

United Nations



Nations Unies

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
Cabinet du Secrétaire général

To: DSG

! URGENT *

Please find for approval the draft SG report on Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa. The report falls among those which previously were not submitted for clearance, leaving EOSG a tight window for approval (2 days) with a due date for submission of the report ~~tomorrow~~ ^{Friday} 21 August.

The report informs that during the year under review, the number of persons in need of protection in Africa increased to 2,8 m refugees and (representing an increase of 7,5%) to 10.4 m IDPs, reversing a decline starting in 2004. Presenting figures and facts on host countries and countries of origin across the continent, it notes that East and Horn of Africa remained the sub-region with the largest refugee population on the continent – the majority of which have lived in exile for many years, even decades.

It notes that the response by governments to many refugee emergencies has been exemplary, with most arriving refugees recognized on a *prima facie* basis. However, it raises concern about the increase of smuggling and trafficking – and related abuse – in the Horn; persistent challenge in dealing with statelessness; challenging security situations disrupting refugee services (DRC, Kenya, CAR); and stricter border controls and growing rates of rejected asylum claims in Southern Africa.

The SG calls on States to discharge their responsibility to protect refugees and IDPs and urges governments and development, peacebuilding and humanitarian actors to work together to find solutions. The report calls on African States to develop national IDP frameworks and to ratify relevant instruments, notably the Kampala Convention and those related to reduction of statelessness.

Your approval of the report is recommended.

* This is urgent because UNHCR sent it to EOSG only 2 days ago!

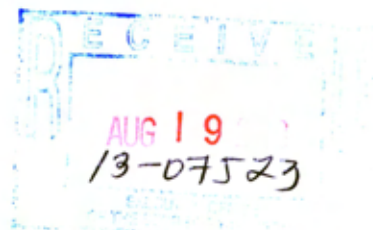
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Political Unit
21 August 2013

13-07523

**UNHCR**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés**Memorandum**

UNHCR

Case postale 2500
CH-1211 Genève 2**ACTION AG****COPY DSG**

(w. enclos.)

CJC

Mr. Feltman (email)

To/A: Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-GeneralFrom/De: Athar Sultan-Khan, Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the High Commissioner

File Code/Dossier: 2013/SIAS/083

✓ Subject/Objet: **Secretary-General's report on Assistance to refugees, returnees, and displaced persons in Africa**

Date: 19 August 2013

I am pleased to share with you the draft Secretary-General's report on Assistance to refugees, returnees, and displaced persons in Africa for review by the EOSG prior to submission to DGACM for processing. This report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/150 on Assistance to Refugees, Returnees and Displaced Persons in Africa. It updates the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly (A/67/323).

While in the past this report has been submitted directly to DGACM, given the new procedures for approval/clearance of reports of the Secretary-General as per your memo of 7 August 2013, we sought clarification on the process and on Friday, 16 August we were advised by Mr. Patrick Carey and Mr. Victor Kisob that we should obtain clearance from the EOSG this year. Although the report does not contain policy proposals nor have resources implications, and is not considered politically sensitive, we were advised to submit it to the EOSG in advance of submission based on the fact that the report contains recommendations made in the name of the Secretary-General. Please note that the report is considered by the Third Committee when the High Commissioner presents his Annual Report on 6 November.

✓ As the due date for submission is 21 August (slot number 30560) we would need to incorporate any comments by COB 20 August. We apologize for not providing the EOSG with the required 5-days for clearance prior to submission, but hope that focusing on the conclusion and recommendations section (see point A below) will help facilitate your review. Also provided below is a summary of the other elements of the report (point B), and a description of the process and stakeholders consulted (point C).

A. Conclusion and recommendations made in the name of the Secretary-General (part IV of the report):

- Calls upon African nations to renew their commitment to ensuring that refugees can seek and enjoy asylum for as long as they need it.
- Calls on States to discharge their **fundamental responsibility to provide effective protection for refugees and IDPs**, which includes maintaining the humanitarian and civilian character of displacement sites, and to end impunity for acts of sexual violence
- Encourages governments, and development, peacebuilding and humanitarian actors to work together to develop strategies that enable **solutions** for the millions of refugees and IDPs on the continent.
- Urges States which have not yet done so to sign and ratify the **African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of IDPs**, encourage States that have ratified it to fully incorporate it into domestic law, and calls on States to develop national IDP frameworks.



HRT/04/001

- ✓ - Urges States which have not yet done so to consider accession to the 1954 and 1961 Statelessness Conventions, and encourages them to work with relevant organizations to identify stateless populations and to review their national legislation to eliminate gaps that may cause or perpetuate statelessness.
- ✓ - Encourages States to ratify the United Nations Convention on the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel; and
- ✓ - Suggests that States outside Africa should support the principles of international cooperation, solidarity and responsibility-sharing.

It is worth noting that most of these recommendations are taken from previous years' reports.

B. Other elements contained in the report

Part I is the introduction, which summarizes the displacement situation on the continent in 2012 including new emergencies, total refugee and IDP population figures in comparison to the previous year, the number of refugees for whom a solution was found and the amount of money contributed in response to humanitarian appeals in Africa. Part II provides a detailed overview by sub-region, describing population movements, the humanitarian and security situation in key locations and protection risks. Part III concerns the broader humanitarian response and inter-agency cooperation. It describes work being carried out to strengthen international refugee protection, promote the human rights of IDPs, prevent and reduce statelessness, and prevent and respond to SGBV. It discusses the delivery of humanitarian assistance in the areas of food and nutrition, public health and HIV/AIDS, education and livelihoods. It also describes efforts to end forced displacement through solutions.

C. Process and stakeholders consulted

The current report has been coordinated by UNHCR and draws on information received from OCHA, ILO, UNAIDS, OHCHR, UN Women, the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, WFP, and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. It is also based on publicly available reports from FAO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA, and WHO.

I would be grateful for your quick review. For any queries, your office may contact Ms. Anne-Christine Eriksson at the UNHCR Liaison Office New York (1-212-963.5229 / eriksson@unhcr.org).

Thank you and best regards.



Jan Eliasson

Date:

Aug. 21, 2013

United Nations

A/68/xxx



General Assembly

Distr. General
xxx August 2013
English
Original: English

Sixty-eighth session

Item 62 of the provisional agenda

**Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for
Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and
displaced persons and humanitarian questions**

Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

This report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/150 on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa. It updates the information contained in the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the sixty-seventh session of the Assembly (A/67/323). The report has been coordinated by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and includes information received from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, the World Food Programme (WFP), and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. It is also based on publicly available reports from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Contents

Chapter

	Paragraphs	Page	
I. Introduction.....	1-7	3	
II. Regional overviews.....	8-46	4	
A. East and Horn of Africa.....	8-27	4	
B. Central Africa and the Great Lakes	28-37	7	Deleted: 8
C. West Africa.....	38-42	8	Deleted: 9
D. Southern Africa	43-45	9	Deleted: 3
III. Humanitarian response and inter-agency cooperation	46-93	9	Deleted: 4
A. Strengthening protection.....	46-67	9	Deleted: 6
B. Delivery of assistance.....	68-82	13	Deleted: 7
C. Ending forced displacement	83-87	15	Deleted: 4
D. Partnership and inter-agency cooperation.....	88-93	16	Deleted: 7
IV. Conclusion and recommendations	94-100	16	Deleted: 8
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Received in ODSG21 August 2013**Seen by:**ER

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UNHCR

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Memorandum

UNHCR

Case postale 2500
CH-1211 Genève 2

ACTION AG

COPY DSG

CJC

Mr. Feltham (email)

(w. enclos.)

To/A: Ms. Susana Malcorra, Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the Secretary-General

From/De: Athar Sultan-Khan, Chef de Cabinet
Executive Office of the High Commissioner

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- Suggests that States outside Africa should **support the principles of international cooperation, solidarity and responsibility-sharing**.

It is worth noting that most of these recommendations are taken from previous years' reports.

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I would be grateful for your quick review. For any queries, your office may contact Ms. Anne-Christine Eriksson at the UNHCR Liaison Office New York (1-212-963.5229 / eriksson@unhcr.org).

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Contents

Chapter

Paragraphs Page

I. Introduction.....	1-7	3
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Jan Eliasson

Date:

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I. Introduction

1. A series of complex displacement emergencies afflicted Africa¹ during the reporting period. Violence in drought-stricken northern Mali, a resurgence of fighting in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, and ongoing conflict in the South Kordofan and Blue Nile States in Sudan forced hundreds of thousands of people to flee their homes in search of safety either within their own countries or across borders. Meanwhile, Somali refugees continued to arrive in large numbers in Ethiopia and Kenya, despite encouraging political developments in Somalia.

2. At the end of 2012², there were nearly 2.8 million refugees in Africa, slightly more than the previous year, representing one quarter of the global refugee population. While some 267,000 refugees returned home, including many who had lived in exile for a protracted period of time, more than 500,000 people were forced to flee their countries. The five countries hosting the most refugees in Africa were Kenya (565,000); Ethiopia (376,000); Chad (374,000); Uganda (198,000); and South Sudan (202,500).

3. Progress was made in the implementation of comprehensive solutions strategies for refugees in protracted situations, allowing for the cessation of refugee status for Angolans, Liberians and, in some countries, Rwandans. With the support of the international community, some 35,000 Burundian refugees returned home from the United Republic of Tanzania, which enabled the Tanzanian Government to close the Mtabila refugee camp.

4. The number of people internally displaced by violence and conflict in Africa grew to 10.4 million in 2012, an increase of 7.5 per cent over 2011. This reversed a decline in the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) that had started in 2004. While some 1.3 million IDPs returned home during the year, some 2.4 million people were newly displaced. Africa continued to host nearly one-third of the world's IDPs, and the main countries affected were the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2.7 million); Sudan (2.2 million); and Somalia (1.3 million).

5. In December 2012, the African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) entered into force. UNHCR efforts continued to support governments to transform the provisions of the Convention into national law and to develop national frameworks to prevent, manage and find solutions for internal displacement.

6. According to the financial tracking service of OCHA, more than \$3.5 billion was contributed in response to humanitarian appeals for Africa during 2012. This includes approximately \$285.1 million allocated through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). The bulk of the funds were used for activities to assist Sudanese refugees that entered South Sudan fleeing violence and food shortages in Blue Nile and South Kordofan States, as well as to address the worsening humanitarian situation in northern Mali.

¹ In this report, Africa refers to sub-Saharan Africa.

² Unless specified otherwise, figures of refugees, asylum-seekers and returnees refer to statistics as of end 2012 compiled by UNHCR. Statistics on internally displaced persons are estimates provided by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre's *Global Overview 2012: People internally displaced by conflict and violence*, as well as estimates collated by OCHA. Statistics are provisional and subject to change.

7. The CERF helped enable a timely response to emergencies in addition to providing resources for underfunded programmes for refugees and IDPs. Of the 51 countries that received support from the Fund, 31 were in Africa. Some 25 per cent of the funding in Africa was allocated to food and 16 per cent to health activities. Operations in South Sudan received more than \$40 million, accounting for more than 14 per cent of the total CERF allocations for Africa in 2012.

II. Regional overviews

A. East and Horn of Africa

8. The East and Horn of Africa remained the sub-region with the largest refugee population on the continent. There were nearly two million refugees and asylum-seekers at the end of 2012, compared to more than 1.7 million the previous year. The majority have been living in exile for many years, some even decades, particularly in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.

The Sudan

9. By mid-2013, an estimated 4.4 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance in Sudan, notably in South Kordofan, Blue Nile State and Darfur, including some 1.4 million IDPs living in 99 camps. Growing competition over scarce resources, an escalation in inter-ethnic conflict intensified by readily available small arms, and clashes between Government forces and armed groups displaced some 300,000 people in the first five months of 2013. While relative stability in some parts of Darfur allowed some 200,000 refugees and IDPs to return, conflict over a gold mine in north Darfur displaced some 120,000 people in early 2013. Additionally, violence in central Darfur caused 30,000 refugees to flee to south-eastern Chad, together with nearly 19,000 Chadian nationals returning to their country of origin. In the disputed area of Abyei, some 50,000 people remained displaced as a result of the 2011 violence.

10. Approximately 90,000 Eritrean refugees are living in eastern Sudan, some of whom have been residing there for more than 40 years. Refugees continued to arrive in eastern Sudan from Eritrea, including 400 unaccompanied children. During the first months of 2013, the number of new arrivals dropped from more than 2,000 per month in 2012 to some 400-600 per month. The trafficking and smuggling of Eritreans through eastern Sudan to Khartoum, Egypt and other destinations remained a serious concern. During 2012, the number of kidnappings increased significantly. UNHCR recorded 338 incidents, out of which 37 people remain missing.

11. UNHCR and the Government of Sudan established a reception centre at the border to identify asylum-seekers and transport them safely to the refugee camps. The Government increased its presence in the camps and created a security committee to improve the coordination of security forces in the region. The number of reported incidents dropped in the first five months of 2013 to 46. However, agencies working in the region believe that the reported incidents only represent a fraction of the actual number of people kidnapped or trafficked.

South Sudan

12. By mid-2013, more than 190,000 Sudanese refugees from South Kordofan and Blue Nile States had arrived in South Sudan. Initially, many of them remained close to the border, in flood-prone and highly insecure areas. While in Upper Nile State, some 18,000 refugees relocated from Jamam to Kaya camp, in Unity State, more than 71,000

refugees remained at Yida. Their presence in the border area exposed them to serious protection risks, including forced recruitment. Despite efforts by the international community to encourage them to relocate to the newly established camp of Ajoung Thok, by mid-2013, only 1,600 had done so.

13. Due to the remoteness of the refugee sites and the lack of infrastructure, delivering humanitarian assistance remained challenging and costly. In 2013, the pre-positioning of food and basic relief items for some 230,000 refugees prior to the start of the rainy season is expected to cover the needs until the end of the year and help avoid costly airlifts.

14. According to statistics compiled by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) protection cluster, by the end of 2012, there were some 240,000 IDPs in the country. By mid-2013, an additional 59,000 people had been displaced across five States, especially Upper Nile and Jonglei. Security constraints made it difficult to accurately assess the needs of displaced people and to provide them with the required humanitarian assistance. Many people walked long distances through dangerous areas to find refuge in Ethiopia, Kenya or Uganda. By mid-2013, nearly 63,000 South Sudanese had fled to these three countries as a result of the violence in Jonglei.

Somalia

15. The United Nations declared the end of famine conditions in southern Somalia in early 2012, although some 2.7 million people remained in need of humanitarian assistance a year later. Meanwhile, security gradually improved in parts of Somalia. The United Nations common compound was opened in Mogadishu and several agencies moved their offices from Nairobi to Somalia's capital. Nevertheless, humanitarian access remained challenging, in particular in rural areas in south and central Somalia. Twelve aid workers were killed in Somalia in 2012, and attacks on humanitarian staff continued in 2013, including a deadly attack on the United Nations common compound which claimed the lives of eight people.

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16. About 1.1 million Somalis remained internally displaced in the first half of 2013, while more than 1 million were refugees in Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya and Yemen. Conditions were not yet conducive for large-scale voluntary return to most places of origin, where the situation remained volatile and livelihood options were limited. From January 2012 to June 2013, UNHCR assisted some 3,500 IDP families to return from Mogadishu to their villages of origin mainly in the Bay and Shabelle regions.

17. Some 20,000 Somalis returned spontaneously, mostly from Ethiopia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, in the first six months of 2013. A four-phase approach to return is being proposed, starting with assistance to refugees who return spontaneously. The next step would be a pilot project assisting groups of refugees to return to a number of selected places in Somalia deemed to be safe and stable. As conditions inside Somalia improve, this would be followed by enhanced facilitation and finally the promotion of repatriation.

Ethiopia

18. Ethiopia registered more than 87,000 refugee new arrivals in 2012, bringing the total number of refugees in the country to 376,000 at the end of the year, most of them from Eritrea, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan.

19. Coordinated efforts have brought significant improvements in health and nutritional services in all 18 refugee camps. While in the Dollo Ado camps, the health and nutrition situation remains fragile, it has improved considerably compared to 2011. In 2013, the mortality rates were below the emergency threshold, indicating a stabilizing population. Due to preventative activities and feeding programmes for children under the age of two,

the nutrition situation improved. In Dollo Ado, a sixth camp has been set up to accommodate new arrivals from Somalia.

20. During 2012, Eritrean refugees continued to arrive in the Tigray region, at an average rate of some 800 people per month. In March and April 2013, arrival rates spiked to 1,700 people per month, necessitating the opening of a fourth camp in Tigray. The large number of unaccompanied minors remained a serious concern. As in Sudan, anti-trafficking campaigns were launched in Ethiopia.

21. In 2009, the Government of Ethiopia introduced the "out-of-camp policy" for Eritrean refugees who were able to support themselves. Thus far, approximately 3,250 Eritrean refugees have benefited from this policy, including nearly 1,300 students attending universities around the country. The Government has started to extend the policy to refugees of other nationalities.

Kenya

22. Kenya remained the largest refugee hosting country on the continent, with more than 607,000 refugees and asylum-seekers, mostly from Somalia, as well as from Ethiopia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan. The year 2012 marked 20 years of Dadaab's existence. It is the world's largest refugee complex, comprised of five camps, and hosts nearly half a million refugees. Violence in South Sudan has led to an increase in the number of refugees in the Kakuma camp to nearly 100,000 people, well beyond its maximum capacity of 80,000.

23. In December 2012, the Government issued a directive immediately discontinuing the reception and registration of asylum-seekers in urban areas and requiring them to relocate to the Dadaab and Kakuma refugee camps. The international community expressed concerns about the protection and humanitarian impact of the policy and appealed that the Government allow refugees to find protection in cities. The lives, education and means of thousands of refugees who had settled and lived lawfully in urban centres would be severely disrupted. Implementation of this directive would affect some 56,000 urban-based refugees and asylum-seekers in Kenya.

24. A non-governmental organization (NGO) working for refugee rights and seven individual refugees petitioned the High Court of Kenya to pronounce itself on the legality of the directive. The High Court issued an injunction temporarily halting implementation of this directive pending a full hearing. While the reception and registration of asylum-seekers by the Government remained suspended in urban areas, none of the other components, most notably relocation, were implemented. The Court has since decided that the directive was unconstitutional.

25. The relocation and compensation of people displaced by the 2007 post-electoral violence continued, reducing the number of camp-based IDPs to less than 30,000 by May 2013, according to Government estimates. Human rights groups remained concerned about an estimated 314,000 displaced people who settled with local communities outside IDP camps, and who are yet to be relocated or compensated. As a result of inter-communal conflict over access to resources, and in several violent incidents leading up to the March 2013 national elections, an estimated 123,000 people were newly displaced.

Uganda

26. During 2012, Uganda received nearly 56,000 refugees fleeing violence and human rights abuses in North Kivu in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Some 33,000 were recognized on a *prima facie* basis and transferred to refugee settlements; the rest remained in the border area or returned to North Kivu. The settlement of Rwamwanja, previously hosting Rwandan refugees until the late 1990's, was rehabilitated to accommodate the new

arrivals. These refugees received a plot of land for establishing their shelters and for farming.

27. Relatively few asylum-seekers from South Sudan arrived in Uganda in 2012 in comparison to 2013, when the annual number had already doubled to more than 6,500 arrivals in the first six months of the year. The majority of arrivals fled violence in Jonglei State. Uganda requires refugee status determination, and by mid-2013, more than 4,500 of the newly arrived South Sudanese were recognized as refugees.

B. Central Africa and the Great Lakes

28. Despite an upsurge of violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, causing some 90,000 refugees to flee into neighbouring countries, the Central Africa and Great Lakes region saw a net reduction in the number of refugees of some 155,000 in 2012 compared to 2011. This was due to the repatriation of Congolese from the Republic of the Congo; the return of Burundian former refugees from the United Republic of Tanzania; and smaller return movements by Angolan and Rwandan refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Chad

29. With some 374,000 refugees recorded at the end of 2012, mostly from Sudan's Darfur region and the Central African Republic, Chad remained one of the main refugee hosting countries in Africa. In 2013, ~~Chad received some 8,500 refugees from the Central African Republic, and more than 30,000 refugees from central Darfur.~~

30. While some 83,000 IDPs have returned to their areas of origin in eastern Chad since 2008, 90,000 IDPs were living in camps by the end of 2012. Many IDPs expressed a preference for local integration rather than return to their areas of origin. The humanitarian situation in Chad was exacerbated by the Sahel food crisis and heavy flooding during the rainy season. In 2012, some 3.6 million people were considered food insecure in Chad.

The Central African Republic

31. The humanitarian situation in the Central African Republic sharply deteriorated following the ~~Séléka offensive in December 2012 and the unconstitutional change of government in March 2013, both triggering massive unrest and displacement across the country.~~ There have been numerous reports of attacks on civilians, child recruitment, summary executions, rape and other forms of sexual violence, as well as widespread looting and destruction of property, including of humanitarian organizations. By June 2013, more than 200,000 people were internally displaced and some 60,400 had fled to neighbouring Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

32. In neighbouring countries, refugees were initially hosted by local communities in the border areas. Given the risk of infiltration by armed elements from the Central African Republic, refugee sites were established away from the border and refugees were relocated to these camps on a voluntary basis.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo

33. The situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was characterized by multiple complex humanitarian operations. Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda received large numbers of refugees fleeing conflict and human rights abuses in the eastern part of the country. Sexual and gender-based violence continue to be used as a weapon of war to subject and intimidate the population, leading to a growing number of particularly vulnerable IDPs.

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34. More than 42,000 refugees fleeing the Central African Republic found refuge in the Equateur and Orientale Provinces where new refugee camps were established. Approximately 30 per cent of the arrivals opted to remain in host communities. Some 87,000 Congolese refugees repatriated to the Republic of the Congo.

35. Ongoing fighting and insecurity continued to cause displacement in the country, bringing the total number of IDPs to 2.7 million as of June 2013, compared to 1.7 million at the beginning of 2012. North and South Kivu, Maniema and Katanga were the worst affected due to the intensification of attacks by armed groups, including by the M23 movement and various Mai Mai groups. Some 440,000 people remained displaced due to attacks by the Lord's Resistance Army, the majority in Orientale Province.

United Republic of Tanzania

36. The International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP supported the return from the United Republic of Tanzania of nearly 35,000 Burundian former refugees. Support for their reintegration in Burundi continued in 2013. The integration process remained on hold for more than 162,000 naturalized Burundian refugees in the United Republic of Tanzania, leaving them in a legal and socio-economic standstill. In 2012, the Tanzanian Government resumed the naturalization process for some 2,000 Somali refugees in the Chogo settlement, which had been halted since 2011.

37. The United Republic of Tanzania continued to host some 67,000 refugees, mostly from the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Deleted: 36. . In March 2013, the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) for one year and authorized the deployment of an intervention brigade, with a mandate to carry out offensive operations to neutralize armed groups in the eastern part of the country.

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C. West Africa

38. While the crisis in Mali and drought in the Sahel received international attention, positive developments in the region included finding durable solutions for large groups of refugees and IDPs. By mid-2013, some 82,000 refugees displaced by the 2010 post-election violence in Côte d'Ivoire had returned home. Numerous IDPs also returned, but the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs found that significant challenges persisted in many returnee areas, including the lack of housing, basic services and livelihood opportunities, as well as concerns over security.

39. Efforts continued to reduce the large number of people at risk of statelessness in Côte d'Ivoire. According to Government estimates, this included some 400,000 descendants of immigrants who had settled in the country without establishing their nationality and 300,000 children who had not been recognized under Ivorian law at birth. In 2012, 55,000 people were assisted, including with birth certificates, to ascertain their nationality through a joint project involving the Government, UNFPA, UNHCR and UNICEF.

Mali situation

40. By mid-2013, more than 350,000 Malians were displaced internally as a result of violence by armed groups and insecurity, which also imposed constraints on humanitarian operations. Some 175,000 refugees fled to Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. With stabilization in the number of new arrivals, efforts increased in the areas of health and nutrition, food security, shelter, water and sanitation, and resilience-building for the recurrent droughts.

41. In April 2013, the Security Council authorized the establishment of the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). In addition to

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supporting the political reform process, MINUSMA was tasked ~~with creating~~ a security environment conducive to the provision of humanitarian assistance and the return of displaced people. The resolution underlined that the provision of assistance should be civilian-led and in accordance with humanitarian principles.

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Nigeria

42. In May 2013, a state of emergency was declared in three states in north-eastern Nigeria in an attempt to curb increasingly violent attacks by Boko Haram. The lack of access by humanitarian agencies made it difficult to estimate the number of people who have been internally displaced by the violence. Inter-agency assessment missions in neighbouring countries found that by mid-2013, some 10,700 Nigerians had fled the country to Cameroon (8,000 refugees) and Niger (2,700 refugees). All refugees were registered and received assistance, and both countries prepared for continuing arrivals. Additionally, some 3,500 nationals of Niger left Nigeria and returned to their country of origin.

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D. Southern Africa

43. All countries in the region were affected by mixed migration as either a source, transit or destination country. While there is still a lack of reliable data on irregular migration, anecdotal evidence suggests that movements are on the rise, including an increase in smuggling and trafficking of undocumented migrants.

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44. Stricter border control measures, the application of the 'first safe country' principle and growing rates of rejected asylum applications in the region raised concerns that people in need of international protection may not have access to territory or asylum procedures. Restrictions on freedom of movement outside of camps were also on the rise.

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45. In 2012, South Africa was the country with the third largest number of asylum applications worldwide, with some new 61,500 new claims, 42 per cent less than in 2011. As in previous years, the largest number of asylum claims was presented by Zimbabweans.

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III. Humanitarian response and inter-agency cooperation

A. Strengthening protection

46. The response of the governments and peoples of Africa to many of the refugee emergencies has been exemplary. In almost all cases, arriving refugees were recognized on a *prima facie* basis. For many of the Malian refugees fleeing to Burkina Faso and Niger, and for the Central African refugees arriving in Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, local communities were the "providers of first resort," saving many lives while international assistance was mobilized.

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47. The increase in smuggling and trafficking and related abuse of Ethiopians, Eritreans, Sudanese and Somalis in the Horn and East Africa resulted in a regional prevention and response strategy prepared by several United Nations organizations, Governments and other partners. National strategies were also designed to combat this phenomenon.

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48. Efforts to strengthen national refugee protection systems continued. Government officials, including police officers, border guards and local officials in border areas were trained on international refugee and human rights law, in an effort to promote protection-sensitive migration policies and systems.

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49. South Sudan adopted a Refugee Act in July 2012, providing an essential legal and policy framework for the management of refugee affairs. The Government established a Commission for Refugee Affairs, which is responsible for ensuring a timely and adequate response to the needs of refugees and ensuring the civilian character of asylum.

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50. Other countries in the region, including Angola, Malawi, Senegal, Togo and Zambia, are in the process of revising their national legislation and policies on asylum.

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Registration and documentation

51. Registration and documentation remained key protection tools, particularly in emergency situations. In the Mali operation, UNHCR faced challenges in registering and documenting the nomadic refugee population. Initial registration numbers had to be revised and assistance delivery adapted.

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52. Emergency registration was undertaken in Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Niger, Rwanda, South Sudan and Uganda. By early 2013, more detailed registration enabled better assessment of individual needs.

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53. UNHCR continued training government officials on registration standards, and provided technical expertise and material support. In Sudan, a civil registration project was launched which included refugees and asylum-seekers. In Ethiopia, the Government began issuing identity cards for urban-based refugees, providing them with proof of their lawful stay in the country. This project is now reaching camp-based refugees. Refugees in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Uganda also received identity cards. In the refugee settlements in Zambia, mobile birth registration campaigns were carried out, and in Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya 80 per cent of newborns were registered.

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54. The second Conference of African Ministers Responsible for Civil Registration held in South Africa in 2012 underscored the necessity of civil registration for all people, regardless of nationality or legal status. The conference was organized by the African Development Bank, the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, with support from UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and WHO.

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Promotion of the human rights of internally displaced persons

55. The entry into force of the Kampala Convention on 6 December 2012 was an important milestone. The Convention reinforces and consolidates key international human rights and protection standards, including the 1998 Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement. It affirms the primary responsibility of States for their own citizens who have been displaced, promotes national and regional action to prevent internal displacement and address its roots causes, and calls on States to ensure that IDPs are protected and assisted. Of the 54 African Union member States, 39 have signed and 19 have ratified the Convention.

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56. The countries with the largest IDP populations in Africa are the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2.7 million), Sudan (2.3 million) and Somalia (1.1 million). Many have endured multiple displacements. During the reporting period, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, South Sudan and Sudan saw new large internal displacement movements due to conflict and/or inter-communal violence.

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57. In October 2012, the Government of Kenya adopted a National Policy on the Prevention of Internal Displacement and Protection and Assistance to IDPs. This was complemented by an Act on the Prevention, Protection and Assistance to Internally

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Displaced Persons and Affected Communities, which established an institutional framework.

Statelessness

58. There were a number of developments on the continent with regard to statelessness. While some progress was made with respect to implementation of the 47 pledges³ made in December 2011 by 22 African States to prevent and reduce statelessness and to identify and protect stateless people, overall implementation remained a challenge. Senegal fulfilled its pledge by adopting a new nationality law granting full equality in nationality matters to men and women. Burundi implemented its pledge to identify stateless people with a registration exercise. This resulted in detailed information about the numbers of people of Omani origin and their protection situation. They received temporary renewable residence cards. In May 2012, Burkina Faso acceded to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons. Several States that pledged to accede to one or both of the statelessness conventions have taken steps at the domestic level to accede, but have not yet completed the relevant procedures.

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59. In October 2012, the African Union held a symposium on citizenship, exploring the nexus between statelessness and conflict. Recommendations included the reform of nationality laws and related legislation to prevent statelessness; the importance of accession to the statelessness conventions; and the drafting of a regional instrument on nationality. The symposium was followed by the adoption of a resolution on statelessness and the right to nationality by the African Commission on Human and People's Rights.

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60. There is growing recognition by States that statelessness can be prevented by including sufficient safeguards in nationality legislation. In Zimbabwe, the new constitution of April 2013 contained a number of provisions on citizenship for foundlings and safeguards in case of deprivation of citizenship which will have a positive impact on reducing and preventing statelessness.

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Security of people of concern and staff safety

61. Challenging security situations prevailed in many humanitarian operations in Africa, including in the eastern and southern provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan. In northern Mali, much needed food assistance was delivered through NGO partners as the heightened security situation prevented United Nations presence. As of April 2013, WFP and other United Nations organizations are re-establishing their presence in the north.

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62. In the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, services were interrupted on several occasions because of attacks which resulted in death and injury among refugees, law enforcement personnel and humanitarian workers. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, the rise of new rebel alliances and their control of strategic cities and regions seriously hampered the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In Sudan, security constraints in South Kordofan and Blue Nile States and access restrictions imposed by the Government remained a challenge throughout the reporting period. In South Africa, incidents of xenophobic violence against foreigners continued, affecting asylum-seekers and refugees and, in particular, Somali and Zimbabwean shop owners.

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³ This refers to pledges made at the Intergovernmental event at the ministerial level of Member States of the United Nations on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 50th anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, held in Geneva, Switzerland in December 2011 (see www.unhcr.org/ministerial).

63. According to the Aid Worker Security Database, 97 humanitarian workers were killed, wounded or kidnapped in Africa during the reporting period, including 34 United Nations staff.

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Prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence

64. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) remained a defining feature of many of the armed conflicts in Africa. The causal factors included insecurity, the limited presence or absence of State authorities, gender inequality, extreme poverty, lack of education and harmful traditional practices. The main underlying issue that remains to be addressed, in addition to enhanced access to medical and psycho-social services for SGBV survivors, is wide spread impunity.

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65. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, UNFPA reported 11,600 cases of rape and other forms of sexual violence in 2012. Ninety-nine per cent of the victims were civilians, both male and female, and more than half of them were children. Twenty per cent of perpetrators belong to the different armed militia groups, and a similar percentage of perpetrators were reported among the country's armed forces and national police. Half of the reported SGBV incidents were attributed to civilians and 10 per cent to family members. Activities were implemented in the framework of the United Nations Comprehensive Strategy on Combatting Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to prevent SGBV and improve the response to victims. These activities ranged from the establishment of community youth networks and neighbourhood watch committees; sensitization campaigns through sports and cultural activities; programmes on good fatherhood; the provision of alternatives to firewood energy; income generating activities; and the establishment of mobile legal courts. However, limited access to justice leading to widespread impunity remains the critical obstacle in tackling SGBV. In South Kivu, for example, only 2 per cent of the reported cases of sexual violence reached the justice system.

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66. Refugees fleeing the violence in northern Mali reported a high incidence of SGBV, including the abduction of "child brides," some as young as nine years old, by militias. UN Women documented cases in the regions of Gao and Menaka, where care services were established for SGBV survivors in northern Mali. Similar services were made available in the areas of Mopti and Bamako, which are hosting large numbers of IDPs. UN Women also organized workshops on the rights of women and girls for some 20,000 members of the armed forces prior to their deployment.

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67. A growing number of refugees and asylum-seekers in urban areas reported incidents of SGBV. In South Africa, over 300 SGBV cases in urban areas were reported in 2012. The actual number was probably higher as many of those affected do not report incidents of SGBV, fearing stigma and retribution or lacking information about available counselling, health and legal services.

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B. Delivery of assistance

Food and nutrition

68. Three successive droughts and high food prices caused food insecurity and malnutrition in the Sahel region, affecting millions of people. Global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates remained unacceptably high in many refugee operations, including Burkina Faso, Niger and South Sudan. In Niger, for example, a nutrition survey by UNICEF in August 2012 showed that the GAM rates in three refugee camps were alarmingly above the emergency threshold of 15 per cent. In Mangaize camp, a GAM rate of 21.2 per cent was recorded. In Abala, the GAM rate was 18.7 per cent, and in Tabareybarey, 15.5 per cent. To address the problem, several programmes, including blanket wet feeding for children

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younger than two years, were implemented. Such efforts were successful, despite the continuing inflow of malnourished refugees from Mali, and brought down GAM rates to 6.9 per cent in Mangaize, 11.7 per cent in Abala and 6.6 per cent in Tabareybarey by the end of 2012.

69. Malnutrition rates stabilized in the refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya, where most of the Somali refugees had arrived in 2011. High malnutrition rates had been recorded in Dollo Ado and Afar camps, with the GAM rates between 28 and 50 per cent, and severe acute malnutrition (SAM) rates between 10 and 18 per cent in 2011. By 2013, the GAM and SAM rates were below 18 and 10 per cent respectively.

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70. During the reporting period, despite resource limitations and security and logistical challenges, WFP continued to provide food assistance in displacement situations involving more than 5,000 refugees, as well as in many IDP situations. WFP is introducing a cash and voucher system in many operations in lieu of traditional in-kind food assistance. UNHCR and WFP conducted feasibility studies in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Malawi, Mozambique, Niger and Zimbabwe. Burundi and Niger have already started using vouchers in refugee camps, and a transition to cash or vouchers in other countries is expected in 2013.

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71. A study on gender and protection implications of cash and voucher-based transfers in eight countries was carried out during the reporting period. It concluded that gender-related protection risks were not a direct result of the cash and voucher system, but addressing these challenges should nevertheless be an integral part of the programme design. Beneficiaries indicated that they felt that cash and vouchers were a more dignified form of assistance because they empowered them with choice in situations in which they otherwise have very little control.

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Public health and HIV/AIDS

72. An adequate and timely public health response and preventing communicable disease outbreaks in refugee emergencies remain critical programmatic areas. For the first time, an oral cholera vaccination campaign was conducted, targeting 160,000 people, both refugees and immediate surrounding communities in Upper Nile State in South Sudan. Outbreaks of hepatitis E in South Sudan and the Dadaab refugee camps required substantial intervention in the areas of community-based public health, water, sanitation and hygiene. As no efficient vaccine or treatment is available for hepatitis E, safe drinking water and improved hygiene are essential.

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73. Ensuring access to national HIV and treatment programmes for refugees remained a key focus. By the end of 2012, in areas where antiretroviral treatment is available, access for refugees was sustained at 93 per cent, equivalent to the level of access for the surrounding populations. Substantial improvements in women's access to treatment to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV were observed in Burundi (from 43 per cent in 2008 to 98 per cent in 2012) and Uganda (from 56 to 93 per cent during the same period).

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74. UNAIDS and its co-sponsors, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP and WHO, supported awareness-raising programmes on the risk of HIV/AIDS, training for medical personnel and treatment for refugees, IDPs and some returnees in Burkina Faso, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Liberia and South Sudan. In South Sudan, recognizing the need to mainstream HIV in emergency response programmes, the United Nations Joint Team on HIV/AIDS organized a series of training initiatives for national authorities and humanitarian actors in the most crisis-prone regions. In southern Africa, IOM, in cooperation with the Migration Dialogue for Southern Africa, undertook a study on health risks in mixed migration flows from other sub-regions to inform and empower governments to take appropriate action regarding the health of migrants and host communities.

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Education

75. Education in a safe environment remained a key protection tool for children which contributed to prevention of forced recruitment, exploitation and forced marriage. Providing child-friendly spaces and organizing activities for children of school age were a standard part of the emergency response in Africa.

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76. In Burkina Faso, Malian refugee children were allowed to follow the local curriculum and both refugee and local children benefited from the refurbishing and extension of local schools. A special initiative to provide education for refugee children was launched in 2012, benefiting more than 88,000 primary school children in Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. Primary school facilities were improved and classrooms were equipped with desks and school supplies. The quality of education was improved through training of teachers, many of whom were previously underqualified.

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77. WFP continued its school feeding programme in many parts of Africa, providing a safety net for children and their families, in particular in food insecure areas. In the context of the Mali crisis, emergency school feeding programmes promoted school attendance and helped to reduce malnutrition rates. In Sudan, school feeding was crucial for internally displaced children in Darfur.

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Livelihood opportunities

78. Self-reliance and livelihood opportunities for refugees, IDPs and returnees remained a key objective for many of the United Nations organizations working in Africa.

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79. In West Africa, ILO carried out a local integration and livelihood programme in 14 countries, which included activities for some 26,000 long-staying Mauritanian refugees in Senegal and the Kayes region in Mali. A similar programme was implemented for 16,500 Senegalese refugees in the Gambia and Guinea-Bissau, focusing on supplying agricultural inputs for refugees living in rural areas. For urban-based refugees in Benin, Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria and Senegal, programmes focused on facilitating access to savings and loan services through microfinance institutions.

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80. An innovative approach was piloted in Niger, benefiting tens of thousands of nomadic refugees from Mali. The authorities designated an enclave where the refugees and their livestock could continue their nomadic lifestyle and livelihoods. The first caravan of some 800 camels, donkeys and cattle, accompanied by the herdsmen, was moved in May 2013. At the same time, basic services, including primary education, continued in the refugee sites.

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81. In Sudan, WFP and partners promoted resilience-building activities to reduce dependency on food aid, with small projects that promote local production, increase household income and stimulate local markets in the States of Darfur, Abyei, South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

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82. In Mozambique, under the Government's flexible arrangements on freedom of movement, an increasing number of refugees have access to economic activities and have become self-reliant.

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C. Ending forced displacement

83. As of 30 June 2012, refugee status ceased for Angolan refugees who had fled their country as a result of the conflicts between 1961 and 2002, and for Liberian refugees who had fled their country because of the civil wars between 1989 and 2003. A recommendation was also made to States to cease refugee status as of 30 June 2013 for

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Rwandan refugees who fled their country between 1959 and 1998. While some countries invoked cessation for Rwandan refugees, several governments were not in a position to do so by the end of June due to domestic legal reasons and practical obstacles. These governments called for a differentiated approach in the implementation of various components of the strategy.

84. Leading up to the cessation, solutions were found for as many Angolan, Liberian and Rwandan refugees as possible, either in their country of origin or in their country of asylum. Some 49,000 Angolan refugees have opted to return home, of which some 20,000 have already done so. Nearly 70,000 opted for local integration, mostly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zambia. The latter announced its willingness to locally integrate some 10,000 former Angolan refugees. The Democratic Republic of the Congo introduced transitional documentation leading to residence permits for all Angolans who opted to remain in the country after their refugee status ended. Namibia also committed to integrate some 2,000 Angolans.

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85. Nearly 30,000 Liberian refugees returned home in 2012 and over 12,000 opted for local integration. In West Africa, local integration is facilitated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Protocol on the Free Movement of Persons, Right of Residence and Establishment, which allows former refugees from the region to reside and work in any ECOWAS member State.

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86. Nearly 11,000 Rwandan refugees returned during 2012, and progress was made in identifying local integration opportunities in several host countries. The decision by the Government of Rwanda to issue passports to Rwandan refugees in countries of asylum is expected to facilitate the local integration process.

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87. Between January 2012 and April 2013, 23,560 refugees from Africa were submitted for resettlement, mainly to Australia, Canada and the United States of America. While in previous years Somalia was the country of origin for the largest number of resettled refugees, during the reporting period the majority of refugees submitted for resettlement were originally from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (43 per cent). More stringent security conditions in some of the asylum countries, most notably Kenya, caused a drop in resettlement interviews for Somali refugees. At the same time, UNHCR launched a comprehensive durable solutions strategy for refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with the objective of resettling some 50,000 refugees over three years.

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D. Partnership and inter-agency cooperation

88. In 2012, the IASC endorsed the five commitments on accountability to affected people/populations to improve leadership and transparency; respond to feedback and address complaints; encourage participation; and enhance design, monitoring and evaluation. The IASC called on all members to incorporate these commitments into their policies and operational guidelines. The IASC Principals also finalized an operational framework on improving accountability to affected people in emergency situations.

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89. During the reporting period, the inter-agency protection standby capacity project (ProCap) hosted by OCHA deployed seven senior protection officers to various United Nations organizations working with displaced people in Africa. They provided expertise in the planning, coordination and implementation of the protection response in Burundi, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Africa and Sudan. The international emergency response to internal displacement was coordinated through the cluster approach in the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali, Niger, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Zimbabwe.

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90. The United Nations continued to strengthen its partnerships at the global, regional and national levels. In partnership with the African regional economic communities, the United Nations has been developing emergency rosters together with African partners, to strengthen networks of disaster managers, deploy rapid response teams, disburse humanitarian funds and improve crisis-related information management. In Mozambique, the "Delivering as One" initiative continued to create an enabling environment for effective partnership among United Nations agencies, NGOs and the Government to address the challenges posed by mixed migratory movements. The longstanding United Nations partnership with the African Union remained a key element in the ratification and entry into force of the Kampala Convention.

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91. The United Nations Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) has been delivering critical funding to 13 African countries emerging from conflict. The fund supports essential interventions to address the root causes of crises and to ensure the sustainability of solutions in countries emerging from conflict.

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92. The PBF provided direct support to the registration process in Côte d'Ivoire, securing birth certificates for more than 100,000 children in conflict-affected areas, and giving them access to basic services such as education and health care. By assisting the integration of IDPs and supporting local conflict resolution efforts, the PBF supported projects in Somalia that contributed to reducing tensions between host communities and displaced people in Puntland.

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93. In Sudan, the PBF provided gap-filling support to the reintegration of returning IDPs and peacebuilding efforts in the States of Abyei, South Kordofan and Khartoum. Monthly workshops were held on conflict management, conflict resolution and reconciliation. A team of trained protection staff closely monitored returnee movements.

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IV. Conclusion and recommendations

94. In almost all of the emergencies in Africa during the reporting period, neighbouring countries maintained open borders and respected the principle of *non-refoulement*, despite the significant social and economic implications. At the same time, attitudes towards long-staying refugees and towards people in need of international protection caught in mixed migratory movements hardened in some countries. While recognizing the pressure that the presence of large numbers of refugees can exert on local and national resources, I call upon African States to renew their commitment to ensuring that refugees can seek and enjoy asylum for as long as they need it.

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95. Despite progress made in finding durable solutions, with many refugees returning home or integrating locally, the number of new refugees increased for the third consecutive year. The succession of complex emergencies also saw many more people internally displaced than in previous years. Displacement exposes people to greater risk of violence, including forced recruitment and sexual and gender-based violence, which is often used as a weapon of war. I call on States to discharge their fundamental responsibility to provide effective protection for refugees and IDPs, which includes maintaining the humanitarian and civilian character of displacement sites, and to end impunity for acts of sexual violence.

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96. I urge governments, and development, peacebuilding and humanitarian actors to work together to find solutions for the millions of refugees and IDPs on the continent. States should permit freedom of movement, ensuring access, without discrimination, to basic public services, legal and personal documentation, education and gainful employment.

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97. The African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa is a ground-breaking legal instrument. I commend the States

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which have already ratified the Convention, leading to its entry into force in December 2012, and urge African Union member States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify this instrument. I further encourage those States that have ratified the Convention to fully incorporate it into domestic law. I call on all States to develop national IDP frameworks, as they can serve to prevent, manage and find solutions for all types of internal displacement situations resulting from armed conflict, general violence, violations of human rights and natural or human-made disasters.

98. I encourage African States that have not yet done so to consider accession to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. States are also encouraged to work with relevant organizations, particularly UNHCR, to identify stateless populations and those at risk of becoming stateless on their territory and to review their national legislation to eliminate gaps that may cause or perpetuate statelessness.

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99. State and non-State parties to conflict should facilitate access by humanitarian organizations to affected civilian populations and ensure the security of humanitarian workers, so that impartial aid can be delivered safely even during ongoing hostilities. Currently, only 12 African countries are party to the United Nations Convention on the Safety and Security of United Nations and Associated Personnel, and only 10 in sub-Saharan Africa. I encourage all African States to sign, ratify and enforce the Convention.

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100. Finally, States outside Africa should support the principles of international cooperation, solidarity and responsibility-sharing. This includes ensuring that humanitarian organizations are adequately resourced to meet the needs of affected populations; supporting countries in the aftermath of conflict in implementing durable solutions strategies for refugees and IDPs; and making places available for resettlement.

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