

Rwanda

July 2023

On 24 and 26 July, UNHCR organized the transfer of **1,395 asylum seekers from Nkamira transit center to Mahama refugee camp** to prevent overcrowding. The new arrivals are currently accommodated in existing empty shelters in the camp.

9,952 urban based refugees and UNHCR assisted boarding school students were enrolled in the community-based health insurance scheme (CBHI) for the year July 2023 – June 2024.

Harvests took place in July at Nyabicwamba and Mushishito marshlands. In Nyabicwamba marshland, approximately **17 tons of soyabeans** were harvested, while in Mushishito marshland **106,400 kgs of maize** was harvested.

KEY STATISTICS

133,628 refugees and asylum seekers are in Rwanda as of 31 Jul 2023. Mainly including people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (61.4%) and Burundi (38%). About 8,110 new asylum seekers from DRC are awaiting formal registration.

91% of refugees in Rwanda live in refugee camps

4,762 refugees have departed for resettlement & **63** departed through complementary pathways in 2023

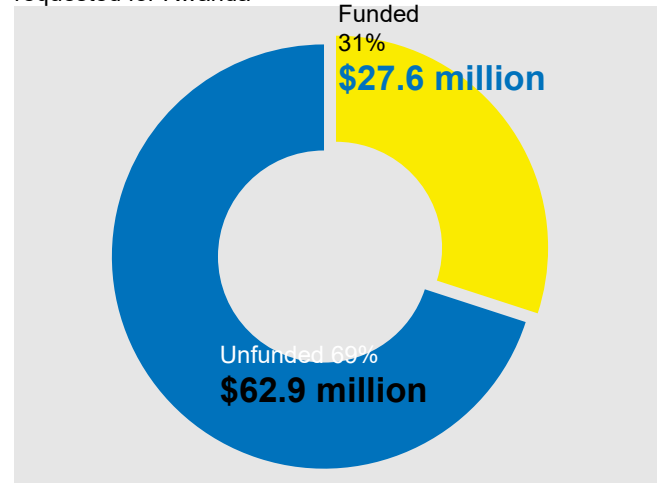


Beatrice, Donat, Ancille, Tumayine, and Evariste (L to R) are among the refugee and Rwandan farmers who are farming at Mushishito marshlands. © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

FUNDING (AS OF 31 JULY)

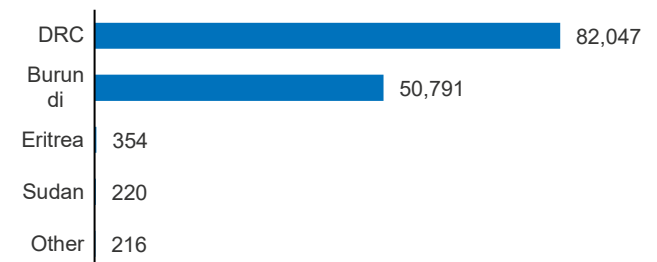
USD 90.5 million

requested for Rwanda



CURRENT POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

Operational Context & Partners

The Government of Rwanda (GoR), through Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), leads the refugee response in Rwanda in coordination with UNHCR. In addition, a range of UN Agencies, NGOs, operational and development partners participate in sector working groups at both country and district levels. In 2023, UNHCR works directly with seven NGO partners in implementing key activities to assist both the refugee population and Rwandan host communities. To further strengthen the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR maintains close collaboration with key government institutions and ministries.

Achievements



PROTECTION

- Registration of new arrivals from DRC commenced in July in Mahama refugee camp. In total, 996 asylum seekers have been officially registered by UNHCR following approval from the Government of Rwanda. Registration will continue over the coming months to provide documentation to over 10,000 individuals who have sought safety in Rwanda since November 2022.
- On July 24 and 26, UNHCR organized the first two convoys transferring 1,395 new arrivals from Nkamira Transit Site to Mahama refugee camp to prevent overcrowding. Among those transferred were 31 family reunification cases. This adds to the 1,775 individuals already transferred to Mahama in 2022.
- In July, UNHCR continued to provide counselling to asylum seekers in Rwanda at Gikondo community centre. In total, 25 individuals from Burundi, Sudan, Uganda, and Syria, were advised about the asylum process in Rwanda and directed to the Rwandan Government accordingly.
- UNHCR and partners work to ensure that children, adolescents, and youth are protected from harm and that their rights are upheld. In July, 34 Best Interest Procedures (BIP) were conducted for child protection cases.
- UNHCR works in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda to provide legal counselling and assistance. In Nyabiheke camp, 45 refugees were provided with legal assistance in July while an awareness campaign centred around preventing drug use and solving conflict involved over 1,000 individuals from the camp. A monitoring visit was also conducted in Huye to support refugees in detention.
- To continue to fulfil its mandate, UNHCR has established various channels to facilitate communication with refugees such as help lines, SMS, WhatsApp, email, face-to-face counselling, and community meetings. In July, 88 refugees made inquiries in Kigali and 59 refugees approached the weekly protection desk in Kabarore, questions centered around the themes of enrollment in community-based health insurance (CBHI), medical assistance, documentation, and resettlement.
- UNHCR in Rwanda provides financial assistance to refugees living in urban areas in exceptional cases to help them meet their basic needs such as paying rent and buying food. In July, UNHCR provided

such assistance to five families in need in Kigali and also supported two families to relocate to Mahama camp from Kigali as they were unable to sustain a living in Kigali.

- UNHCR works in partnership with Humanity and Inclusion to assist refugees living with disabilities. In July, the two organizations have been working to update data about individuals living with disabilities in urban areas to inform assistance programmes in the future.
- UNHCR participated in the ICGLR Expert Conference on the Eradication of Statelessness and Access to Legal Identity Documentation in the Great Lakes region held in Nairobi from 24-27 July. Rwanda's progress on the eradication of statelessness was highlighted as a positive example.



EDUCATION

- Refugee students in Rwanda enjoy access to the national education system from early childhood education and primary to secondary and tertiary education. UNHCR continues to work closely with 15 refugee hosting primary schools to improve quality education and support students. A total number of 2,305 primary students and 2,470 secondary students from the five camps sat for primary and secondary national exams in July. All students across the country are now on holiday for the 2022-2023 academic year. The new 2023-2024 academic year starting dates will be announced by the Government.
- During the current school holidays, UNHCR is organizing trainings for 374 teachers working in refugee hosting schools on connected learning as part of the ProFuturo programme. The training will cover topics such as lesson and class creation, teacher management, platform user management, router settings and configuration, the use of national resources and resource creation. In addition, 200 lower primary teachers will also receive training about the ProFuturo platform.
- The education in emergency programme continues for children of new asylum seekers both in Nkamira and Mahama refugee camp. In Nkamira transit center there are currently 10 temporary classrooms and the school operates in two shifts. In Mahama refugee camp, children are accessing classes for intensive language and curriculum orientation at the existing Paysannat LD school near the camp.



HEALTH

- UNHCR is managing eight camp-based health care facilities in Rwanda in cooperation with Save the Children in refugee camps and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) at the ETM. These include four health centres (two in Mahama, one in Kiziba, one in Nyabiheke) and four health posts (one in Mugombwa, Kigeme, Nkamira and Gashora). Health centres in camps offer broad health care services, including laboratory tests and vaccinations, while health posts offer basic primary health care services. In addition, some services including the provision of TB and HIV medications are provided through district government health centres.
- UNHCR continues to support access to health care services for all refugees in Rwanda. In July, 22,507 primary consultations were conducted in all camp-based health facilities, averaging 44 consultations per day per clinician. The local Rwandan host community also have access to these health facilities. The health centres in camps also supported the delivery of 272 new-born babies throughout the month with 98.5 percent of the births attended by skilled health workers. Challenges, however, remain in

regard to the provision of essential medicines to UNHCR funded primary health clinics, with stocks running low compared to the needs.

- Due to funding challenges, UNHCR is currently only able to support the referrals of refugees to secondary and tertiary healthcare in emergency or lifesaving cases. Other refugees in need of elective healthcare including routine or minor surgeries are having to be put on a waiting list. In July, 663 cases were referred to hospitals.
- Refugees were included within the national polio vaccination campaign targeting children aged 0-7 years old which ran throughout July. In total, 15,650 refugee children were vaccinated through the campaign.
- Over 2,000 HIV/AIDS refugee patients continued to receive care and treatment in July. In addition, over 6,000 refugee youth in camps were reached with information about HIV and sexual and reproductive health throughout the month through efforts made by community health volunteers.
- In July, UNHCR completed the enrolment of urban based refugees and UNHCR-assisted boarding school students within the community-based health insurance (CBHI) scheme for the upcoming year (July 2023 – June 2024). In total, 9,952 individuals were enrolled in the state-run health insurance for which UNHCR pays the premium for refugees who live in urban areas. UNHCR also disseminated communications to the refugee population to urge them to check their enrolment status and continues to follow up with additional eligible cases.
- A technical committee meeting about the implementation of health pledges made by the Government of Rwanda at the 2019 Global Refugee Forum was held in July. Progress against the health-related pledges is on track with 98 percent of urban refugees enrolled in the CBHI scheme and refugees included within national efforts to treat viral hepatitis.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- In support of the World Food Programme (WFP) cash assistance for food programme in refugee camps across Rwanda, UNHCR provided the lists of refugees in the highly vulnerable and moderately vulnerable categories who are eligible to receive assistance. In total, 87 percent of refugees are classified as highly vulnerable and receive 10,000 RWF a month, while 9 percent of refugees are moderately vulnerable and receive 5,000 RWF a month.
- To support the nutrition of refugees and prevent malnutrition, UNHCR and partners conduct regular nutrition screenings and provide support for vulnerable refugees especially infants, children under the age of six, mothers and refugees with chronic diseases. A total of 6,427 refugee children between 6-23 months are currently assisted through the supplementary feeding programme. In July, 20 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 71 moderately acute malnutrition (MAM) children were newly admitted to nutrition programs for treatment. By the end of the month, 36 SAM and 212 MAM being supported by targeted therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes.



WATER AND SANITATION

- UNHCR, in partnership with World Vision, provides water to refugees living in all refugee camps, reception, and transit centres across Rwanda, as well as the newly established Nkamira Site through connections to the national water network where possible. In July 2023, water supply averaged 22 litres per person per day throughout the refugee camps in Rwanda. Despite this, water facilities and infrastructure across refugee camp remains old and in urgent need of maintenance. In particular, old latrine blocks require upgrading and wastewater drainage systems needs rehabilitating to meet basic standards.
- To prevent and mitigate the impact of poor hygiene related diseases and stave off diarrheal diseases in all refugee camps and transit locations, UNHCR through WASH partners provided a total of 2,392 litres of liquid soap, for handwashing and other cleaning practices in July. Furthermore, 2,740 cubic meters of sludge from latrines' septic tanks and 630 cubic meters of garbage was collected from refugee camps and disposed of to the respective waste dumpsites, to keep refugee camps clean.
- UNHCR ensured the provision of basic WASH services for asylum seekers in Nkamira site. Throughout the month of July, access to clean water was maintained above the minimum standards at 22 litres per person per day. Asylum seekers also continue to access sanitation facilities at latrines and shower stances with 93 persons per designated latrine drop hole and 79 persons per shower stance. Construction of laundry slab, bathing facilities, garbage collection facilities and additional toilets are currently underway.
- UNHCR is currently concluding a feasibility study about the solarization of diesel generators being used at water pumping stations and healthcare facilities in Nyabiheke, Mahama, Mugombwa and Kigeme refugee camps in line with efforts to make the operation more environmentally friendly.



Refugee children line up jerry-cans to collect water in Kigeme refugee camp © UNHCR/Lilly Carlisle

**SHELTER AND NFIS**

- In July, a total 104 shelters were rehabilitated across all the camps including 60 shelters in Nyabiheke camp, 20 shelters in Kigeme camp, 15 shelters in Mahama camp, and 9 shelters in Mugombwa camp. This brings the total number of shelters rehabilitated across the camps since the beginning of the year to 275 shelters.
- Due to the relocation of asylum seekers from Nkamira Transit Center to Mahama camp as well as the existing population of new arrivals from DRC previously living in Mahama camp departure center, UNHCR identified empty shelters within the camp and allocated them to a total of 2,406 asylum seekers.
- In July, a total of 20 terraces were constructed to protect shelters in high-risk areas, this includes: 13 terraces in Kigeme camp, 5 terraces in Mugombwa camp and 2 terraces in Kiziba camp, which brings the total number of terraces constructed for the year to 49 terraces.
- In July, no cash assistance for NFI's was distributed to refugees living in camps due to a lack of funding. In 2023, UNHCR had aimed to provide cash-based assistance to refugees living in camps on a quarterly basis to help them buy items such as soap, blankets, menstrual hygiene products and other household items. Due to the cuts in programmes, UNHCR remains concerned about the deterioration of refugee wellbeing and increase of negative coping mechanisms.
- Between 10-13 July a bank registration exercise was conducted in Mugombwa and Kigeme refugee camps together with Equity Bank to ensure that refugees have access to various cash assistance programmes. In total, 36 new accounts were created and 42 refugee households received new cards.

**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

- UNHCR has continued to provide gas for clean cooking / energy in kind for refugees in Mahama refugee camp in the form of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and works with Good People International to provide the same in Mugombwa camp. LPG cookers emit 50 times fewer pollutants than cooking stoves fuelled by biomass such as mud stoves.
- In 2018, UNHCR introduced a cash assistance programme to ensure refugees receive monthly cash payments that enable them to have the financial resources to purchase gas for cooking and other energy needs in Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme camps. Despite this, due to a lack of funding no cash for energy was distributed in July. As a result, refugees in Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme camps struggled to meet their energy needs.
- In July, UNHCR worked with SOLEKTRA, a private sector company in Rwanda, to install 15 solar streetlights in Nkamira transit center which improved the safety and security of asylum seekers accommodated at the center.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- Agriculture is one of the main sectors through which refugee self-reliance can be achieved. UNHCR Rwanda is currently running three projects to develop refugee and Rwandan livelihoods and self-reliance through the Misizi (covering Mugombwa camp), Nyabicwamba (covering Nyabiheke Refugee Camp), and Mushishito (covering Kigeme Refugee Camp) marshlands. In July, harvest took place at all marshlands resulting in a good income for refugee and Rwandan farmers. In Nyabicwamba marshland, approximately 17 tons of soyabeans were harvested, while in Mushishito marshland 106,400 kgs of maize was harvested with 72 percent taken for home consumption and 28 percent saved to be sold at market. Following the harvest, UNHCR provided farmers in Mushishito marshland with 74kg of Irish potato seeds per farmer for planting for the next agricultural season.
- As part of the Poverty Alleviation Coalition project run by World Vision, between 22-25 July an exhibition was held in Mugombwa and Kigeme refugee camps for refugee and Rwandan entrepreneurs and business owners (who had previously received start-up grants through the project) to showcase and sell their products to the public.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- For the year 2023, UNHCR Rwanda has received resettlement quota for 5,803 individuals to USA, Belgium, Norway, Canada, France, and Finland. By the end of July 2023, UNHCR has submitted 3,763 individuals to resettlement countries. 4,762 refugees have departed for resettlement and 63 refugees departed through complementary pathways so far this year.
- On 12 July, a convoy of 165 Burundian refugees departed Mahama camp and urban areas to return back to Burundi. This brings the total number of Burundian refugees who have repatriated in 2023 to 367 individuals and over 31,000 since 2020.
- As part of the Canadian the Employment Mobility Pathways Project (EMPP), UNHCR in partnership with Save the Children has referred seven refugee candidates from Rwanda for potential jobs as personal care assistants and mechanics. The candidates will subsequently undertake interviews through Talent Lift to assess their eligibility.



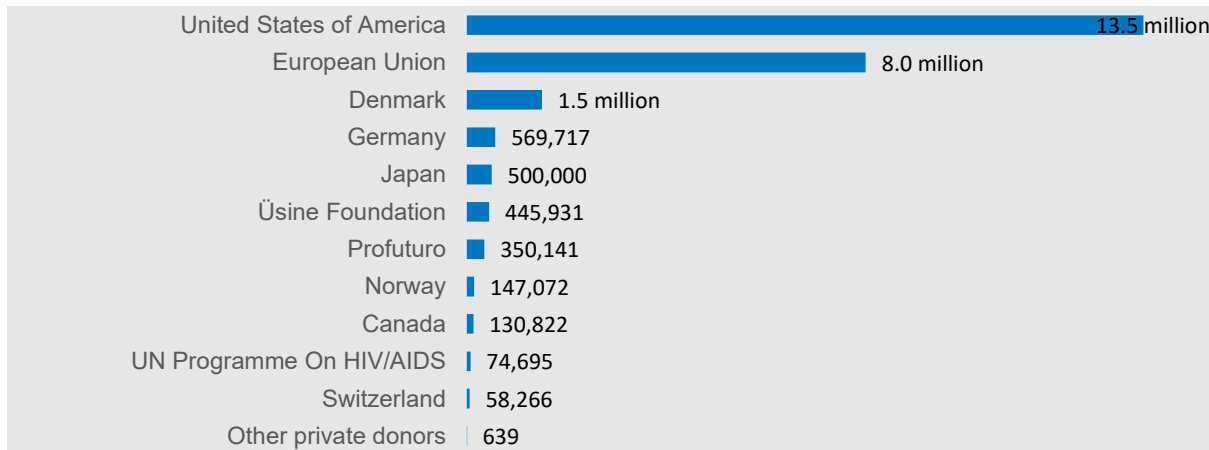
MISSIONS, DELEGATIONS AND EVENTS

- On 21 July, UNHCR facilitated the visit of Nhial Deng, a former South Sudanese refugee, youth activist and current student in Canada, to Kigeme refugee camp where he met with young refugees and learned about UNHCR's education, environmental and livelihoods programming.
- On 26 July, UNHCR organized the mission of the Japanese Ambassador in Rwanda to Nkamira transit center to see the impact of Japan funds for the emergency response. During the visit, the Ambassador interacted with newly arrived asylum seekers to learn about their flight and saw the construction of WASH facilities funded by Japan.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Rwanda operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes regionally and globally with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS to UNHCR Rwanda in 2023 | USD



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions which contribute to the response in Rwanda and the region

United States of America 35.6 million | Private donors Australia 5.3 million | Finland 3.1 million | Canada 3.9 million | Australia 3.9 million

Private donors Germany 4 million | Private donors USA 2.7 million

France | Isle of Man | Luxembourg | Private donors

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 69 million | Norway 63.1 million | Private donors Spain 36.9 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 36.3 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million | Private donors Italy 10.3 million | United Kingdom 28.9 million | France 26.7 million | Germany 23.1 million | Private donors Japan 21.2 million | Private donors Republic of Korea 18.6 million

CONTACTS

Lilly Carlisle, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Rwanda,
 carlisle@unhcr.org: +250 788 350 295