UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR Rwanda

DRC NEW INFLUX TO RWANDA: UPDATE # 8

09 March 2023

KEY STATISTICS

5,619 new asylum seekers arrived in Rwanda from DRC between November 2022 and 10 March 2023

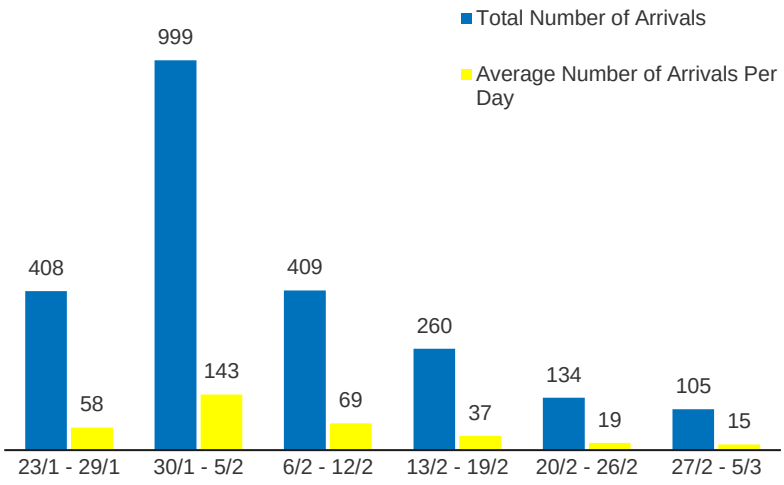
1,774 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama camp up until 12th January

3,845 asylum seekers accommodated at Nkamira Transit Site

Over **3,100** of the arrivals in Rwanda are below the age of 18

99% of arrivals originate from **North Kivu** specifically Masisi and Rutchuru

Number of New Arrivals from DRC to Rwanda



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OVERVIEW

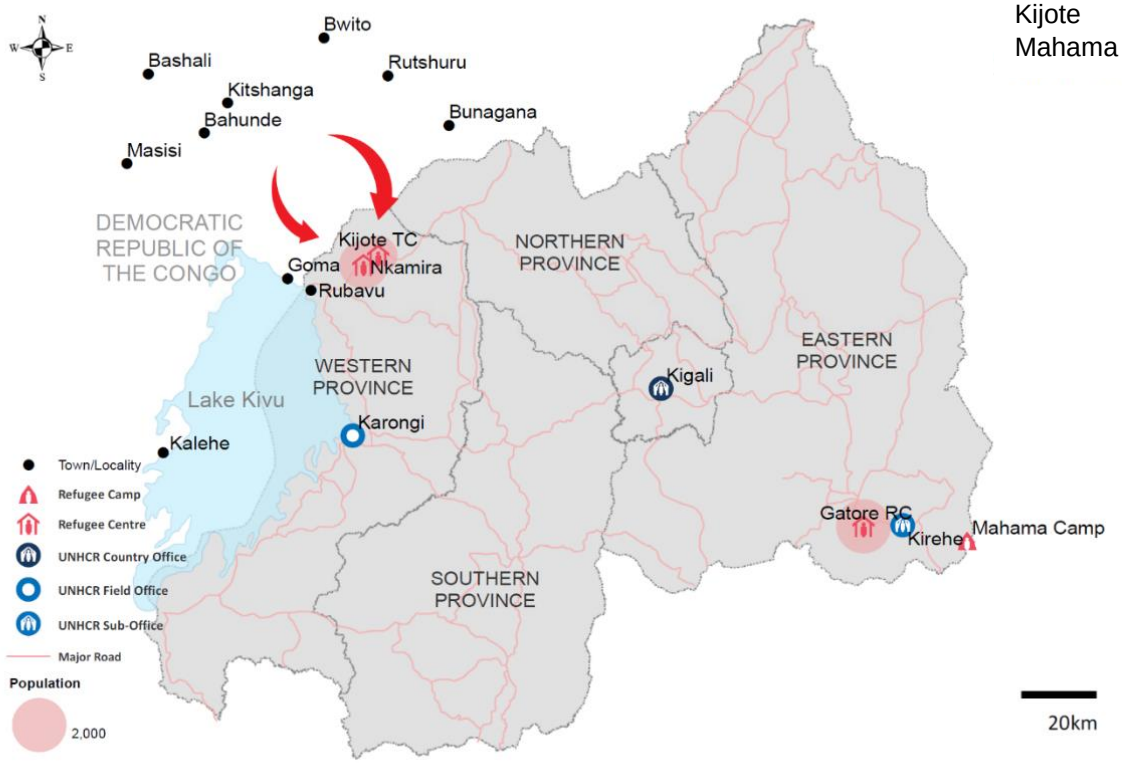
The escalation in fighting within Eastern DRC is resulting in an increase of new asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. As of the beginning of March, over 5,500 individuals have arrived in Rwanda since mid-November 2022.

Between the end of November and beginning of January, new arrivals were initially received at Kijote Transit Centre before being transferred to Mahama refugee camp. Due to the increasing numbers, however, and the fact that Mahama Camp has reached capacity, on 12 January 2023, the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) informed UNHCR of the decision of the Government of Rwanda to host asylum seekers close to the border at a new site - Nkamira.

On 8 February, Kijote Transit Centre was emptied, and all new arrivals are now directly transferred to Nkamira Transit Site. UNHCR and partners continue to build the capacity of the site to accommodate the new flow of arrivals.

Reception

Nkamira	3,845
Kijote	0
Mahama	1,774



Nkamira Site

Nkamira is located around 127 kilometres from Kigali, on the main high-way connecting Kigali-Rubavu and just five kilometres from Kijote Transit Centre and approximately 20km from the border. The site is a private property obtained by MINEMA covering **five hectares of land**. The same site was previously used in 2012-2013 as reception centre for Congolese refugees. The capacity of the site is **10,000 persons.** There were eight existing accommodations available in the site (each comprising a living room, two bedrooms, a washroom and kitchen) which could be used for accommodation / offices / stores.

SECTOR RESPONSE

MINEMA and UNHCR are co-leading the response at Nkamira alongside ADRA, World Vision, Save the Children, Plan International, Prison Fellowship, Red Cross, WFP, and UNICEF. Weekly coordination meetings are happening at the field level and three high-level coordination meetings have also taken place in Kigali.

Protection

UNHCR protection staff continued to be present providing fundamental protection and assistance, alongside Plan International (PI), and Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) in Nkamira. Child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services are available through PI, while legal assistance and community-based protection services, including assistance to people with specific needs are provided by PFR. Due to resource and capacity limitations, comprehensive assistance for people living with disabilities, including provision of assistive devices have yet to be provided. So far, 173 persons living with disabilities have been recorded, including 58 children (27 boys and 32 girls), 56 adult males and 58 adult females. GBV response services are provided to survivors who experienced GBV incidents during flight and during their asylum. Best Interest Assessments are being carried out for 249 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk. Child protection activities are ongoing with 13 UASC in need of tracing and family reunification. 21

unaccompanied children have been placed under foster care arrangements while 28 are under supervised independent living. Additional foster families are being identified to ensure family-based care for all UASC.

Community-based protection mechanisms are being strengthened at Nkamira, however, there is a gap in provision of psychosocial counselling as well as a communal space for the population through which to provide services such as for women at risk and children. Over the previous week, more than 2,413 children (cumulatively) attended various activities at the child friendly space (CFS) and 55 adolescents were enrolled in targeted programs such as knitting, modern and traditional dances. The Government of Rwanda (GoR) is leading the process of recording the new arrivals and conducting nationality assessments. UNHCR is also identifying alternatives to the standard registration procedures and discussions are ongoing as to how to register the status of the new arrivals if the population decides to remain in Rwanda. Regarding birth registration, thus far, 13 new births have been recorded in Nkamira, 8 new-borns have been issued with a birth certificate, while 5 cases are pending issuance.

Health

Save The Children continued providing basic health and nutrition services for asylum seekers hosted in the Nkamira Transit Site and Mahama departure centre. Over the reporting period, more measles cases were reported in both locations. Cumulatively, 18 and 10 suspected cases have been reported respectively in Mahama and Nkamira over the past two weeks. This includes seven cases among asylum seekers, one member from the host community of Mahama, and one returnee hosted in the Kijote reception center near Nkamira. Analysis of samples taken from the first five cases of Mahama turned positive while the sixth is negative. In Nkamira, six of the ten cases have already been confirmed. A team from the Rwanda Biomedical Center are investigating the matter for better understanding and response. In both locations all suspects and confirmed cases are placed under isolation to avoid the spread of the virus. Routine immunization was initiated in Nkamira in collaboration with the Kabali Health Center and a mass vaccination campaign at the departure center hosting asylum seekers in Mahama refugee camp. UNICEF, UNHCR and Save The Children are collaborating to ensure vaccination of asylum seekers upon arrival. In addition, UNHCR rapidly assessed the risks of Cholera in Nkamira. Recommendations have been shared with relevant stakeholders and implementation of the prevention programme has begun.

Shelter

Asylum seekers at Nkamira are currently being accommodated in 30 hangars which have been constructed since the site's opening. Men, women, and children are currently assigned separate living areas. Separate accommodation for older persons and women at risk has also been allocated utilizing existing structures. UNHCR and ADRA also completed construction of a communal kitchen, dish washing shed, a guard house and fencing of the gas tank, while fencing of the kitchen is in progress before it can start operation. Construction of additional five hangars are in progress to increase the capacity of the site and receive daily new arrivals. Installation of additional 21 public lights to increase safety of residents in the Nkamira site was completed, however, sufficient lighting inside the hangars is still lacking. The power circuit was also upgraded this week to a three-phase power distribution to enhance the efficiency of public lights in the site.

WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services to asylum seekers at Nkamira Site is ensured through the provision of a range of basic services and facilities. There are 73 latrines serving 52 persons per drop hole, which is slightly over UNHCR's emergency standards of 50 persons per drop hole, as well as 78 shower rooms serving 49 individuals per shower stance at the site. There are 33 usable water taps within the site, serving 116 individuals per water tap with 20.3 litres of potable water provided per person per day, above the emergency standards of 15 litres of water per person per day. Water trucking is also serving as a backup to cover any

interruptions in water services and access to enough water. Clean water and liquid soaps are available at 44 handwashing facilities serving 87 individuals per facility. One laundry area (18 basins) has been completed and is in daily use by the community, while two additional laundry slabs (12 basins) are under construction. UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision continue providing hygiene items at the site and have put emphasis on the replacement of aging pipes and the installation of water booster pump to be connected to the national water system to improve system reliability. On 3rd of March, UNHCR and Plan International distributed 3,254 of laundry soap and 3,696 pieces of bathing soap at the site. Ensuring adequate at the site is important to prevent flooding and is currently being discussed by WASH partners to develop a drainage site plan.

Food and Nutrition

This week, no cases of acute malnutrition have been detected among the new asylum seekers, and support to the moderate and severe acute malnutrition cases, 25 MAM and 3 SAM cases respectively, is ongoing. WFP, in cooperation with ADRA, continue to prepare two hot meals per day at the Kijote TC which are transported to Nkamira while nutritious porridge is prepared on site. Testing of the newly constructed kitchen facilities with all installed equipment occurred during the past week and is expected to be operational once the fencing is completed. This will allow partners to prepare all meals on site at Nkamira and significantly improve food distributions.

Education

Education in Emergencies offers school age children an opportunity to access education in a condensed curriculum that can be completed in half (or even less) of the number of years normally required for that level. Through this program, children in emergency situations will be able to obtain content that they may have already missed, allowing them to catch-up, and bridge their knowledge to transfer to the next level, and for older children, be able to access skills-based technical and vocational education. To bring this opportunity to the children in Nkamira, UNHCR, UNICEF and WVI are formulating learning activities. As part of these efforts, initial planned activities include training of education facilitators, distribution of scholastic materials, payment of an incentive for education facilitators (at least for three months), and organization of daily non-formal education activities with the focus on English language lessons.

URGENT NEEDS

- NFI Supply and provision of non-food items, including mattresses and mats
- Provision of Education in Emergencies
- Increase in medical staff including doctors
- Emergency food (including nutritional porridge for micronutrient deficiency)
- Construction of additional communal kitchens (at least 4) and provision of LPG
- Construction communal hangars, including sufficient solar lighting
- Construction of latrines (at least 118 drop holes is urgently needed)