of Guinea's long border with Sierra Leone.

Attacks into Guinea by Sierra Leonean rebels in late 2000 targeted numerous refugee sites and forced aid agencies to evacuate refugee zones. Some sectors of Guinean society, including top government officials and some members of the military, turned against the refugee population and branded them a security risk.

In the final months of 2000, tens of thousands of refugees attempted to flee the dangerous border area by repatriating spontaneously to Sierra Leone or seeking refuge in other parts of Guinea. Tens of thousands of other Sierra Leonean refugees remained in the border region, cut off from humanitarian assistance and unable to flee.



In early 2001, Guinean troops pushed Sierra Leonean rebels out of Guinea. UNHCR and other relief agencies deployed emergency teams to the heavily damaged border zone.

“To get access to refugees in the southeast of Guinea has become the biggest challenge for UNHCR in the world,” UNHCR reported in January. International relief agencies publicly warned in February that refugees and local residents along the border faced a “very precarious situation.” Aid organizations persuaded Guinean officials to curb their anti-refugee rhetoric.

An aid convoy reached refugees and displaced Guineans in the remote border area known as the “Parrot’s Beak” in February—the first assistance able to reach the region in four months. Roadblocks erected by security-conscious government troops and armed militia impeded many refugees who wished to flee the area.

During the first months of the year, UNHCR considered launching a project to help refugees escape Guinea by repatriating them through rebel-held areas of Sierra Leone, but quickly dropped the idea as unwise. UNHCR and other relief agencies agreed to transfer as many refugees as possible to new, safer camps in Guinea farther from the border. Aid organizations, however, criticized the slow pace of planning for the relocation.

Sierra Leonean Refugees: Relocation UNHCR and the government eventually identified sites for four refugee camps, located in remote areas up to 60 miles (100 km) from the border. UNHCR funded construction of new roads and erected 100 bridges to facilitate vehicle access to the new camps.

More than 50,000 Sierra Leonean refugees chose to transfer to the new locations, traveling by foot or on trucks supplied by aid agencies. Approximately 50,000 other refugees refused to relocate to the new camps, remaining in the dangerous border area because they felt well-integrated with the local population and regarded the new camps as economically isolated and located among potentially unfriendly communities.

Refugees at the four new camps initially lived in communal shelters until houses were constructed for individual families. Significant numbers of relocated refugees were still living without privacy in communal shelters at year’s end because international donors failed to provide 25 percent of the funding UNHCR required in Guinea.

The camp transfer fared poorly in the first few weeks. Numerous children died of malaria in April, in part because of poor camp conditions. However, health conditions improved during the final half of the year, according to health surveys. Children received vaccinations against measles. About 17,000 refugee pupils attended informal schools held in tents while awaiting construction of new classrooms later in the year.

The government, with financial and logistical support from UNHCR, provided a special security force to guard the new camps and launched a public information campaign that encouraged local residents to welcome the relo-



Security concerns caused aid workers to transfer more than 50,000 Sierra Leonean refugees from Guinea’s border region to new camps in safer locations. About 70,000 other Sierra Leonean refugees opted to depart Guinea to return home.

Photo: USCR/E. Bedford

cated refugee population. Some refugees negotiated with local residents to acquire farmland. Aid workers specially marked some 17,000 trees against cutting for firewood to protect the environment near the new camps.

Despite improved security offered by the relocation, refugees struggled to adapt. The new camps were isolated from major markets, and government rules restricted the refugees' mobility, hindering their ability to engage in commerce. Violence erupted between refugees and police at one camp in June, resulting in serious injuries to six police and the arrest of more than 120 refugees.

Most aid programs in the border area remained suspended during the second half of the year because of lingering security concerns and UNHCR's desire to encourage more refugee movement toward new camps farther inland. Refugees on the border had access, however, to a food-for-work program and received help in reconstructing their homes. UNHCR protection officers conducted occasional assessment trips to monitor refugees' security in the border region.

"UNHCR remains concerned about the security and safety of refugees and staff in Guinea," a UNHCR report acknowledged in September.

At year's end, about 55,000 Sierra Leonean refugees lived in the new camps, and an estimated 45,000 refugees remained along the Guinea-Sierra Leone border, according to UNHCR.

Sierra Leonean Refugees: Repatriation Approximately 70,000 or more Sierra Leonean refugees repatriated during 2001 in response to dangers in Guinea and increased hostility toward the refugee population from Guinean authorities and some local residents.

UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations found themselves in the awkward position of helping refugees repatriate to Sierra Leone even though aid workers considered Sierra Leone dangerous because of continued warfare there. After much internal debate, UNHCR refused to "promote" refugees' return to Sierra Leone, but agreed to "facilitate" the repatriation of refugees who insisted on departing Guinea.

The situation was complicated by the fact that up to 90 percent of all Sierra Leonean refugees in Guinea originated from rebel-controlled areas of Sierra Leone—that country's most dangerous region.

Some 30,000 to 50,000 refugees repatriated with help from UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration, and other agencies, according to various reports. Tens of thousands of others repatriated spontaneously, without direct help from aid workers in Guinea.

Many refugees fled from their long-time homes in the border region to the Guinean capital, Conakry, where they boarded boats to travel along the coast to the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown. Some 10,000 repatriated overland directly into rebel-controlled areas of Sierra Leone, Human Rights Watch reported.

Refugees attempting to reach repatriation centers in Guinea commonly encountered harassment at scores of highway checkpoints erected by Guinean soldiers and militia early in the year. Many refugees were forced to pay bribes to continue their journey, and 11 refugees died in detention in Guinea in late 2000 and early 2001, according to Human Rights Watch.

Although harassment reportedly diminished later in the year, some adult male refugees remained vulnerable to detention by Guinean authorities looking for Sierra Leonean rebel infiltrators.

As the security situation gradually improved in Sierra Leone late in the year, UNHCR implemented a campaign to inform the refugee population in Guinea about the mixed conditions for repatriation in their home country.

Refugees from Liberia Hundreds of thousands of Liberian refugees fled to Guinea during the 1990s to escape civil war in Liberia. An end to the war in 1997 enabled most refugees to repatriate, but about 90,000 remained in Guinea because of a continued insurgency in their home region of northern Liberia.

Hundreds of new Liberian refugees were registered in Guinea during 2001 as violence in northern Liberia worsened. Thousands of other Liberian refugees are believed to have entered Guinea unofficially, without being counted. Guinean authorities closed the border with Liberia and reportedly blocked thousands of other would-be refugees either from entering or from properly registering with UNHCR after arriving.

UNHCR evacuated its staff from the Liberian refugee zone in late 2000 and early 2001 because of security problems, leaving the refugee population on its own.

Many Liberian refugees "feel that they have been entirely abandoned by the UN" and might resort to violence because of their frustration, a UNHCR report warned in January.

Government officials decreed that all Liberian refugees in Guinea should move away from the country's insecure border with Liberia and should transfer to designated refugee camps. At least 2,000 long-term refugees migrated about 60 miles (100 km) from the Macenta and Gueckedou areas of Guinea to the region of Nzerekore. Tens of thousands of Liberian refugees who had supported themselves in small villages near the border suddenly lost homes, jobs, and farms.

UNHCR gradually returned modest numbers of aid workers to the region and rushed to establish a new camp, Kola, while struggling to improve conditions at the lone existing camp, Kounkan. Guinea's security problems disrupted food deliveries to Kounkan camp during the first half of the year, causing malnutrition among some of the camp's 13,000 occupants.

Poor cooperation between Liberian refugee leaders and aid workers hindered assistance efforts. A UNHCR



report in January complained that refugee leaders “are undemocratic and may even block communication” between relief workers and the refugee population.

UNHCR funded much-needed sanitary improvements at Kounkan camp, including new latrines, 20 new water distribution points, and new garbage containers, while relief agencies distributed clothes, soap, sleeping mats, and cooking utensils. UNHCR supported construction of three dozen permanent classrooms for 3,000 students in Kounkan.

Kola camp, located about 50 miles (80 km) from the border, opened late in the year and housed nearly 6,000 refugees by year’s end. Camp residents lived in communal tents while constructing their own houses. A health clinic and school operated in temporary structures, with about 800 students attending the camp school.

An estimated 70,000 Liberian refugees continued to live on their own outside of camps. About 3,000 attended local schools, primarily in or near the town of Nzerekore. Government policy prevented UNHCR from providing regular assistance to noncamp refugees.

More than 300 unaccompanied minors received aid during the year as relief workers took more aggressive steps to identify and assist them.

Uprooted Guineans Although Guinea has long hosted hundreds of thousands of refugees from neighboring countries, Guinea largely avoided massive, prolonged upheavals of its own population until 2000. When Sierra Leone’s civil war spilled into Guinea’s border region in late 2000, however, an estimated 100,000 to 200,000 Guineans became internally displaced.

Additional new population displacement occurred in early 2001, as Guinean government troops massed at the border and launched attacks into Sierra Leone. Heavy border fighting left some 90 Guineans dead in January. The violence of late 2000 and early 2001 killed 1,000 people, according to some estimates, and left numerous Guinean villages heavily damaged.

Although fighting quieted by February, the border remained tense most of the year. An estimated 100,000 Guineans remained internally displaced at the end of 2001. Guinean officials claimed that as many as 350,000 people were displaced, but aid workers widely considered that estimate to be greatly inflated.

Guineans fled in all directions. Tens of thousands reportedly fled 120 miles (200 km) northward, to the relative safety of Kankan Province. Others moved southward, toward Conakry and the town of Kindia. Many families fled shorter distances and moved into the homes of friends and relatives, while some found shelter in schools and other public buildings.

According to a UN report, the ethnicity of displaced families often determined the direction of their flight. Families attempted to reach the territory of “friendly” ethnic groups and sought to avoid regions where their arrival might

inadvertently trigger ethnic tensions. Armed groups—primarily civilian militia—beat and killed some displaced persons traveling along roads, Amnesty International charged.

The large-scale displacement created “a considerable burden” in a country that ranked as one of the poorest in the world and already hosted large refugee populations, a UNHCR report found. Heavy damage to 11 health clinics and 58 schools complicated efforts to support displaced families as they attempted to return home.

A UN funding appeal warned that a “disparity” existed between aid to refugees and aid to displaced persons in Guinea, creating “a significant potential source of tension.” Health workers in some areas reported that “malnutrition has increased sharply,” while health conditions in other areas remained satisfactory.

The World Food Program reached the Forest Region for the first time in March to deliver emergency supplies to about 30,000 displaced persons. About 170,000 displaced and war-affected Guineans received food aid by May. The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Action Against Hunger organized a system to monitor health conditions among displaced persons.

A UN appeal to international donors for \$35 million to assist relief programs in Guinea received only about one-third of that amount, according to a UN report. In late 2001, UN agencies issued a new and larger funding appeal of \$43 million for 2002. ■

Guinea-Bissau

Guinea-Bissau hosted about 7,000 refugees and asylum seekers at the end of 2001, including approximately 6,000 from Senegal and up to 1,000 who were primarily from Sierra Leone. About 5,000 new Senegalese refugees fled to Guinea-Bissau during the year, but some repatriated before the year ended.

Thousands of refugees and internally displaced persons who had fled their homes in Guinea-Bissau in 1998 returned home during 1999-2000 and continued the difficult process of reintegration during 2001. Relatively few refugees from Guinea-Bissau remained outside the country.

Refugees from Senegal An 18-year insurgency in southern Senegal has periodically pushed refugees into Guinea-Bissau.

An estimated 5,000 Senegalese refugees and asylum seekers lived in Guinea-Bissau at the start of 2001. Renewed fighting in Senegal in early 2001 forced some 5,000 new refugees into Guinea-Bissau, but many of the new arrivals and some long-term refugees returned to Senegal later in the year.

Authorities in Guinea-Bissau and Senegal have long suspected that some of the refugees and asylum seekers were Senegalese rebels or rebel supporters. Government officials

in Guinea-Bissau renewed their efforts to transfer the refugee population to locations farther from the long 200-mile (320 km) border, but most refugees resisted the move and chose to repatriate or to live on their own in the border area.

The border region remained dangerous during the first half of 2001, beset by fighting between the Guinea-Bissau military and Senegalese insurgents who used the zone as a base of operations. Insurgent factions also clashed with each other. Many civilians, presumably including refugees, reportedly died in the cross fire. The Guinea-Bissau military burned some refugee homes in May and was suspected of forcing some refugees to repatriate, according to a UN report in June.

The border area quieted in the second half of the year, although Senegalese rebels continued to loot homes and ambush vehicles.

At year's end, about 500 Senegalese refugees lived at Jolmete camp, about 25 miles (40 km) from the border. Refugees at the camp received health services and clean water, access to schools, skills training, and small-business loans.

Despite the continued presence of refugees in Guinea-Bissau, budget constraints forced the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to close its office at year's end and shift responsibility for monitoring refugees' needs in Guinea-Bissau to staff in neighboring Senegal.

Refugees from Sierra Leone Hundreds of Sierra Leonean refugees lived in Guinea-Bissau at the start of 2001 because of continued warfare in their own country. Hundreds of additional Sierra Leonean refugees fled to Guinea-Bissau early in the year when their refuge in neighboring Guinea became unsafe.

Many of the new arrivals reached Guinea-Bissau by sea, aboard small fishing vessels. They found shelter each night in the market area of the capital, Bissau, and survived without proper refugee documentation by engaging in manual labor or relying on charitable organizations.

Reintegration in Guinea-Bissau Domestic political violence in 1998 forced about one-third of the country's 1 million people to flee their homes. Although virtually all the uprooted people returned to their homes within two years, political tensions and widespread poverty made their reintegration difficult.

Political divisions within the government worsened in 2001. A UN assessment in September concluded that "the inexperienced government has been rendered practically non-functional." An alleged military coup in December failed. A report by the UN secretary general in December warned that the country's restoration of democracy in 1999 had "failed to deliver the stability and progress the people wanted and justly deserve." The UN report described the country as potentially "volatile."

Social conditions remained grim for the entire population, including returnees. Labor unrest was wide-

spread, and the mortality rate for children under age five was 20 percent. ■

Kenya

Kenya hosted approximately 245,000 refugees at the end of 2001, including an estimated 160,000 from Somalia, some 70,000 from Sudan, nearly 5,000 from Ethiopia, more than 5,000 from Uganda, and more than 3,000 from other countries.

Internal violence uprooted some 6,000 Kenyans during 2001. An estimated 200,000 to 250,000 Kenyans were internally displaced at year's end.

Approximately 30,000 new refugees and asylum seekers fled to Kenya during 2001, primarily from Somalia, Sudan, and Tanzania.

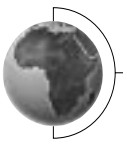
Refugee Protection Kenya has no refugee law; consequently, the hundreds of thousands of refugees living in Kenya have no legal status. Absent national refugee legislation and adequate financial support for the government's Refugee Eligibility Commission, "the legal framework for implementation of a refugee assistance program in Kenya remains fragile," the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported in November.

Kenyan authorities required most refugees to live in three designated camps near the village of Dadaab in the country's remote east, and in three camps known as Kakuma in northwest Kenya. At the end of 2001, about 130,000 refugees lived in the Dadaab camps, and nearly 70,000 resided in the Kakuma camps.

Tens of thousands of refugees continued to live without humanitarian assistance in urban areas, particularly in the capital, Nairobi. Government authorities asserted that more than 100,000 "illegal immigrants" lived in Kenya's main cities and towns. UNHCR provided primary and secondary education assistance, subsistence allowances, and counseling to more than 2,000 urban refugees during 2001.

Poor security conditions in and around the Dadaab and Kakuma camps worsened during 2001. "The situation is precarious and unpredictable, with occasional hostile interaction between refugees and the local population," a UNHCR report observed. "This is putting at risk refugees, nongovernmental organizations, and UNHCR staff working in the camps." UNHCR purchased communications equipment and 11 new vehicles to help police respond to security threats and other incidents at Dadaab and Kakuma.

Domestic and sexual violence against females remained a chronic problem in and around the Dadaab and Kakuma camps. Despite numerous programs to address sexual violence, reported rapes increased during 2001. More than 80 percent of all rapes occurred while females collected firewood and building material outside the camps.



Although UNHCR continued to supply firewood to refugee families to help protect women and girls from dangerous forays into isolated areas to collect wood, its firewood-distribution program supplied only one-third of families' household fuel needs. Time-consuming negotiations with local firewood carriers delayed distribution in Dadaab.

In July 2001, the Kenya government banned all cross-border trade with Somalia, including air shipments, and closed its 500-mile (800 km) shared border. Kenyan president Daniel Arap Moi insisted that his government "would not deal with political factions fighting for power in Somalia," and vowed to keep the border closed until Somalia formed a new central government. The border closing also aimed to curb the flow of illegal weapons into Kenya. In November, President Moi reopened the border as a "good-will gesture."

A UN investigation in 2001 revealed an elaborate criminal network, involving as many as 70 people, that enabled refugees and others in Nairobi to manipulate the international refugee resettlement program in order to emigrate from Kenya to Australia, Canada, Great Britain, Northern Ireland, and the United States. Kenyan authorities arrested and charged nine individuals in Nairobi, including three local UNHCR staff members, with conspiracy and other crimes related to smuggling of refugees and fraudulent refugee claimants for illegal fees of up to \$5,000.

"The problem of poor management in UNHCR, especially at the Kenya office, provided opportunities for the criminally minded to achieve unjust enrichment at the expense of refugees," the UN investigative report concluded in December.

The report urged UNHCR to restructure its Kenya office, increase international security staff, and enhance programs to better inform refugees of their rights and obligations.

Refugees from Somalia Most Somali refugees fled from southern and central Somalia to Kenya during the early 1990s to escape civil war and famine. An estimated 160,000 Somali refugees, prevented from returning home by continued violence and political instability, remained in Kenya at year's end.

During 2001, Somalia's fledgling transitional government did little to improve security conditions throughout the country. In March, sustained violence in southwestern Somalia pushed some 15,000 new refugees into Kenya. However, more than 10,000 of the new refugees spontaneously repatriated, including nearly 4,000 vulnerable refugees who returned home with UNHCR assistance. A residual group of several thousand new refugees resided in and around the town of Mandera in northeastern Kenya at year's end.

More than 10,000 Somali refugees registered with UNHCR for assistance in repatriating voluntarily to relatively peaceful northern Somalia. Although northern Somali

government authorities granted permission for the repatriation, UNHCR lacked the financial resources to facilitate the operation.

More than 65 percent of Somali refugees lived in the three Dadaab camps in North Eastern Province near the Kenya-Somalia border. Confined to the isolated camps—situated in a harsh, desert-savannah region lacking natural resources—most refugees had virtually no opportunity to achieve self-sufficiency and were entirely dependent on humanitarian aid.

Lack of donor funding forced the World Food Program to reduce refugees' normal daily food ration by more than one-third during most of 2001. In June, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) registered a 170 percent increase in severe malnutrition rates among young Somali children living in the Dadaab camps. "As a direct consequence of the food rations drop, the number of severely malnourished children has shown an alarming increase," MSF concluded.

UNHCR budget constraints continued to hinder refugee-education programs. Although the demand for education was very high among Somali refugee children and adults, more than half of school-aged children did not attend school during 2001 because adequate classrooms and properly trained teachers were in short supply. More than 100 students typically crowded into a single classroom. Lack of funding also forced UNHCR and other humanitarian assistance agencies to curb vocational-training programs for adults.

Refugees from Sudan Continued civil war in Sudan pushed an average of 1,000 new Sudanese refugees into Kenya each month during 2001. Some 70,000 Sudanese refugees were in Kenya at year's end, the overwhelming majority in three Kakuma camps in northwest Kenya, about 75 miles (125 km) from the Sudan border.

The situation in the Kakuma camps was "one of a chronic emergency of complex origins," an international relief organization reported in March. "The camps are located in an extremely poor region of Kenya where four years of poor rains have exacerbated the already existing tension between refugees and their hosts."

In April, disputes among Sudanese refugees caused by regional differences escalated into violence, leaving seven refugees dead and 150 others injured after several days of fighting. Peace-education programs, including integrated sports projects, and cooperation between UN agencies, private humanitarian organizations, law-enforcement officials, and refugee and local community leaders helped mitigate further security problems during the year.

Unexpected heavy rains produced flash floods in November that killed two refugee boys, destroyed some 7,000 huts, and temporarily displaced more than 23,000 refugees in the Kakuma camps. Humanitarian assistance workers teamed with refugees to construct about 60 new dwellings per day.

The continual influx of Sudanese refugees during 2001 added to overcrowding in classrooms at the Kakuma camps, where more than 20,000 students attended 21 primary schools. Three secondary schools and three vocational training schools also operated, and UNHCR constructed 12 new classrooms to accommodate the camp's growing school-aged population. Construction of a new classroom designated for girls contributed to a 10 percent reduction in the camp's female dropout rate, while girls' enrollment in primary school increased to 44 percent during the year.

Successive years of severe drought and a poor water distribution network caused water shortages throughout the Kakuma camps.

More than 2,000 Sudanese boys and young men departed Kenya and resettled in the United States during 2001 as part of a formal international resettlement program. They were known as the "lost boys" of Sudan because many of them had been separated from their families for nearly a decade. Some 3,000 Sudanese have resettled in the United States during the past two years as part of the program.

Refugees from Ethiopia Nearly 6,000 Ethiopian refugees lived in Kenya at the end of 2001.

UNHCR granted refugee status to more than 250 Ethiopian soldiers and university students who sought asylum in Kenya during 2001. UNHCR transferred nearly half of the new refugees to the Dadaab camps, while many others chose to remain in Nairobi.

Refugees from Tanzania Clashes between police and opposition demonstrators on the Tanzanian islands of Zanzibar and Pemba escalated into violence that killed dozens of civilians and forced more than 2,000 persons to flee to Kenya in January 2001. Nearly all the refugees fled by boat to the southeastern Kenyan coastal village of Shimoni.

UNHCR and the governments of Kenya and Tanzania signed a voluntary repatriation agreement in May promising refugees that they could return home without fear of prosecution by Tanzanian authorities. Most refugees had voluntarily repatriated by year's end.

Internally Displaced Kenyans Violence displaced up to 400,000 people in eastern, western, and northern Kenya during the past decade. Credible evidence suggested that Kenyan government authorities incited much of the violence for political gain at the expense of political opponents. In most cases, political discontent, simmering land disputes, and ethnic tension were at the root of Kenya's domestic conflicts.

The Kenyan government's Presidential Commission on the Ethnic Clashes concluded nearly a year of hearings into the country's violent population displacement in 1999 and submitted a report to President Moi. By the end of 2001, the government still had not released the report publicly or announced any formal action on the report's findings.

Many internally displaced families surrendered their land titles under duress during the 1990s and sought shelter in towns and cities, leaving their property for the government to seize and nationalize. Most displaced Kenyans were rural farmers and herders ill-equipped to provide for their families in urban areas.

In March, Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) published a lengthy report, *The Current Situation of Internally Displaced Persons in Kenya*, which examined sources of conflict and population upheaval in Kenya. The JRS report identified seven categories of displaced persons: landowners who lost the legal right of land ownership; landowners unwilling to reconstruct their homes or farms because of lingering dangers; displaced squatters; individuals and families ordered from temporary camps for internally displaced persons; perpetrators of the original violence displaced by revenge attacks; orphans; and pastoralists. The report noted that poor security, poverty, and land disputes hindered the return of some 230,000 internally displaced Kenyans to their original homes.

"There is a need to recognize the refugee-like circumstances of Kenya's internally displaced population and lobby the government to accept its responsibility for them," the report concluded.

Pockets of violence persisted during 2001. In November, hostilities erupted between ethnic Pokomo farming communities and ethnic Orma pastoralists over water and grazing lands in eastern Kenya. Two weeks of fighting killed some 60 people, razed hundreds of homes, and uprooted more than 3,000 individuals. Many of the displaced continued to reside in rudimentary shelters in makeshift camps with minimal humanitarian assistance at year's end.

"We do not know the fate of most of the innocent civilians forced to flee this avoidable violence," a local relief agency spokesman reported.

In December, ongoing disagreements between tenants and landlords over uncontrolled rents in Nairobi's largest slum, Kibera, escalated into armed violence that killed more than 10 people, injured some 100 others, destroyed several thousand structures, and displaced more than 3,000 individuals. Many remained homeless at the end of 2001. ■

Liberia

Approximately 215,000 Liberians were refugees at the end of 2001, including about 100,000 in Côte d'Ivoire, some 90,000 in Guinea, at least 15,000 in Sierra Leone, about 9,000 in Ghana, and at least 1,000 in Nigeria. An estimated 80,000 Liberians were internally displaced at year's end.

Up to 80,000 Liberians fled their homes during the year, while some 2,000 refugees repatriated to Liberia.

At least 60,000 refugees from Sierra Leone remained in Liberia at the end of 2001.