



United Nations

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2001

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Note

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Acronyms

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AfDB	African Development Bank
APC	Asia-Pacific Consultations
ARC	Action for the Rights of Children
CAP	Consolidated Appeal Process
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
ECHA	Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs
ECHO	European Community Humanitarian Office
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
HIWG	Humanitarian Issues Working Group
IAG	Inter-Africa Group
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	Internally displaced persons
IGO	Inspector General's Office
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
KFOR	Kosovo Force
MERCOSUR	Southern Cone Common Market
MINURSO	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara
MONUC	United Nations Observer Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OIOS	Office of Internal Oversight Services

OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PARinAC	UNHCR/NGO Partnership in Action
PHARE	Poland/Hungary: Assistance for the Reconstruction of the Economy
UNAIDS	Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNAMSIL	United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNSECOORD	Office of the United Nations Security Coordinator
UNTAET	United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

Overview

1. 2001 was an important milestone for my Office, and the first of my mandate as High Commissioner. Following the 50th anniversary of UNHCR's creation the preceding year, we celebrated 50 years of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Though drafted and signed in a very different geo-political context, this instrument together with its 1967 Protocol, has been and remains the steadfast bedrock of the international refugee protection regime.

2. In terms of global numbers of persons of concern to UNHCR, there was a slight reduction from 21.1 million in 2000 to 19.8 million at the end of 2001, due mainly to a net decrease in the number of internally displaced of concern to my Office. Persistent instability and strife have continued to cause population movements particularly in countries of Africa and parts of South America, but there were no major refugee emergencies comparable to the scale of those that occurred in the 1990s. UNHCR's emergency response capacity was nevertheless primed on several occasions in the course of the year, notably in West Africa early in 2001, in South-East Europe in the summer with prospects of major movements from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and in countries bordering Afghanistan in the autumn. In most of these cases, interventions at a political level caused events to take another course and the threat of large-scale outflows was generally averted.

3. The impact of the events of September 11 for the work of my Office has been considerable, and their full extent still cannot be measured. The military action and ensuing political developments within Afghanistan opened unexpected opportunities for the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees, particularly from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran where many have been leading a precarious existence, bordering on despair, for many years. On the negative side, however, these terrorist acts have fuelled further intolerance and distrust towards aliens including asylum-seekers and refugees. This poses and will continue to pose additional challenges to the work of ensuring their international protection.

4. The Global Consultations on International Protection launched in 2000 gave rise to a series of important events in the course of 2001, the most important being the Ministerial Meeting in December 2001, co-convened by the Government of Switzerland and UNHCR, attended by States Parties to the 1951 Convention and/or its 1967 Protocol. This meeting witnessed the adoption of a landmark Declaration reinforcing commitment to these instruments. The Global Consultations has been a unique consultative process, bringing together representatives of States from all regions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academics and refugees themselves. It is scheduled to conclude shortly and will generate an Agenda for Protection for the years to come. This process has been endorsed both by the Executive

Committee at its fifty-second session¹ and by the General Assembly in its annual resolution on the work of my Office.²

5. The rekindled interest in principles underlying international protection that has been sparked by the Global Consultations has been all the more significant at a time of major protection challenges. For several years now, governments have been increasingly concerned by mixed, irregular flows of migrants and asylum-seekers, and have applied various disincentives in an effort to ward off unwelcome arrivals. Traffickers and smugglers have thrived and multiplied, just as public opinion has grown more hostile. It was against this background that in September 2001, the world witnessed a major incident of rescue at sea in the South Pacific, followed by lengthy transactions.

6. Another major protection challenge to my Office was to continue finding sustainable solutions to refugee problems. Poverty, lack of opportunity, insufficient resources, and protracted refugee situations, have more than ever made refugees vulnerable to unequal power relationships and abuse in refugee camps, as well as prone to becoming victims of fraud and corruption. Their situation of desperation and lack of solutions also fuels crime and violence. While the Office will continue to address these issues with practical, preventive and corrective actions, there is an urgent need to collectively address the underlying root causes. I will continue to highlight this to the international community.

7. "Protection is not protection if there are no solutions" was an essential part of my message last year to the fifty-second session of the Executive Committee,³ and has remained a guiding policy of my Office throughout this period. The actual numbers of refugees and internally displaced who returned in 2001 was relatively low (some 700,000). There were nevertheless several encouraging developments in the course of the year in Africa, South-East Europe, South-East Asia and more recently in Afghanistan, which hold prospects for more and larger returns in the foreseeable future. Increased efforts have also been made to address protracted refugee situations, notably in Africa, with sharper focus on measures to encourage self-reliance as a means towards local integration or reintegration upon return. In addressing both ECOSOC and the Third Committee of the General Assembly last year, I drew attention to the enormous productive potential of refugees and the contribution they can make to reconstruction and development activities.

8. One of my first priorities as High Commissioner was to undertake a three-pronged internal review of the organization to define its optimum profile and size, based on its fundamental mandate and purpose, and to analyse its funding basis. Much of this work was completed by May 2001, and

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth session, Supplement No. 12* (A/56/12)

para. 22.

² Resolution 56/137.

³ A/AC.96/959, annex II.

resulted in painful budget and staff reductions accompanied by the closure of some field offices. While this action has helped sharpen our operational focus, the funding situation has remained precarious and unsatisfactory. It is both alarming and paradoxical that, with dwindling resources, expectations and demands on UNHCR have continued to grow.

I. International protection trends and challenges

A. Introduction

9. Providing international protection to refugees and other persons of concern, and seeking permanent solutions to their problems are UNHCR's primary functions under its Statute.⁴ The activities of the Office, defined as non-political, humanitarian and social, have been further reinforced and guided by subsequent General Assembly resolutions, conclusions and decisions of the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme. They are carried out within a framework comprising international refugee, human rights and humanitarian laws, and internationally accepted standards for the treatment of refugees and other persons of concern to UNHCR.

10. International protection begins with securing admission, asylum, and respect for basic human rights, including the principle of *non-refoulement*, without which the physical safety or even survival of the refugee is in jeopardy. It ends only with the attainment of a sustainable solution to their situation, ideally through the restoration of protection by the refugee's own country. The work of protecting refugees includes: promoting the conclusion of international conventions for the protection of refugees at the global and regional level and supervising their application; promoting legislation and other measures at national or regional level to ensure that refugees are identified and accorded an appropriate status and standard of treatment in their countries of asylum; and ensuring, with and through the national authorities, the safety and well-being of specific refugee groups and individuals in asylum countries. Protection also entails meeting the special needs of refugee women and of children, especially those separated from their families.

11. UNHCR's protection activities are conducted in close cooperation with States who have the primary responsibility for ensuring the respect of the fundamental rights of everyone within their territory and subject to their jurisdiction. UNHCR's role thus involves ensuring that governments take the necessary action to protect all refugees within their territory, as well as persons seeking admission at their borders who may be refugees.

12. Over the past decade, UNHCR has faced considerable additional challenges in its protection work. States have asked the organization to take on much wider responsibilities, ranging from providing humanitarian assistance in war zones to protecting certain groups of internally displaced persons, and assisting returnees in countries of origin. However, funding has not been commensurate with these demands, leading to the closure last year of some offices and the curtailment of a number of programmes and operations. The Office also had to contend with a restrictive application of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees in some countries, including diverging interpretations of the Convention's provisions and a waning quality of asylum offered worldwide. The result was that in some situations, the

⁴ General Assembly resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950.

Convention's provisions were more respected in their breach than their adherence. These breaches ranged from situations of *refoulement* or return, where borders were closed to many, to direct violence and xenophobia against refugees and failure to uphold their fundamental rights.

B. Main protection developments and activities

1. 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees

13. The anniversary of the 1951 Convention was a significant event, not least because of the challenges faced by States seeking to respond effectively to contemporary displacement situations. Recurring cycles of violence and systematic human rights violations in many part of the world, the changing nature of armed conflict and of patterns of displacement, and serious apprehensions about "uncontrolled" migration in an era of globalization, are increasingly part of the environment in which refugee protection has to be realized. Trafficking and smuggling of people, abuse of asylum procedures and difficulties in dealing with unsuccessful asylum-seekers are additional compounding factors. Countries of asylum in many parts of the world are concerned about the failure to resolve certain long-standing refugee problems, urban refugee issues and irregular migration, and about a perceived imbalance in burden and responsibility-sharing.

14. The *Note on International Protection*⁵ presented at last year's session of the Executive Committee focused on the 1951 Convention itself and addressed in some detail the practical application of key areas and standards. This review was structured around eight main themes: security; respect for civil and political rights; respect for economic, social and cultural rights; protection of the particularly vulnerable; responsibilities of refugees; identifying refugees; broadening the reach of the Convention; and solutions. It concluded by setting out the objectives of the Global Consultations process which are presented below.

2. Global Consultations on International Protection

15. The Global Consultations on International Protection launched in 2000 have made a major contribution both to revitalizing the framework for refugee protection established by the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, and to re-equipping States to address current humanitarian challenges in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation. The Global Consultations proceeded along three parallel tracks of which the 'first track' consisted of a series of preparatory meetings culminating in the Ministerial Meeting of States Parties in December 2001. While commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Convention, it also aimed to strengthen States' commitment to implement the Convention and 1967 Protocol fully and effectively, elicit recognition of their enduring importance as the primary refugee protection instruments and encourage additional accessions or the withdrawal of reservations. This aim was reached through the adoption of a landmark Declaration of all States Parties, enshrining this commitment.

16. The 'second track' provided a forum to take stock of developments in refugee law and to examine a number of emerging legal issues. Four expert roundtable discussions covered the topics of: cessation and exclusion; the

⁵ A/AC.96/951.

principle of *non-refoulement* and UNHCR's supervisory responsibility; membership of a particular social group; gender-related persecution; internal protection/relocation/flight alternative; illegal entry; and family unity. The conclusions of the roundtables and respective background papers will be published by UNHCR in 2002, and will assist in updating UNHCR's guidelines on these issues by way of complement to the *Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status*.

17. The 'third track' was structured around a number of protection policy matters, including issues not adequately covered by the Convention. The aim was to foster understanding of protection challenges and promote cooperation to address them; to identify and devise practical responses to protection problems; and to develop new approaches, tools and standards for strengthening refugee protection. Four broad themes were selected for discussion: 1) protection of refugees in mass influx situations; 2) protection of refugees in the context of individual asylum systems; 3) the search for protection-based solutions (focusing on voluntary repatriation, local integration and resettlement); and 4) protection of refugee women and refugee children. The first two of these themes were addressed at meetings held in March, June and September 2001. Consultations on the third and fourth themes are scheduled for May 2002. Seven regional meetings on related topics were also organised to ensure a global outreach and capture different national and regional perspectives of governments, regional organizations, NGOs, and other experts, as well as those of refugees themselves.

18. The Global Consultations will conclude in 2002. A convergence of views deriving from the entire process will form the basis of an *Agenda for Protection as a framework and modus operandi* for States, UNHCR, NGOs and other protection partners in the coming years.

3. Resettlement

19. The resettlement of refugees has continued to occupy an important place within UNHCR's global protection strategy, both as a durable solution and as a means of protecting individual refugees whose safety is in jeopardy. Cooperation and consultation with resettlement countries and with NGOs has continued to be an essential feature of this work notably through the Working Group on Resettlement, and Annual Tripartite Consultation mechanisms, aimed at harmonizing the policies of resettlement countries with those of UNHCR. Continued efforts have been deployed to expand the resettlement base, to encourage receiving countries to diversify their resettlement intake, increase the level of their quotas, and allow for flexible allocation of their quotas by region, country or populations.

20. The development of an integration initiative aimed to enhance the capacity of both traditional and emerging resettlement countries has been an important feature of these efforts. An International Conference on the Reception and Integration of Resettled Refugees was held in Sweden in April 2001, with the full participation emerging resettlement countries. Since 1996 the base of resettlement countries has increased from 10 countries to 23

in 2001. This has involved intensive capacity-building initiatives, combined with case selection. Despite resource limitations, these developments were given a high priority as the European Commission is preparing to sponsor research on the feasibility of a European Union resettlement programme. Unfortunately, towards the end of the year, heightened security concerns that arose following the terrorist attacks of September 11, restricted refugee admissions in some major resettlement countries and cast doubts over levels that could be expected.

21. In order to maintain resettlement activities in spite of continuing constraints, UNHCR has expanded its partnership with the International Catholic Migration Commission in implementing the Resettlement Deployment Scheme and has secured additional human resources through deployment and temporary assistance arrangements. Well-established donor relations with resettlement countries also resulted in valuable contributions in the form of expertise. Improving accountability will, however, be essential to maintaining the integrity of resettlement as a tool of protection and a durable solution.

22. Refugee status and resettlement places are valuable commodities, particularly in countries with acute poverty, where the temptation to make money by whatever means is strong. This makes the resettlement process quite vulnerable to abuse. It becomes increasingly so the more restricted the access, and the smaller the resettlement quotas and opportunities. Efforts are underway to strengthen accountability and management controls as well as internal oversight and monitoring of resettlement activities. The issues of accountability and fraud awareness are being incorporated into existing training and induction programmes on resettlement.

4. Statelessness

23. The campaign undertaken by UNHCR to increase accessions to the statelessness Conventions had good results. As of 2001, ten new States became Parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and six to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, bringing the totals to 53 and 25 respectively. Extensive technical advice was provided by UNHCR on measures to avoid statelessness and deal with such cases. This expertise was requested in relation to the laws and practices of 141 States, with direct participation in drafting laws in 51 of these countries.

C. Refugee women and gender equality

24. In 2001, UNHCR's main objective in this area was to assess progress achieved in advancing the rights of refugee women and in promoting gender equality, with a view to redefining a strategy for the future, based on lessons learned and the views of refugees themselves. Other objectives included: developing and improving multi-sectoral activities to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; empowering refugee and returnee women as peace-builders; promoting the rights and equality of women; strengthening the protection of women through training of both staff and refugees; and disseminating good practices.

25. A Dialogue, involving women of concern to UNHCR from over 20 locations across the world, was launched in spring 2001, culminating in an international meeting in Geneva in June, hosted by UNHCR together with the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. 50 refugee women shared their experiences, offered testimonies and commented on the response offered by UNHCR and other partners to their concerns. This initiative led to five specific commitments by UNHCR: (i) to ensure that women participate in all refugee management and leadership committees in urban, rural and camp settings, including in return areas; (ii) to register male and female refugees individually and provide individual documentation; (iii) to develop integrated country-level strategies to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence; (iv) to promote direct participation of refugee women in both food and non-food management and distribution; (v) to provide sanitary materials to all women and girls as standard UNHCR assistance practice.
26. In March 2001, UNHCR hosted an Inter-agency Lessons Learned Conference on Prevention and Response to Sexual and Gender-based Violence in Refugee Situations. Refugee women, other UN agencies, NGOs and government partners joined UNHCR at this event to identify where progress had been made in developing a multi-sectoral approach; to assess how and where methodologies could be replicated; and to analyse gaps and chart the way forward. While there were clearly many such gaps, the conference analysed a number of positive activities which could be replicated as models for further development elsewhere. UNHCR's *Guidelines on Prevention and Response to Sexual Violence* are in the process of being updated following this event.
27. At field level, various activities have been undertaken to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls. In Guinea, refugee men formed the Men's Association for Gender Equality to promote a culture of non-violence against women. In Kenya in November 2001, participants at a UNHCR/NGO consultative strategy development meeting formulated recommendations and interventions to address sexual and gender-based violence issues. In Sierra Leone, UNHCR supported the strengthening of a network of local women in order to develop and implement sexual and gender-based projects.
28. Other UNHCR initiatives to mainstream gender equality included incorporating the experience of refugee women in various peace process developments in both East and West Africa. One notable example was the participation of several refugee women in the Mano River Union peace delegations that visited Guinea and Sierra Leone. Support for training of refugee women in negotiation and conflict resolution skills was provided in Kenya, Uganda, Guinea and Liberia, and UNHCR also funded the participation of refugee women at a Leadership for Peace Building training in Liberia.
29. The deployment of gender awareness staff with emergency response teams sent to Guinea, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan in 2001 was well appreciated and will become common practice for future emergency deployments. Another element of the mainstreaming process in 2001 was to develop gender training activities and tools for both refugees and UNHCR staff at all levels of involvement. UNHCR remained keenly aware of the need to continue to build a shared vision and understanding of gender equality mainstreaming, through a participatory process using different mechanisms to explain the relevance of the concept and find ways of applying them in protection and assistance activities.

D. Refugee children including adolescents

30. The United Nations Special Session on Children that took place in early May 2002 has served to focus the attention of the world on the special needs and rights of children, particularly those whose lives are threatened by poverty and

disease. This event, in which UNHCR took an active part, obtained a commitment from States to address their plight. Refugee children and adolescents, numbering an estimated 7.7 million, are among the most vulnerable of all. Key concerns for UNHCR have continued to be issues of separation, exploitation and sexual abuse as well as HIV/AIDS, military recruitment, access to education and the specific needs of adolescents.

31. In most refugee and returnee situations, children face an increased risk of sexual abuse and violence because of their age and the social disruption surrounding them. While both boys and girls are at risk, girls are usually the principal targets. During October and November 2001, a joint assessment mission by UNHCR/Save the Children (UK) visited West Africa to look into the issue. The aim was to help UNHCR and child protection agencies to strengthen their programmes as well as to provide important material for advocacy purposes in national and international fora, including the Yokohama conference on child sexual exploitation which took place in December 2001. A draft summary of these findings reported allegations of sexual exploitation of refugee children, noting that some workers of national and international NGOs and United Nations agencies, including UNHCR, could be involved. The Office of the Internal Oversight Service was immediately asked to undertake an investigation. At the time of writing, indications were that the scope of allegations of these despicable practices was considerably less widespread than initially thought. None of the allegations had so far been proven. This by no means diminishes the importance of addressing the issue. One case is one too many, and the rights of refugee girls and women must be protected. A comprehensive action plan was put in place by UNHCR to address programme, management and resource issues, as well as work on an effective code of conduct based on the policy of "zero tolerance", both in the region and elsewhere, are ongoing. Extensive action is also being taken at inter-agency level. Meanwhile, an independent evaluation on "Meeting the Rights and Protection Needs of Refugee Children" has been published. An in-house mechanism will review the operationalization of its recommendations, which concur with the general policy recommendations of the above draft joint assessment report.

32. The issue of unaccompanied and separated children has continued to be a priority for UNHCR. A report on unaccompanied minors was presented to the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly and was also the subject of a resolution.⁶ The Separated Children in Europe Programme has continued to seek to develop shared policy and commitment to best practice at both national and European levels. This action is particularly important in countries of Eastern Europe where the problem of children asylum-seekers has become more acute. The Inter-Agency Working Group on Separated Children has been working on Guiding Principles on Separated and Unaccompanied Children to foster a common policy between UNHCR, UNICEF, ICRC, Save the Children, the International Rescue Committee and World Vision.

⁶ Resolution 56/136.

33. Under the Action for the Rights of Children (ARC) training and capacity-building continued to be a major platform for mobilizing inter-agency collaboration, notably the regional experts' meeting on a legal framework for refugee and asylum-seeking children in Eastern Europe. The production of resource materials on child protection has continued. By the end of the year, ten resource packs including one on child soldiers were available through UNHCR's website.

34. During 2001, UNHCR and its partners also expanded the peace education programme, aimed at developing skills and attitudes conducive to peaceful and constructive behaviour by incorporating peace education into refugee assistance programmes. The programme was implemented in Kenya, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea and Liberia. Training and design planning workshops were also conducted in Eritrea, Ethiopia, north-west Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania. Some 200,000 school-going children and many others in non-formal education have been receiving peace education as part of their learning.

II. Protection, assistance and durable solutions by region

35. This chapter provides a brief overview of UNHCR's activities on a regional basis. Details of populations of concern as well as expenditure by type of assistance can be found in Tables 1 and 3, while Table 4 provides a list of top refugee-hosting countries. Full explanations of UNHCR's programmes in 2001 are available in its Global Report, available on the UNHCR website.⁷

36. Globally, in 2001 UNHCR cared for an estimated 19.8 million asylum-seekers, refugees and others of concern to the Office in almost 160 countries at the end of 2001. The region of South-West Asia hosted the largest refugee population (40 per cent), followed by Africa (26 per cent) and Europe (17 per cent). The largest groups of prima facie refugee arrivals in 2001 were: Afghans arriving in Pakistan (200,000); refugees from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who entered the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (93,000); and refugees from the Central African Republic who sought asylum in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (27,000). The most significant voluntary repatriation movements in 2001 were those of refugees returning to Sierra Leone (92,000), to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (90,000), Somalia (51,000), Eritrea (33,000) and Burundi (28,000). In 2001, UNHCR facilitated the resettlement of some 33,400 refugees from 75 first asylum countries to 23 countries of permanent residence. The largest number of refugees was resettled from Kenya (9,400), Turkey (2,750), Pakistan (2,670), Egypt (2,030) and Jordan (1,900).

A. Africa

⁷ www.unhcr.ch/prexcom.

37. In 2001, the refugee population in Africa fell by almost 10 per cent to reach 3.1 million at the end of the year. During the year, the region experienced almost 190,000 *prima facie* refugee arrivals, whereas 260,000 refugees returned home. Another 14,500 refugees were resettled by UNHCR to countries of permanent residence. The largest refugee populations in Africa are hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania (670,000), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (360,000) and the Sudan (350,000). The largest countries of origin of refugees are Burundi (550,000), Sudan (490,000) and Angola (470,000). The main refugee returns in Africa during 2001 concerned Sierra Leoneans repatriating from Guinea (77,300), Somalis repatriating from Ethiopia (50,200), Eritreans repatriating from Sudan (32,700) and Burundi refugees returning from the United Republic of Tanzania (27,600).

1. West and Central Africa

<i>Total expenditure in the region (US\$) (based on table 1 of the present report)</i>		<i>Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)</i>	
Emergency assistance:	-	Refugees:	570
Care and maintenance:	38 835	074	
500		Asylum-seekers:	21
Voluntary repatriation:	20 755	110	
400		Returned refugees:	101
Local settlement:	8 818	092	
900		Internally displaced:	196
Resettlement:	20	116	
000		Returned internally displaced:	-
Programme support:	16 769	Various other groups:	-
300			
Overall total:	85 199 100	al population of concern:	888 392

38. In 2001, UNHCR's activities in the West Africa region covered 21 countries. The main focus was on the Mano River basin area where there was a sign of hope with the start of repatriation movements to Sierra Leone as prospects of peace and return to stability gathered momentum. In other countries, UNHCR continued to provide protection and assistance to the refugee and displaced populations under its care.

39. Despite security concerns in the Mano River basin countries (Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia) throughout 2001, some 92,000 Sierra Leonean refugees were able to repatriate from Guinea and Liberia to relative safety inside Sierra Leone. The signing of a joint communiqué by the Government of Sierra Leone, the Civil Defence, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) and the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), improved prospects of further accelerating voluntary repatriation to Sierra Leone and enabled some 28,100 returnees to proceed from temporary settlements to their places of origin. However, essential elements of social infrastructure have been destroyed and massive reconstruction is required. Inside Guinea, following the closure of offices in the areas where access was restricted under United Nations Security Phase IV, UNHCR relocated some 55,000 Sierra Leonean refugees from border areas to camps in Albadaria and Dabola

districts. The teams in Guinea had to manage staff security in precarious conditions, while responding to the protection and assistance needs of thousands of dispersed refugees in flight. In Liberia, despite positive developments with the re-opening of its borders with Guinea and Sierra Leone in September 2001, the security situation has since deteriorated even further, resulting in significant displacement and refugee flows into Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea and Sierra Leone.

40. In other countries in the sub-region, UNHCR repatriated the remaining population of Chadian refugees in mid-August 2001. UNHCR has thus assisted the return of more than 8,000 Chadian refugees, mainly from Cameroon and the Central African Republic, since the beginning of the voluntary repatriation operation in 1999. In Gabon, the newly-formed National Commission for Refugees conducted its first refugee status determination activities for individual asylum-seekers. A Tripartite Agreement was signed in September 2001 by the Governments of the Republic of the Congo and Gabon, and UNHCR, on the voluntary repatriation of refugees to the Republic of the Congo. The security situation in the Central African Republic has remained highly volatile in the aftermath of the failed coup d'état in May 2001, and widespread insecurity continued to jeopardize humanitarian activities for the 50,000 refugees who live there. In 2001, 26,500 refugees from the Central African Republic arrived in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and another 3,000 Central African Republic nationals applied for asylum in the Republic of the Congo (1,600), the Americas (450) and France (400). The sense of insecurity in the country was aggravated by the killing of a United Nations Field Safety Officer in Bangui in July.

41. The publication in February 2002 of a draft report by a joint UNHCR/Save the Children (United Kingdom) mission alleging cases of exploitation and sexual abuse of refugee children in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, sent waves of shock and indignation throughout the humanitarian spectrum. UNHCR has embarked upon a number of actions both internally and externally, drawing partner agencies and donors into consultations on how to deal with such intolerable practices and build safeguards for ensuring that refugees, returnees and other vulnerable persons of concern to the Office are protected from these risks.

42. As a result of prioritization decisions in 2001, seven UNHCR offices were closed in the region and the remaining ten offices in neighbouring countries assigned to cover the residual programmes through a 'cluster' approach. This was designed to consolidate and harmonize assistance programmes throughout the region, and to pursue voluntary repatriation operations from a regional perspective, bringing a more comprehensive and integrated approach to refugee and returnee matters. Increased cooperation will be developed with sub-regional organisations such as the African Development Bank, the Economic Community of West African States and the United Nations West Africa Office established in Dakar in early 2002. Following new developments in the region, the decision to close the Gambia and Cameroon offices is now being reviewed.

2. East and Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes region

*Total expenditure in the region (US\$)
(based on table 1 of the present report)*

*Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region
(based on table 3 of the present
report and UNHCR's regional bureau
structure)*

Emergency assistance:	1 275	Refugees:	2 178
400		186	
Care and maintenance:	91 979	Asylum-seekers:	48
900		178	
Voluntary repatriation:	42 743	Returned refugees:	152
100		580	
Local settlement:	19 166	Internally displaced:	23
200		458	
Resettlement:	391	Returned internally displaced:	42
500		000	
Programme support:	30 329	Various other groups:	1
300		420	
Overall total:	185 885 400	al population of concern:	2 445 822

East and Horn of Africa

43. In 2001, 99,000 refugees returned to their country of origin, primarily to: Somalia (51,300), Eritrea (33,000) and Sudan (5,200). Some 11,000 refugees with concerns about security and integration in their countries of asylum were helped to resettle in a third country. When neither of these solutions could be achieved, refugees continued to receive protection and assistance from UNHCR in the countries of asylum. These interventions were possible only with the cooperation and support of host and recipient governments, regional organizations and other partners. The success of the Tripartite Repatriation Commission for the Eritrean refugees enabled Sudan, Eritrea and UNHCR to make significant progress in the face of challenging circumstances, including inadequate human resources.

44. During the reporting period, relations between countries in the East and Horn of Africa region remained relatively stable, and progress was made towards the resolution of inter-state conflicts. Following the signature of a peace agreement in December 2000, Eritrea and Ethiopia agreed to the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force and the establishment of a Temporary Security Zone in the first half of 2001. Relations between UNHCR and the Government of Eritrea were strengthened, not only as a consequence of the Office's involvement with returnees and refugees in the country, but also as a result of UNHCR's role in the inter-agency response to the IDP crisis in 2000-2001. In its efforts to get reintegration assistance projects implemented in returnee areas as quickly as possible, UNHCR led the way amongst agencies in decentralizing assistance from central to regional authorities. However, it became clear in 2001 that UNHCR's exit strategy for Eritrea will depend upon the effective engagement of development agencies. The restoration of diplomatic relations between Sudan and Uganda at the end of 2001 raised hopes of defusing flash points along their common border and saw the beginning of some return movements of Ugandan refugees from Sudan. Sudan, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Eritrea also engaged in diplomacy to improve co-operation in various spheres. UNHCR continued to collaborate with regional bodies in the common search for solutions to the conflicts and the problems that they generate in this part of the world.

45. In Somalia, the Arta Peace Conference initially raised hopes for a political solution. However, the formation of the Transitional National Government and the election of a President have not yet resulted in consolidated peace. Despite the continuing voluntary repatriation to north-west Somalia, there are still some

230,000 Somali refugees in refugee camps in East Africa and the Horn. In addition, some 300,000 Sudanese refugees remain in camps in the region. The protracted conflict in Sudan persisted, with shifting military and political alliances among the key players. Despite several political initiatives, including that of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), prospects for a peaceful resolution of the conflict and repatriation in the immediate future are doubtful. There have, nevertheless, been significant operational achievements in 2001. The successful repatriation of refugees from the Sudan to Eritrea, and from Ethiopia to north-west Somalia, can be taken as positive signs for the future. Following these operations, UNHCR was able to close some refugee camps.

46. In protracted refugee situations where neither repatriation nor local integration is likely in the immediate future, resettlement remains an important protection tool for UNHCR in its efforts to find durable solutions for certain groups or individual refugees. Strict application of established guidelines and sufficient control and oversight are necessary to maintain and enhance the integrity of the selection process. This includes ensuring adequate staffing levels to deal with the often complex issues and pressures exerted by different parties. In 2001, irregularities that came to light in the resettlement programme in Kenya were investigated, and a review of all UNHCR's resettlement programmes in Africa was initiated, in order to minimize the risk of fraud and corruption.

47. In most countries of the region, security in and around the camps remained a concern, as both refugees and humanitarian workers were on constant alert. Additional field-based Staff Safety Advisor and Staff Welfare Officer positions were created in Africa in 2001 to respond to the needs of colleagues working in remote and insecure areas.

Great Lakes

48. Throughout the year the Great Lakes region still frequently required emergency assistance responses with few opportunities for repatriation owing to the prevailing security situation. Voluntary repatriation was not rendered possible to the extent hoped for and UNHCR continued to assure basic assistance. The safety of humanitarian workers remained a major preoccupation in the Great Lakes region where the security situation necessitated continual monitoring and assessment, and the updating of appropriate emergency evacuation measures. The precarious conditions were tragically highlighted by the shooting of a UNHCR driver in Kimpese in the south-eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo last March, and the assassination of six ICRC delegates in May 2001 in Ituri in the north-east of the country. UNHCR continued to work closely with the United Nations Security Coordinator on both staff and refugee safety and security matters.

49. The situation in Burundi remained too volatile for major sustained voluntary repatriation of the 550,000 Burundi refugees in exile to take place. Despite the setting up of a transitional government on 1 November 2001 following the Arusha peace process, confrontations between military and rebel groups have continued. UNHCR's access to populations of concern in the country was often blocked by sporadic outbreaks of violence. Consequently, by the end of 2001, only 28,000 Burundi refugees had spontaneously returned.

50. In the United Republic of Tanzania, there were signs of declining public and political tolerance of refugees, particularly amongst impoverished local communities in the hosting regions. Security in and around the camps continued to cause concern, and despite attempts to reduce the incidence of sexual and gender-based violence against women in camps, the problems persisted, albeit on a reduced scale. UNHCR expressed concern over a suggestion that the Government was considering the idea of transferring refugees to 'safe havens' in Burundi; however, the government authorities provided assurances that such action would not be taken, nor would refugees be forcibly repatriated. Meanwhile, the conflicts in countries of the Great Lakes region continued to cause refugees to cross into the United Republic of Tanzania and, by the end of the year, there were 670,000 refugees in the country, of whom 500,000 are being assisted by UNHCR.

51. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, considerable hope emerged early in 2001 for progress towards peace and reconciliation. Developments in the course of the year included the partial withdrawal of foreign armies, political liberalization, the facilitation of access by humanitarian agencies to the interior of the country, the progressive deployment of the United Nations Observers Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and moves towards establishing dialogue between warring factions. However, lack of clear developments in the peace process and continuing political and military problems have again prevented voluntary repatriation, leaving UNHCR with the ongoing challenge of upholding its mandated responsibility to maintain minimum standards of protection and assistance in the face of shrinking financial, material and human resources.

52. Further instability in the Central African Republic in May 2001 resulted in some 27,000 refugees and significant numbers of military personnel fleeing to Equateur province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. However, talks between UNHCR and the Government of the Central African Republic have given hope that significant voluntary repatriation could take place in 2002.

53. The Republic of the Congo continued to progress towards post-conflict social rehabilitation and established an electoral schedule for the first half of 2002. As a consequence, the refugees remaining in neighbouring countries continued to return throughout the year. A Tripartite Agreement was signed by the Governments of Gabon and the Republic of the Congo and UNHCR for the repatriation of Congolese refugees from Gabon. The voluntary repatriation operation started towards the end of the year although on a modest scale.

54. In Rwanda, there was some progress towards democratization, decentralization, reconciliation and development of the rule of law. The national police force was restructured and trained in human rights. However, the consolidation of peace in the country will depend on further significant development of key sectors such as health, economy, education, land reform, environmental management and the judicial system. In 2001, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation of 21,000 Rwandan refugees. Despite security incidents in May 2001 which temporarily interrupted the return movement, it

is anticipated that the target figure of 25,000 returns should be reached in 2002.

3. Southern Africa

<i>Total expenditure in the region (US\$) (based on table 1 of the present report)</i>		<i>Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)</i>	
Emergency assistance:	5 226	Refugees:	365
400		397	
Care and maintenance:	8 579	Asylum-seekers:	21
200		798	
Voluntary repatriation:	37	Returned refugees:	13
900		117	
Local settlement:	13 196	Internally displaced:	202
700		000	
Resettlement:	52	Returned internally displaced:	-
800		Various other groups:	-
Programme support:	8 411		
200			
Overall total:	35 504 200	al population of concern:	602 312

55. During 2001, the 27-year civil war in Angola and the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo continued to profoundly affect the entire Southern African region, especially Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In Angola, fighting intensified and at the beginning of the year, the government forces regained control of some of the eastern part of the country which at one time had been under the control of the Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA). Thousands of Angolans sought asylum in neighbouring countries, mainly in Zambia (21,500), the Democratic Republic of the Congo (19,000) and Namibia (4,300). Angola was the scene of the region's worst internal displacement. In 2001, UNHCR assisted 202,000 people who had been uprooted from their homes. UNHCR coordinated efforts with other United Nations agencies and NGOs to help the Government and civil society meet their obligations and responsibilities towards IDPs; however the shortage of suitable land for cultivation is a serious obstacle to self-reliance. Nevertheless, despite renewed displacements during the year, UNHCR's programme made considerable progress, and assistance to refugees reached acceptable levels. The signature of a cease-fire between the Government of Angola and UNITA greatly improved prospects for peace.

56. UNHCR's endeavours to find lasting solutions for refugees in Southern Africa, mainly through voluntary repatriation and resettlement, were limited to small numbers, as there were no mass repatriation movements of refugees to their home countries. Concerted efforts were also made to develop self-sufficiency projects in various areas. In Malawi, the Office provided land and loans to initiate income-generating agricultural activities. In the Kingdom of Swaziland, animal husbandry and agricultural activities were initiated under a microcredit scheme.

57. UNHCR worked with the Government of South Africa to clear a backlog of asylum applications: 8,530 out of 23,000 applications reviewed were approved. In South Africa, refugees tend to stay for relatively long periods, and there

have been growing signs of public intolerance towards refugees and asylum-seekers. Nationwide public awareness activities were pursued in an attempt to counter this trend. In view of ongoing social and political tension in Zimbabwe, UNHCR met with the Governments of Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia to prepare a contingency plan and stockpiles of emergency shelter equipment in case of a large exodus. At the end of the year, Botswana, Malawi and Zimbabwe were hosting relatively small numbers of refugees, however in the course of 2001, there was a notable increase in arrivals from Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda.

58. Zambia's open-door policies on asylum were complemented by full cooperation with the refugee programme. However, continuing conflicts in 2001 triggered new refugee flows from Angola (21,500) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (11,600). The government-driven national development initiative was linked to the refugee relief programme with support from UNHCR, NGO partners, UNOPS and sister United Nations agencies. UNHCR supported NGO partners with training, operational equipment and vehicles and refugee security in the camps was maintained by the Government. Should peace be consolidated in Angola, preparatory work will be needed to manage large-scale voluntary repatriation.

59. UNHCR's mandate remained far from easy to fulfil in this region, particularly in the face of funding shortfall which affected material assistance and the number of staff available to protect and monitor refugees and asylum-seekers. One of the biggest challenges is how to sustain the institution of asylum in the face of the continuing lack of solutions for dealing with the conflicts that generate refugee situations and impede repatriation.

B. The Americas and the Caribbean

<i>Total expenditure in the region (US\$) (based on table 1 of the present report)</i>		<i>Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)</i>	
Emergency assistance:	55	Refugees:	681
000		083	
Care and maintenance:	522	Asylum-seekers:	449
800		559	
Voluntary repatriation:	150	Returned refugees:	
300		194	
Local settlement:	13 190	Internally displaced:	720
000		000	
Resettlement:	-	Returned internally displaced:	-
Programme support:	8 654	Various other groups:	-
700			
Overall total:	22 572 800	al population of concern:	1 850 836

1. Central and South America

60. The protection needs of increasing numbers of persons affected by almost four decades of armed conflict in Colombia characterized by assassinations, kidnappings and forced displacement, have remained UNHCR's prime focus in the region. IDP leaders and human rights workers were at particular risk. The failure of peace talks and renewed escalation of hostilities affected some 700,000 Colombians, a high percentage of whom were indigenous and Afro-Colombians. The neighbouring countries of Venezuela, Ecuador and Panama, affected by cross-border movements of displaced persons, have signed tripartite agreements to facilitate the repatriation of Colombian refugees whenever possible. However, voluntary returnee numbers have remained small.

61. In Colombia, UNHCR continued to reinforce the response of national institutions that address internal displacement in the country. Throughout the year, such work was carried out in partnership with 14 Colombian NGOs and with local authorities, in order to help civil society increase its role in protecting and finding solutions for IDPs. This included support for the establishment of IDP associations with equal representation of women, and the promotion of education for IDP children both in receiving and returning communities. The visit of the Chairman of UNHCR's Executive Committee to Colombia and Venezuela, in February 2002, was indicative of the importance attached to the IDP programme in this region.

62. Working closely with OCHA and other members of the United Nations Thematic Group on Displacement in Colombia (GTD), UNHCR coordinated the Humanitarian Plan of Action finalized in June 2002 which will set priorities for United Nations interventions on behalf of IDPs during the coming two years. In Ecuador, Panama and Venezuela, contingency plans were established, emergency preparedness measures include stockpiling of items and standby arrangements with international organizations for rapid deployment of qualified staff to the relevant border areas in case of a large influx. In Venezuela, the opening of a UNHCR office in San Cristobal, in August 2001, and the adoption of the law on refugees in October 2001 should bring greater protection for Colombian asylum-seekers once refugee status determination procedures are established by the Government of Venezuela. Nevertheless, border monitoring still requires more attention so that arrivals and returns are documented systematically and protection provided.

63. Elsewhere in South America, UNHCR has continued to build and strengthen national constituencies in order to progressively hand over responsibility for refugee protection and local integration to national entities. UNHCR's efforts to assist governments to incorporate norms and principles of international law into national legislation and monitor their implementation progressed, and the expansion of the role played by civil society in refugee assistance was a cause for considerable satisfaction. The recently created national association, *Argentina con ACNUR* (ARCA) continued to play a key supporting role in advocacy and public awareness campaigns. Both Brazil and Chile received refugees from outside the sub-region for resettlement, demonstrating their commitment to international solidarity and burden-sharing. UNHCR worked together with official authorities and NGO partners to assist these countries build their national resettlement capacity.

64. After 11 September 2001, asylum-seekers in the region were affected by stricter immigration controls as a consequence of heightened security concerns in the so-called "triple frontier" area abutting Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. UNHCR continued to press for harmonized regional refugee legislation and procedures through participation in meetings of Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) countries.

65. The annual numbers of asylum applications lodged by Colombian nationals increased by 134 per cent to reach 26,400. UNHCR worked with NGO and governmental institutions to strengthen their capacity to protect and assist asylum-seekers and refugees in different countries across the region. Local integration as a durable solution was encouraged for long-staying refugees through naturalisation or regularisation of their migration status.

66. In Ecuador and Costa Rica, refugee status determination projects have succeeded in reducing backlogs and several Central American countries have or are contemplating the passing of implementing legislation. Following accession to the 1951 Convention in 2000, Mexico adopted legislation and established an eligibility commission. In 2001, Mexico granted naturalisation to over 3,000 Guatemalans, while an additional 4,000 are expected to benefit from similar action in the next two years. Mexico, also donated some 1,000 land titles. Guatemala adopted implementing legislation in October 2001 and established an eligibility commission the following month. UNHCR continued to conduct refugee status determination while training government personnel. Guatemala, in July, and Uruguay, in September 2001, acceded to the 1961 Statelessness Convention. In Honduras and Nicaragua, a chapter on refugees was included in a draft migration law for consideration by Congress. In El Salvador a draft refugee law is under discussion. In January 2002, Belize reconvened its eligibility committee after a four-year suspension.

67. In October 2001, concerned by the increasing number of Colombians arriving in the country, the Government of Costa Rica adopted a new decree on asylum procedures. To assist the Migration Department for Refugees, which was overwhelmed by the sudden influx, a UNHCR emergency refugee status determination team helped resolve the backlog of asylum claims. A total of 998 asylum seekers and refugees in Costa Rica received installation and subsistence support. UNHCR also hired psychological support to treat numerous cases of trauma or torture, particularly amongst Colombians.

2. North America and the Caribbean

68. Since the 11 September events, attitudes towards asylum-seekers and refugees in the United States of America and in Canada have tended to favour greater restrictions and controls. Of utmost concern to UNHCR was the suspension of the United States resettlement programme as a result of security concerns. Only about 800 out of 14,000 expected refugees were admitted for resettlement in the last quarter of the year. When resettlement resumed in December, it progressed at a slower pace. Over 20,000 approved resettlement cases ready to travel were put on hold. In order to overcome some of the challenges, UNHCR engaged in a range of public and government-level activities to raise awareness and support. The Office inspected 25 refugee detention facilities, more than twice as many as in any previous year. Standard procedures for access to detention facilities were also negotiated with the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

69. In Canada, the number of resettled refugees in 2001 (12,250) was only slightly below the 2000 level (13,520). Public debate about asylum issues, in particular the high percentage of asylum-seekers who enter Canada through the United States having decided not to make their claim in the United States, prompted renewed negotiation of a safe third country agreement between the United States and Canada, overseas interception and the imposition of new visa requirements for citizens of leading asylum-seeker countries. UNHCR pursued work with NGO and government partners on separated children seeking asylum in Canada, and published a report with recommendations for improved practices.

70. In the Caribbean, UNHCR's efforts to secure accession to the refugee and stateless conventions received a boost when the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention in February 2002. UNHCR increased its monitoring of key refugee-receiving countries, including the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas and Jamaica, and worked to build up asylum systems in the region. Training was provided in Jamaica on refugee status determination, legislation to implement international refugee conventions and international refugee law. At the end of the year, a Caribbean Regional Conference on Refugee Protection was held in Miami, bringing together participants from within and outside the governments of 11 Caribbean States. This gathering revived interest in accession to international refugee conventions, the building of legislative mechanisms for the execution of state obligations under international refugee law and the establishment of procedures for refugee status determination.

C. Asia and the Pacific

<i>Total expenditure in the region (US\$) (based on table 1 of the present report)</i>		<i>Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)</i>	
Emergency assistance:	744	Refugees:	938
700		818	
Care and maintenance:	14 076	Asylum-seekers:	19
000		225	
Voluntary repatriation:	20 106	Returned refugees:	18 481
800		Internally displaced:	683
Local settlement:	1 982	286	
600		Returned internally displaced:	-
Resettlement:	-	Various other groups:	2
Programme support:	15 352	356	
700			
Overall total:	52 262 800	al population of concern:	1 662 166

1. South Asia

71. The long-standing and bitter armed conflict in Sri Lanka has resulted in the displacement of an estimated 700,000 within the country and 64,000 refugees in camps in southern India. A major breakthrough occurred late in 2001 with peace initiatives by the new Government, building on an earlier initiative by Norway to facilitate direct talks with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). An indefinite cease-fire was declared in February 2002 which raised prospects for durable solutions for the hundreds of thousands of displaced. Meanwhile, the United Nations Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement have been accepted as a likely basis for government policy and action by NGOs. This could enhance prospects for repatriation and reintegration if the peace process continues to gather momentum.

72. The 110,000 Bhutanese remaining in Nepal constituted one of the largest refugee groups in the region. Based on a bilateral agreement with the two governments, a joint verification to assess the eligibility of these refugees for repatriation began in March 2001, with the assistance of UNHCR, and was completed in December. Covering some 12,000 refugees in one of the seven camps, it was a modest but encouraging first step towards the durable solution of a decade-long refugee problem. Its resolution depends largely on the outcome of future bilateral talks. Meanwhile the refugees remain in camps where they have lived for over 10 years under temporary asylum in what has become a protracted situation. Renewed commitment to implement durable approaches will be needed to break the impasse.

73. The plight of 22,000 refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh has given cause for continued concern. Less than 300 refugees returned to Myanmar in 2001, the lowest number since the resumption of repatriation in 1998. UNHCR and the Government of Bangladesh conducted a population survey in the camps in December 2001, which revealed that 7,500 refugees would be willing to return immediately. It was hoped

that these efforts would result in increased repatriation in 2002 with the cooperation of both governments. In Northern Rakhine State in Myanmar, UNHCR also continued to play a crucial protection role in a protracted programme promoting the sustainable reintegration of a large number of Muslim returnees. As part of its efforts to encourage self-reliance, UNHCR has included literacy programmes in the Myanmar language, particularly among women. Such measures have been taken in close cooperation with UNDP's basic assistance programme in this region.

74. In India, UNHCR welcomed the Government's decision in September 2001 to reissue residence permits to a large number of Afghan urban refugees. With new developments in Afghanistan since then, it is now anticipated that many of these refugees will be able to return home, once conditions for their voluntary repatriation are met.

2. East Asia and the Pacific

75. The protection of asylum-seekers has been a dominant issue in this region, brought to a head by the rescue at sea in September 2001 of some 430 asylum-seekers from an Indonesian fishing vessel, seeking to reach the shores of Australia. This subsequently led to the formulation by the Australian authorities of the "Pacific Solution" whereby asylum-seekers heading for Australia would be taken elsewhere in the region for their claims to be processed. Incidents such as these have revealed a general narrowing of access to asylum procedures across the region. The September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States have added to the security concerns and many States in the region have felt justified in further tightening procedures. Challenges posed by the mixed movements of refugees and migrants, including human smuggling, and their effects on asylum were discussed at the Bali Conference of Foreign Ministers held in February 2002, co-chaired by the Governments of Australia and Indonesia.

76. East Timor's accession to independence in May 2002 has been accompanied by the voluntary repatriation of most of those who had fled as a result of the violence that has marked the recent history of this territory. UNHCR has played a major role in assisting and encouraging this return, including through the distribution of shelter units. Measures were also taken in cooperation with the United Nations Transitional Authority in East-Timor (UNTAET) to help dispel safety concerns that have been a serious deterrent to returns. As at the time of writing, only some 50,000 East Timorese remained in Indonesia, and opportunities for their local settlement are being sought with the Indonesian Government.

77. Over 1,000 members of ethnic minorities (Montagnards) from Viet Nam's central highlands sought asylum in Cambodia's north-eastern provinces in the course of 2001. Based on an assessment of their claims, they were declared by UNHCR as persons of concern and provided with basic assistance. Measures were also taken to prevent deportations and to monitor conditions for those who returned to Viet Nam. UNHCR brokered a tripartite agreement to bring about the voluntary repatriation of Montagnard refugees. Despite these efforts, the agreement collapsed, resulting in the resettlement of the caseload to a third country.

78. The Asia-Pacific Consultations on Refugees, Displaced Persons and Migrants (APC), now in their sixth year, continued to provide a useful forum for regional debate on asylum and migration issues. Three sub-regional meetings took place in Myanmar (April), Samoa (May) and Laos (July) covering return and reintegration, capacity-building, burden-sharing and emergency preparedness. Joint APC/Intergovernmental Consultations (IGC) also took place in April in Bangkok, bringing together concerns and perspectives on the issues of irregular migration and population displacement. The Annual Plenary Meeting which took place in Manila in December, dealt with irregular migration and the ramifications such movements have on refugee protection.

D. Europe

<i>Total expenditure in the region (US\$) (based on table 1 of the present report)</i>		<i>Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)</i>	
Emergency assistance:	6 094	Refugees:	2 060
400		691	
Care and maintenance:	13 848	Asylum-seekers:	332
400		136	
Voluntary repatriation:	-	Returned refugees:	
Local settlement:	21 035	414	
800		Internally displaced:	1 281
Resettlement:	-	464	
Programme support:	18 718	Returned internally displaced:	47
100		362	
		Various other groups:	683
		240	
Overall total:	59 696 700	al population of concern:	4 405 307

1. Western, Central and Eastern Europe

79. Countries of Western Europe remained a major destination for asylum-seekers in 2001: close to 420,000 applications were made, a figure comparable to that of 2000. The largest numbers were received in Germany and the United Kingdom. Most asylum applicants came from Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkey, The former Republic of Yugoslavia and the Russian Federation.

80. For UNHCR, the main challenge has continued to be that of maintaining access for these new arrivals both to the territories and to the asylum systems of the countries of destination. This has become increasingly difficult in a context of reinforced legislation to prevent irregular migration and combat smuggling and trafficking, and heightened concerns about the perceived or real misuse of the asylum system by would-be economic migrants who have no other avenue of entry. The events of September 11 inevitably raised new security concerns and triggered more restrictive measures, accompanied by increased incidents of racism and intolerance towards non-nationals, that also affected attitudes towards refugees and asylum-seekers. In this hostile environment, UNHCR's advocacy role for refugees has gained new importance, leading to increased contacts at all levels, including with civil society and the media. UNHCR has called on all governments to exercise strong political leadership and to develop and defend a coherent policy agenda on migration and asylum that responds to legitimate public concerns, neutralizes extremist tendencies and safeguards the institution of asylum.

81. UNHCR continued to be closely associated with the long-standing work of the European Union (EU) concerning the harmonization of asylum and immigration policies under the terms of the Treaty of Amsterdam and the

subsequent Tampere Conclusions. By end of 2001, the harmonization efforts had produced two asylum-related EU legislative measures: a Directive on temporary protection in situations of mass influx, and a European Refugee Fund. Negotiations are underway among EU Member States to adopt common minimum standards proposed by the European Commission in relation to asylum procedures, the application of the refugee definition, reception conditions of asylum-seekers, and the allocation of responsibility for the examination of asylum applications.

82. The gradual improvement of asylum systems in countries of Central Europe has been accompanied by an increase in numbers of asylum-seekers, which totalled some 42,000 in 2001, 38 percent more than in 2000. Many asylum seekers continued to transit through Central Europe, seeking a better quality of asylum, family reunification or durable solutions in countries of Western Europe. Governments throughout the region had to contend with growing demands from Western Europe to tighten their border controls as part of the requirement for EU accession, and this has risked undermining refugee protection in countries whose asylum systems are still in the developmental stage.

83. The situation of refugees and asylum-seekers who move in an irregular manner from Central to Western Europe is a problem which UNHCR has endeavoured to address in a comprehensive manner together with all concerned States. The principal factor impelling refugees to move is the absence of real opportunities for economic and social integration in most of the Central European countries. Since these countries may not have adequate means to strengthen their reception capacity and create conditions enabling refugees to achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance, pre-accession assistance from the EU is needed - including increased financial support to UNHCR's current and planned capacity-building activities in those countries.

84. In addition to providing input in the formulation of refugee legislation and asylum procedures in several countries, UNHCR has also established useful contacts with legal practitioners and academics. A network of refugee law clinics attached to law faculties has provided practical counseling work with asylum-seekers and refugees, and led to plans for a similar arrangement with respect to social clinics. Another important initiative that UNHCR has been actively pursuing, concerns a special programme for meeting the protection and assistance needs of separated asylum-seeking and refugee children.

85. In countries of Eastern Europe, continued support has been required by governments in assuming their responsibilities towards refugees, in view of their limited experience in operating asylum systems, of which the quality and consistency still need to be improved. New accessions (Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) were welcomed to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol. Meanwhile, transit migration movements affected several countries, particularly in the Russian Federation and its western neighbours. To facilitate contacts both with countries of origin and of destination, UNHCR has promoted active cross-border dialogue on migration and asylum issues.

86. The protracted conflicts in the Caucasus have continued to hamper stability and development, leading to new tension. In the absence of a peaceful outcome to these conflicts, finding durable solutions to the plight of the displaced in an environment of poor security remained a major challenge for UNHCR. In parallel to the provision of basic humanitarian assistance, UNHCR has focussed on finding suitable interim solutions that would provide the displaced populations with clearly recognized legal status and allow them to participate in the social and economic life of the host societies. In this context, UNHCR continued to advocate measures encouraging the self-sufficiency of refugees and displaced groups and their inclusion in development programmes, in cooperation with development partners and governments in the region.

87. Partnerships with other agencies, notably IOM, OSCE and the Council of Europe have also been an important feature of UNHCR's contribution to the implementation of the five-year plan of action that followed the CIS Conference of 1996. This plan is designed to help build effective asylum and migration management systems, to implement national refugee and citizenship legislation, to avoid or reduce statelessness and to support the development of civil society, including NGOs which are now playing a role of growing importance in the region.

2. South-Eastern Europe

<i>Total expenditure in the region (US\$) (based on table 1 of the present report)</i>		<i>Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)</i>	
Emergency assistance:	10 800	Refugees:	459
800		578	
Care and maintenance:	56 682	Asylum-seekers:	
300		640	
Voluntary repatriation:	26 571	Returned refugees:	146
400		080	
Local settlement:	6 248	Internally displaced:	741
600		626	
Resettlement:	399	Returned internally displaced:	151
500		588	
Programme support:	11 394	Various other groups:	85
300		000	
Overall total:	112 096	al population of concern:	1 584 512
900			

88. Although on a reduced scale in comparison with past years, programmes in countries of South-Eastern Europe continued to represent a sizeable proportion of UNHCR's budget in 2001. Conflicts in southern Serbia and in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia led to renewed population displacement. In 2001, 75,000 persons from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia became internally displaced, and 93,000 crossed the border into the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, triggering an emergency deployment by UNHCR. However, negotiations at the political level contributed towards the restoration of peace. By year's end, some

80 per cent of the refugees and IDPs had returned to their homes, decreasing the refugee population by some 90,000.

89. Elsewhere significant progress was recorded on several refugee and returnee issues. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, a re-registration exercise was completed, revealing a decrease in the number of refugees. Of those remaining, numbering 400,000, some 60 per cent expressed a wish to stay. It is anticipated that, thanks to the Government's new initiatives in favour of durable solutions, there will now be a unique opportunity to change the status of most of these refugees. In Croatia and in Bosnia and Herzegovina, there were also encouraging signs of minority returnees: some 92,000 in the latter country, the largest number to date. The returns were largely due to a momentum created by the implementation of property laws. Assistance from development sources is still required, however, in the form of housing units, in order to ensure the sustainability of the return.

90. Kosovo also continued on its path to stability, as witnessed by the holding of democratic elections in August 2001. Minorities have nevertheless remained in a precarious situation: only 2,500 displaced minorities returned. Minority enclaves in Kosovo have continued to require KFOR's special protection. On the positive side, many displaced ethnic Albanians from southern Serbia have been able to return from Kosovo, even though the process of reconstruction and reconciliation has remained fragile.

91. In this climate of uncertainty, hopes have remained pinned on the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. Several important initiatives were launched in 2001, including the Regional Return Initiative, accompanied by an Agenda for Regional Action endorsed in June 2001 by governments of the region. Another significant initiative concerns migration and asylum. This is of particular importance at a time of increasing flows of irregular migrants and trafficking, transiting the region towards Western Europe. UNHCR's aim under this initiative remains to ensure that bona fide asylum-seekers and refugees receive the international protection they need, and is encouraging all governments of the sub-region to draft asylum legislation and develop refugee status determination procedures.

E. Central Asia, South-West Asia, North Africa and
the Middle East

<i>Total expenditure in the region (US\$) (based on table 1 of the present report)</i>		<i>Persons of concern to UNHCR in the region (based on table 3 of the present report and UNHCR's regional bureau structure)</i>	
Emergency assistance:	39 475	Refugees:	4 811
100		587	
Care and maintenance:	29 452	Asylum-seekers:	33
600		031	
Voluntary repatriation:	8 039	Returned refugees:	30
600		650	
Local settlement:	10 230	Internally displaced:	1 200
300		000	
Resettlement:	338	Returned internally displaced:	-

000		Various other groups:	267
Programme support:	17 960	500	
600			
Overall total:	105 496 200	al population of concern:	6 342 768

92. The main focus of UNHCR's activities in the region has been on Afghanistan. In the first half of 2001, the situation was characterised by human rights abuses and continued conflict, compounded by the devastating effects of drought. The situation of the large caseloads living for over two decades mainly in the Islamic Republic of Iran and in Pakistan continued to be precarious, with waning international support and increasing reluctance by these two countries to sustain a disproportionate burden.

93. The events of 11 September and the subsequent military intervention in Afghanistan, led to a dramatic change. In an initial phase, UNHCR and its partners made urgent preparations in anticipation of a potential exodus of up to 1.5 million refugees and vigorously advocated an open border policy with all neighbouring States. The Islamic Republic of Iran continued to maintain its closed border policy and did not record any new Afghan arrivals after September. After initial reluctance, the Government of Pakistan allowed vulnerable cases to cross into the country, and authorised UNHCR to establish a pre-registration camp near the border at Chaman, and to move new arrivals to new camps in Baluchistan. An estimated 200,000 Afghan refugees fled to Pakistan in 2001. Meanwhile, all international staff members were withdrawn to offices in neighbouring countries, and national staff did their best to continue with the programme, security permitting. The evacuated staff, backed up by emergency teams and with support from offices in neighbouring countries, worked to stockpile relief items, and identify and prepare camp sites. They also tried to establish temporary protection measures, advocating open borders and negotiating with the authorities to ensure that people in flight could find temporary refuge in the surrounding countries.

94. The subsequent collapse of the Taliban and the signing of the Bonn Agreement establishing the Interim Administration in December 2001 brought a new spirit of optimism, and generous international offers of help to set Afghanistan on its feet. Within the framework of a major inter-agency mechanism, UNHCR's focus switched from preparing to receive and assist huge numbers of new arrivals in the neighbouring asylum countries, to arranging for a mass return into Afghanistan, and assistance for IDPs. In the first quarter of 2002, large-scale repatriation movements began. As of April 2002, an estimated 350,000 refugees had already returned, mainly from Pakistan, against a total planning figure of 1,250,000 for the return of refugees and IDPs. While these developments are encouraging, pursuit of this action as a durable solution will require massive and sustained support with regard to return and rehabilitation - both in Afghanistan and in the former countries of asylum.

95. Countries of Central Asia were also affected by developments in Afghanistan. In Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, preparations were

made for a possible influx of Afghans as a result of the military operations inside Afghanistan. The focus then moved to providing logistical support and transit for operations and offices in Afghanistan. UNHCR's sub-office in Termez, Uzbekistan, became a major delivery centre for goods and staff into the Mazar area of Afghanistan, particularly following the opening of the Friendship Bridge. Supplies and goods were sent into Afghanistan from the three countries. Security concerns on the part of the Central Asian governments resulted in the introduction of some measures restricting movements of foreign nationals. However, no instances of *refoulement* of refugees were reported.

96. The major challenge for UNHCR in Central Asia has remained the advocacy of refugee issues and the promotion of effective asylum legislation. In Kazakhstan, the draft law on refugees is still pending; in Tajikistan, the Government's proposed new refugee law was a serious cause for concern, as were the restrictions on Afghan refugees' right to freedom of movement and residence. Efforts to develop close working relations with governmental counterparts and provide technical assistance were rewarded in 2001 in Kyrgyzstan, where several hundred Tajik refugees acquired citizenship.

97. There were no major changes in the refugee situation in North Africa in 2001. UNHCR continued to provide protection and material assistance to urban and camp-based refugees and asylum-seekers mainly from sub-Saharan African countries. Ongoing protection and assistance was assured for the most needy among the estimated 165,000 refugees (Government figures) residing in the Tindouf camps in the Western Sahara region in south-west Algeria. However, the ongoing food shortage necessitated the launching of UNHCR and WFP appeals for assistance from the international community. Finding durable solutions for these refugees has been hindered by the political impasse in Western Sahara. The attempts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to break the deadlock met with no success in 2001, and in an effort to strengthen the relationship between the refugee population and their communities of origin, UNHCR proposed confidence-building measures through family visits, telephone and mailing services. Preparatory measures for voluntary repatriation to enable Western Saharan refugees to participate in the referendum on independence or integration with Morocco remained at a standstill.

98. Following the 11 September terrorist attacks, there was a significant slow-down in the processing of resettlement cases, and refugees accepted for resettlement stayed longer in their respective countries of asylum. This increased assistance requirements pending their departures. In the Middle East region, the international offensive against terrorism, combined with the deterioration of the situation over the Palestinian issue, led to mounting tension in countries thought to be harbouring terrorist groups. In view of the threat of renewed conflict, UNHCR updated contingency plans to ensure optimum emergency preparedness.

III. Global themes

A. Introduction

99. Throughout 2001 and early 2002, both in areas concerning protection and assistance activities and in its general management of the Office's resources and presence across the world, UNHCR paid particular attention to a number of important cross-cutting themes. Many of these themes provided opportunities for strengthening both internal and external partnerships in order to coordinate appropriate, cost-effective and timely responses. The most notable recent example was the launching of the inter-agency response to reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, where consideration of environmental issues and the development of sustainable solutions for self-reliance in newly-returned communities will be crucial. Across the globe, but perhaps most acutely in Africa, the urgent need to develop HIV/AIDS awareness and integrate proactive measures into its protection and assistance role is of high priority for UNHCR. A brief description of the Office's efforts to provide broad-based responses to these and other global themes is provided in the sections that follow.

B. Managing the environment

100. In 2001, following a review of means, resources and achievements to date, UNHCR reformulated its objectives for the promotion of sound environmental management in refugee and returnee situations. New or improved guidelines and handbooks on the application and monitoring of sound practices in agriculture, land management and energy conservation were developed. Training workshops on environmental management were organized in various African countries for UNHCR and partner staff. A CD-ROM Resource Pack was produced to extend the impact of this training and replicate the approach in other situations.

101. Parallel efforts were made to raise environmental awareness in refugee communities through educational outreach programmes, geared particularly towards children, in collaboration with UNESCO's Programme for Education in Emergencies and Reconstruction. Specific projects included those in Afghanistan, Rwanda, Sudan and Zimbabwe to promote the reduction of wood consumption through alternative fuel sources, and prevent soil erosion. The introduction of permaculture systems has had positive results both in terms of environmental rehabilitation and as a significant income-generating activity through the sale of produce. Another promising initiative developed in 2001 was the identification in Thailand of the means to construct large water storage tanks that are less expensive and more environmentally sound than models used currently by UNHCR.

102. Joint ventures with agencies such as CARE International, the Lutheran World Federation, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the World Wide Fund for Nature helped UNHCR to identify potential development partners for eventual hand-over of programmes it has initiated. Monitoring and assessment missions under the Framework for Assessing, Monitoring and Evaluating the Environment in Refugee Operations took place in Djibouti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Thailand and Uganda. Also under this project, databases for the collection and interpretation of information and practical monitoring systems were put in place in 2001 in Guinea and Uganda. While much was achieved, it was felt

that the environment was not yet sufficiently integrated in the planning and implementation of UNHCR's programmes, prompting the development of an environmental integration strategy that is being pursued in 2002.

C. HIV/AIDS

103. According to recent estimates by UNAIDS, more than 36 million people worldwide live today with HIV/AIDS. While no continent has been spared, the situation in Africa is particularly catastrophic. In this region, the total number of people living with HIV/AIDS is estimated to be 25.3 million. This means that 70 per cent of adults and 80 per cent of children living with HIV in the world, are to be found in Africa, which is home to 10 per cent of the world's population. Since the epidemic began, three-quarters of the over 20 million people world-wide who have died of AIDS have been Africans. The situation in other continents is also alarming. Asia accounts today for 20 per cent of all infections world-wide, and the AIDS epidemic in Eastern Europe is escalating. It is widely recognized that conflicts, instability, food insecurity, as well as poverty and deprivation offer fertile ground for the spread of HIV and AIDS. This reality is most acute for the millions of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), whose physical, financial and social insecurity erodes their habitual caring and coping mechanisms.

104. HIV/AIDS issues were given high priority on the UNHCR agenda in 2001 and a draft strategic plan for 2002-2004 was developed with the objective of strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention and care activities in refugee situations globally. This plan was discussed at the first meeting in February 2001 of a newly-created Advisory Group on HIV/AIDS bringing together States and other parties. The role of this Advisory Group will primarily cover: advocacy; the promotion of partnership and complementary collaboration; the provision of technical and financial support on the basis of a plan of action on HIV prevention and care of refugees; and, the identification of potential support from existing bilateral and multilateral aid. A follow-up meeting in 2002 will aim to finalise the draft strategic plan before the meeting of the Executive Committee in the autumn.

105. UNHCR has already been supporting projects on HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health since 2000 under a three-year joint project with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) entitled "Strengthening Reproductive Health Services in Communities in Crisis", funded by the Ted Turner-United Nations Foundation. In 2001 projects targeting young people in particular, were run in twelve countries, in cooperation with a network of national and international NGO partners.

D. Community services

106. Following the elaboration of its new policy reinforcing a community development approach in 2001, UNHCR deployed staff to assess needs, train local staff and create specific activities, targeting children and women in Thailand, Ukraine, East Timor, the Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Russia, Pakistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These interventions were cross-sectoral and designed to identify diverse needs and issues relating to different groups of refugees within the community. The

Community Services officers also participated in all emergency assessment and response interventions that occurred in 2001.

107. Under partnership arrangements with Save the Children-Norway and Sweden, new staff were trained in UNHCR programming prior to their deployment in order to enhance their effectiveness on the ground. A joint UNHCR/Save the Children monitoring mission also worked in West Africa in June 2001 to support and guide the deployed staff during their assignment. A pilot training, incorporating community development, protection and gender-awareness concerns was held in Cyprus in early 2001, paving the way for further development of cross-sectoral activities. The development of training materials and technical guidance for field staff, implementing partners and refugee community leaders is being pursued.

E. Humanitarian assistance and development

108. In the past year, UNHCR intensified efforts to highlight the pressing need to find durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons in protracted situations. Key priorities in 2001 were to raise awareness of the demoralizing and pernicious effects of enforced idleness and exclusion from the right to work and earn a living, on persons of concern caught up in protracted situations; and to find ways of bridging the gap between humanitarian assistance and development. This prompted the organization of a panel discussion bringing together concerned partners from United Nations agencies, governmental representatives, and non-governmental groups during the Executive Committee session in October, followed by further exchanges in December 2001 during informal Ministerial Consultations on new approaches and partnerships in Africa.

109. The search for durable solutions implies the creation of a conducive environment through concerted efforts between governments, development and humanitarian agencies, allowing socio-economic interactions between refugees or returnees and local populations. Only then can they become self-reliant and contribute actively to local socio-economic development. At the beginning of 2001, UNHCR sought to ease the transition from humanitarian assistance to long-term development by forging stronger and more predictable partnerships with development agencies. The Office continued to build a network of inter-agency support for reintegration in Afghanistan, Sierra Leone, Eritrea, Burundi and Sri Lanka and for local integration in Armenia, Serbia and Georgia. UNHCR played a catalytic role in the Zambia initiative whereby a joint approach by UNHCR, the Zambian Government and donors has created a platform for the development of one of the poorest provinces in Zambia benefiting the local populations and the refugees hosted in the area. Support of joint planning and co-ordination of activities was provided through the United Nations Country Teams in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Eritrea, Pakistan and Afghanistan for the development of Management Information Systems. In partnership with the International Labour Office (ILO), UNHCR developed a draft training manual on microfinance in conflict-affected communities. ILO also provided technical expertise in microfinance for

economic self-sufficiency projects for refugees and returnees in India, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

110. As part of UNHCR's determination to further strengthen existing partnerships with bilateral development institutes, a staff exchange was initiated with the Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) at the end of 2001. This resulted in deeper understanding and cooperation on projects in refugee hosting areas in Tanzania and Zambia. The possibility of collaboration on the reintegration of returnees was also envisaged in Myanmar and Afghanistan. Partnership with the *Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit* (GTZ) allowed development of an integrated approach to rehabilitation and reconstruction in areas of return in Sierra Leone under the ReAct concept. This approach is vital in situations when there is no existing community and where refugees, internally displaced persons, and former combatants return simultaneously to an area to begin rebuilding a community. The synergy between GTZ's development expertise and UNHCR's protection role renders the return more sustainable.

111. The initiative "Imagine Coexistence" involving UNHCR, the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy and initially the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School, pursued its activities in promoting reconciliation and coexistence in divided post-conflict communities. A project promoting the implementation of income-generating and capacity-building activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Rwanda, and a parallel research component, have been funded by the United Nations Trust Fund on Human Security set up by the Government of Japan.

F. Evaluation and policy analysis

112. UNHCR continued to implement its plan of action for the development and devolution of the evaluation function to ensure that UNHCR's planning, programming and policy-making processes are effectively informed by the systematic analysis and assessment of the Office's operational activities. New methodology was tested including joint evaluations with governmental and non-governmental partners, "real-time" evaluations of emergency operations and "beneficiary-based" evaluations soliciting the views of the target recipients of UNHCR's support and services. Training of UNHCR staff in evaluation objectives and methods was provided and funding was made available to field operations wishing to initiate a review of their programmes.

113. A number of evaluation projects were initiated in 2001, the most significant of which was an independent review of the impact of UNHCR's activities in meeting the protection needs of refugee children. Other areas covered included reviews of UNHCR's work on internal displacement issues in Angola and Sri Lanka; on reintegration programmes in Liberia and South-east Asia; and on the protection of refugees' physical security in Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania. Evaluations were also carried out on the role of the Office in strengthening national non-governmental organisations; in addressing the issue of statelessness; and in developing policy in relation to urban-based refugees.

IV. Budget and financing of activities

114. Severe funding constraints already experienced in recent years again affected UNHCR's activities in 2001. An initial target of US\$ 898.5 million was approved by the Executive Committee in October 2000, at its fifty-first session. During the course of 2001, seven Supplementary Programmes were approved, notably for operations in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Sierra Leone and for needs resulting from the situation in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, adding some US\$ 117.0 million to the initial Budget for 2001. However, total income throughout the year (see Table 2) fell considerably short of requirements. This inevitably led to budget cuts and measures to manage the shortfall in the course of the year, which affected many operations.

115. Within the confining limits of available resources, expenditure for the year totalled some US\$ 801 million. A breakdown of expenditure by region and type of assistance is provided in Table 1. It reveals that expenditure was highest in Africa (some US\$ 307 million), followed by South-East Europe (US\$ 112 million) and South-West Asia, Central Asia and the Middle East (US\$ 105 million). In terms of types of assistance, the largest share was for care and maintenance pending durable solutions (some 32 per cent of total expenditure), again mainly in Africa. Expenditure on voluntary repatriation, local settlement and resettlement (the three durable solutions) accounted for 28 per cent of total expenditure.

116. It was this context of financial shortfalls that prompted the introduction of "Actions 1, 2 and 3", as referred to in the introductory paragraphs to this report. This involved a thorough review of all operations, based on a careful analysis of what could be considered "core" and "non core" activities, leading to budget and staff reductions as field offices were closed in some areas. For its part, the Executive Committee also held a series of consultations on budget issues during the year in an attempt to help find solutions.

117. As part of these efforts to increase and ensure more stability of its income, UNHCR has continued to work towards obtaining a larger contribution from the United Nations Regular Budget. Over the years, this contribution has dwindled to a minimal percentage of requirements. With the support of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, a commitment to a modest increase was obtained for the Biennium 2002-2003, but the Regular Budget contribution still falls far short of the full amount to which the Office should be entitled as envisaged under its Statute.

118. 2001 also witnessed the beginning of a new strategy to increase funds raised from the private and corporate sector through a network of staff and national associations at work in 15 countries. Over US\$ 20 million were raised in the course of the year, the largest amounts being in Italy, the United States and Japan, with Spain and Germany close behind. The Executive Committee featured a panel discussion on "broadening support to refugees" at

its fifty-second session, to help raise awareness of the potential partnership between humanitarian work and the corporate world and civil society. For durable results, however, a consistent effort will be required which in turn demands an investment of resources by the Office.

119. A target of US\$ 828.6 was endorsed by the Executive Committee for the current year (2002). To that amount six Supplementary Programmes, amounting to US\$ 203.6, have been approved so far, of which the largest share is for Afghan returnees (US\$ 178.8 million). Income in early April 2002 stood at US\$ 399.8 million (see Table 2). It is anticipated that full financing of the programme will again be an elusive target this year, despite intense efforts at every level. As High Commissioner, this challenge thus remains high on my agenda.

V. Oversight and accountability

120. The Inspector General's Office (IGO) is responsible for both inspection and investigation activities within UNHCR and may conduct other types of enquiries when requested.

121. In 2001, inspections were conducted of UNHCR operations in 11 countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Botswana, Djibouti, Eritrea, India, Lebanon, Namibia, South Africa, Yemen and Zambia. In September 2001, IGO oversaw the conduct of one inquiry into the violent death of a staff member in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Throughout the year, it continued to cooperate with the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU) by facilitating the provision of relevant UNHCR-specific information and access to relevant officials.

122. As focal point for investigations, the Inspector General is also responsible for ensuring investigation of alleged or suspected staff misconduct within UNHCR whether misuse of funds, resources or facilities, abuse of authority and harassment, mistreatment of refugees or any improper conduct involving UNHCR staff or funds. Depending on their nature, investigations may be conducted by UNHCR staff, the UNHCR Audit Section of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the OIOS Investigation Section, or using other resources.

123. In the course of 2001, the Office received 31 complaints of alleged wrongdoing and conducted nine preliminary investigations bearing on 16 staff members on allegations of harassment, fraud, corruption with respect to resettlement as well as misuse of UNHCR assets and facilities. IGO recommended disciplinary measures against 12 staff members which led to sanctions against eight, and the decision is pending on the other four cases. Four staff members were cleared of the allegations against them. Two preliminary investigations initiated in 2001 were ongoing. One of these has been referred to the Investigation Division of OIOS and is jointly conducted with IGO. The preliminary investigation into corruption with UNHCR Nairobi's resettlement activities referred to OIOS in 2000 was concluded during 2001 and a report presented to the General Assembly. In early 2002, following allegations of sexual exploitation and violence against refugee children in West Africa, UNHCR requested OIOS to undertake an investigation in

collaboration with IGO. An investigation team was sent to one country in the region in March 2002 to undertake a pre-investigation assessment, and to be followed by a full investigation into the allegations in all three countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

VI. Partnerships/coordination

A. Introduction

124. In 2001, UNHCR placed renewed emphasis on the importance of reviewing and strengthening current partnerships in order to increase the level and quality of resources reaching refugees and returnees. A Task Force on Partnerships, established in September 2001, was divided into two sub-working groups: one to examine partnerships with United Nations agencies and international organizations; the other to look at partnerships with NGOs (see below). The sub-working groups reviewed the status of existing partnerships, trying to highlight weaknesses and ways of improvement, as well as examining cross-cutting issues and other potential types of collaboration for strengthening UNHCR's partnerships in a broader sense. Further Task Force discussions in 2002 will aim to consolidate the conclusions drawn and launch a concrete plan of action for strategic areas of partnership.

125. IOM and UNHCR worked closely together in 2001 in the context of the Global Consultations on International Protection under the item "Refugee Protection and Migration Control". The two organizations then formed the Action Group on Asylum and Migration (AGAMI). At its first meeting in November 2001, the terms of reference were defined, which recommended furthering the understanding of the nexus between migration and asylum; reviewing substantive policy issues; and exploring ways of cooperation between IOM and UNHCR in these matters. An early example of this was the preparation of a joint IOM-UNHCR paper on "Asylum and Migration - the imperative of interaction and cooperation" to be issued in the autumn of 2002 by IOM in the context of the new edition of "The World Migration Report".

126. Other important events included the annual High-level Meeting with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in June 2001 at which the discussion focussed on issues related to the respective mandates and activities, the security of refugees and staff, and the separation of armed elements. As a follow-up to the Brookings process, under the leadership of the Danish Government and UNHCR, a team was set up to visit Rwanda in February 2001. This resulted in the creation of a local Task Force chaired by the Government of Rwanda in which UNHCR and UNDP participated. This Task Force produced a report on "Land and Human Settlement" which was distributed and discussed in a National Workshop attended by 150 government, donor, United Nations and NGO representatives.

127. Further progress was achieved in updating memoranda of understanding (MOU) with key partners. They included the 1997 MOU with the World Food Programme (WFP). The signature is expected in early 2002 and this MOU will enhance cooperation and clarify the operational roles of each agency. The

1969 MOU with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was amended in 2001, updating the framework of the cooperation between the two organisations in the field of protection and material assistance to refugees, IDPs and persons of concern; promotion of refugee law; emergency preparedness; and public awareness on refugee rights. In November 2001, UNHCR signed an MOU with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to ensure protection of refugees; promotion of refugee law; post-conflict recovery; organized and spontaneous voluntary repatriation; rehabilitation and reintegration activities; local settlement and resettlement within ECOWAS countries.

B. Coordination with other members of the United Nations system

128. Coordination within the United Nations system was actively pursued through UNHCR's participation in the Chief Executives' Board (CEB - formerly the Administrative Committee on Coordination) and its subsidiary bodies, the High-Level Committee on Programmes (HLCP) and the High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM). UNHCR also participated in the plenary sessions of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and its Working Group, and derived particular benefit from the discussions on the following issues: the review of the Military and Civil Defence Unit; the Draft Guidelines for the use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in complex emergencies; United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC); the review and strengthening of the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP); binding guidelines for the use of military assets for humanitarian convoys; the development of guidelines for Field Security Collaboration between United Nations and other actors; and inter-agency contingency planning.

129. During 2001, UNHCR participated in the Resident Coordinator System and the United Nations Country Team at the field level, including the Common Country Assessment/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (CCA/UNDAF) process. The agenda of the Resident/Humanitarian Coordinators' Retreat at the end of November 2001 included discussions on: Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs); the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP); security issues within the system; the gap between relief and development; as well as natural disasters, and the OCHA change process. A senior UNHCR staff member was seconded to the Internal Displacement Unit set up within OCHA at the end of 2001, and the Office remains engaged in the IDP Network in an advisory capacity.

130. In the aftermath of the 11 September attacks, UNHCR contributed to the work of the Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee with a paper entitled "Ten refugee protection concerns in the aftermath of September 11". This was followed shortly afterwards by a presentation of UNHCR's perspective on addressing security concerns without undermining refugee protection. The Office also participated at senior level in the meetings of the Executive Committee on Peace and Security (ECPS), nominated by the Secretary-General in September 2001 as the United Nations system-wide focal point on terrorism. UNHCR played an active role in the newly-established Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs (ECHA), which was tasked, during the first months of the Afghan crisis, with developing an integrated United Nations strategy for

humanitarian response, post-conflict rehabilitation and development. UNHCR also attended the meetings of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Working Group on Afghanistan, in light of the close linkage between post-conflict rehabilitation and the search for durable solutions. Such intensive inter-agency cooperation, in the context of the Afghan crisis, provided an opportunity to place humanitarian, refugee and IDP issues on the agenda, bringing greater visibility and awareness of UNHCR's role in humanitarian affairs before military and political bodies responsible for key negotiations and interventions.

C. Relations with non-governmental organizations

131. During 2001, the Office entered into project agreements with 573 NGOs (426 national and 147 international) covering operational activities in favour of refugees and other populations of concern to UNHCR. These implementing partnerships mobilised US\$ 193 million, which represented 21 per cent of UNHCR's total budget. As mentioned earlier, the UNHCR Task Force on Partnerships set up two sub-working groups, one of which reviewed available information and examined various aspects of partnership from both NGO and UNHCR perspectives, including trends in UNHCR's past funding of NGOs. The key recommendations presented to the Task Force at the end of 2001, which were endorsed by the Office's senior management, included the need to: focus on national NGOs; improve guidelines for disseminating the content and spirit of the Framework Agreement on Operational Support down to the field level; establish strategic alliances with NGOs; and reconfigure the PARinAC process.

132. Throughout the year, NGOs played an active role in the Global Consultations on International Protection, participating in round-table meetings to examine trends in refugee law, with a view to informing decision-makers who formulate refugee policy. Prior to the fifty-second Session of UNHCR's Executive Committee in November 2001, over 200 representatives from 168 NGOs attended the Pre-ExCom three-day meeting. A range of events, including panel discussions, regional and thematic working groups as well as plenary sessions, provided the opportunity to examine a number of operational issues of concern to participating agencies, such as: UNHCR and partnership with NGOs; the role of NGOs in refugee protection, migration, human smuggling and asylum; and IDPs. The outcome of these meetings was reflected in the joint NGO statement made by the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA) on behalf of the NGO community at the Executive Committee session.