

Rwanda

February - March 2025

Ongoing **funding shortfalls are hindering the refugee response** across critical sectors such as health, shelter, WASH, and protection.

854 Rwandan returnees from DRC were received in Kijote and Nyarushishi transit centres, documented and provided with essential services, while 113 earlier returnees were supported to return to their areas of origin.

UNHCR rehabilitated 300 shelters and **built 118 new semi-permanent ones** across all refugee camps, enhancing access to safe and dignified housing for refugees and asylum seekers.

KEY STATISTICS

135,952 refugees and asylum seekers are in

Rwanda as of 31 March 2025. Most are from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (60.87%) and Burundi (38.38%).

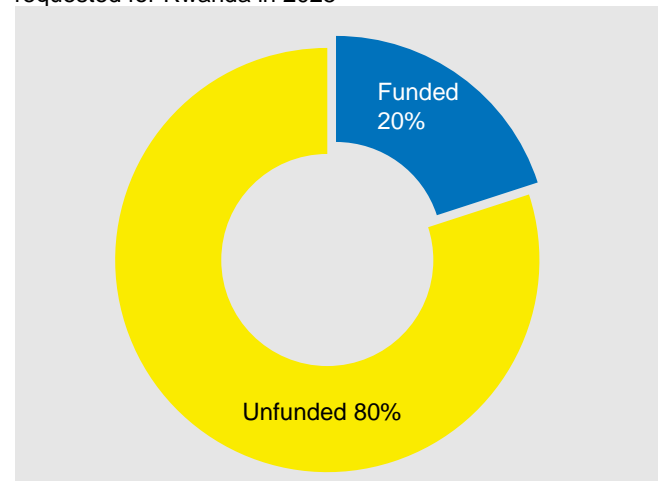
423 asylum seekers from DRC arrived in Rwanda between February and March 2025.

485 departed for resettlement and **20** departed through complementary pathways since the beginning of 2025.

FUNDING NEEDS

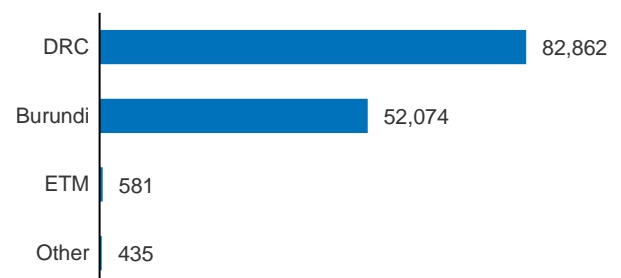
USD 84.8 million

requested for Rwanda in 2025



Refugee and host community farmers in Nyabiheke gather at the Nyabicwamba drying shed to check on their maize harvest.

CURRENT POPULATION



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

Operational Context & Partners

The Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry in charge 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. As of March 2025, UNHCR works directly with nine 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, ministries, operational partners, and the private sector working with refugees in Rwanda.



PROTECTION

- In February, the Gikondo Community Centre in Kigali recorded 170 new arrivals, including 103 families. In March, 141 new arrivals, including 90 families were registered. Across both months, the majority were Burundians (64%), followed by Sudanese (31% in February and 26% in March), with smaller numbers from Afghanistan, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea-Bissau, South Sudan, and Togo.
- Across the country, GBV prevention and response efforts reached 1,490 women and girls through targeted programs, engaging 48 community activists and support groups, and connected with 9,604 individuals through broader prevention activities — with women and girls leading 80% of these initiatives.
- 7,437 children were supported through child-friendly spaces across refugee camps, providing a safe and conducive environment for play, learning, and psychosocial support.
- UNHCR, through its legal partner Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR), provided legal representation to 87 refugees and asylum seekers including 79 criminal cases and 8 civil cases, while 4 individuals were released from Rwamagana Correctional Facility after completing their sentences. 524 individuals across all camps and urban areas received general legal counselling and support.
- Despite identifying 526 refugees with disabilities in need of assistive devices, critical funding gaps remain — leaving students in specialized institutions like Gatagara particularly vulnerable.
- 14 refugee children (11 boys and 3 girls) participated in the official launch of the Tour du Rwanda and cycled 4km alongside host community peers. This activity was organized in partnership with Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI), Peace and Sport, and Rwanda Cycling Federation (FERWACY), marking a milestone in promoting inclusion through sports.



EDUCATION



A Rwandan teacher in a class teaching refugee and Rwandan students at Nyabicwamba school.

- At the end of the second term of the 2024/25 academic year, 9,184 refugee children were enrolled in ECD, 26,003 in primary, 13,398 in secondary schools including 525 attending schools of excellence and 986 in higher learning institutions. Additionally, 203 students with special needs were enrolled.
- As part of the Rwandan government's drive to increase the number of students in Technical

Vocational Education and Training (TVET) schools, 696 refugee students are currently enrolled in TVET schools.



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Health centres across all refugee camps conducted 44,201 medical consultations. 1,115 cases were referred to secondary and tertiary hospitals (885 and 230 respectively) for camp-based refugees. However, due to funding challenges, currently, UNHCR is only able to support referrals for emergencies and lifesaving interventions.
- 548 new births were recorded across refugee settings.
- 23,883 women accessed family planning services and received modern contraceptives.
- 25 community health workers were trained on updated malaria treatment protocols, enhancing local capacity to prevent and manage malaria.
- Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) in Nyabiheke refugee camp, led by Save the Children International and the Rwandan Ministry of Health, reached 99% of targeted households (1,691 out of 1,709).
- To combat malnutrition in young children, 8,245 children under 2 were supported through the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme, out of a target of 9,173.
- By the end of March, 31 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 126 with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) remained enrolled in treatment programs across all camps.
- 522 pregnant and 144 lactating women were newly enrolled in nutrition programs, bringing totals to 1,728 pregnant and 881 lactating women — achieving 95% coverage for pregnant women and 88.3% for lactating women.



FOOD SECURITY

- UNHCR supports WFP's cash-based food assistance in Rwanda's refugee camps by identifying eligible refugees for targeted support. Currently, 90% of recipients are classified as highly vulnerable, receiving 8,500 RWF per month, while 5% are considered moderately vulnerable, receiving 4,250 RWF per month. In addition, asylum seekers at the Nkamira Transit Centre are provided with two daily meals by WFP.
- To bolster school feeding programs, UNHCR supplies briquettes to Early Childhood Development (ECD) centers in refugee camps. These briquettes serve as a sustainable cooking fuel, ensuring that children receive hot lunches as part of their daily care and education.



WATER AND SANITATION

- The construction of WASH facilities for the Mahama camp extension was fully completed. This includes 76 latrine blocks, 10 laundry slabs, and an extended water supply system with 12 water points, 21,300 meters of pipeline, and 40m³ of water storage capacity.



Congolesse asylum seekers fetching water at the Nkamira Transit Centre.

- Refugees and asylum seekers in Mahama, Kiziba and Mugombwe continue to have access to clean water, with an average supply of 22 litres per person per day. However, challenges persist in Nyabiheke and Kigeme camps, where the water supply is 19 and 14.1 litres per day respectively, which remains below the minimum standard of 20 litres.



SHELTER AND NFIS

- In February and March 2025, UNHCR rehabilitated 300 shelters across the camps, including 85 shelters in Mugombwa camp, 77 in Nyabiheke Camp, 65 in Kiziba Camp, 50 in Mahama, and 23 in Kigeme Camp. UNHCR also constructed 38 new semi-permanent shelters, including 19 in Kiziba Camp, 18 in Nyabiheke Camp, and one shelter in Kigeme Camp. Additionally, UNHCR and ADRA constructed 80 new duplex shelters in Mahama extension sites.
- 69 terraces were constructed by UNHCR to protect shelters on high-risk areas, this includes: 41 terraces in Mugombwa camp, 23 terrace in Kigeme Camp and 5 terraces in Kiziba camp.
- Construction of 217 shelters by ADRA in Mahama extension site is ongoing: 80 shelters completed, 130 are at varying construction stages, and 7 not yet started.
- Construction of a WASH block, waiting area, and external perimeter fence at the Kiziba UNHCR resettlement compound, as well as the rehabilitation of the multi-purpose hall and drainage networks in Kiziba camp, has been completed.
- The 1.7 km main access road in Nyabiheke has been fully graveled, and gravelling of the 1.5 km roads in Kigeme is nearing completion at 95%. In February and March, UNHCR provided cash-based assistance to 1,147 households consisting of 3016 individuals, covering activities under cash-for-work, voluntary repatriation, and the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). In addition, UNHCR completed the disbursement of return packages to 2,642 Rwandans who voluntarily repatriated in 2024, facilitating their reintegration in areas of origin.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- In February and March, UNHCR distributed a total of 216,240 Kgs of LPG across Mahama and Mugombwa refugee camps to reinforce clean cooking.
- 190 tons of briquettes for school feeding program were delivered to all ECDs schools and Kiziba schools.

- Limited funding continues to hinder UNHCR's capacity to provide energy assistance to refugees in camps.



LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE



Musa, a Congolese refugee in Kiziba Camp, attending to a client in his beauty salon.

- Thanks to a partnership between UNHCR and the City of Kigali, refugees have been allocated space to exhibit and sell their products at the Agaseke Cultural Center in Rebero, Kigali, giving refugees a better market access.

- Access to Finance Rwanda launched the 2024 Financial Inclusion Report on 7 March, with a special focus on gender. The report highlights a rise in financial inclusion, from 92% in 2020 to 96% in 2024—and notably includes the participation of refugee women in the survey.

- The Government of Rwanda is finalising a Graduation Strategy to help refugees move from humanitarian assistance to self-reliance. UNHCR is

working closely with the Government on the Strategy, jointly with the World Bank and other key partners in the country.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- Between February and March, UNHCR received a total of 73 requests for the cessation of their refugee status. Most of these cases (57) were related to confirmation of nationality, suggesting that a significant number of individuals had successfully re-established legal ties to their country of origin. Other case requests were linked to the pursuit of alternative legal status.
- In 2025, UNHCR Rwanda received a submission resettlement quota of 1,212 individuals. By the end of March 2025, 354 were submitted and 485 departed for resettlement and 20 departed through complementary pathways.



MISSIONS, AND EVENTS

- International Women's Day was celebrated in March 2025 across all refugee camps with refugees and partners, under the theme "Empower Her: Shape the Future Generation."
- The Africa Universities Summit: UNHCR Rwanda and four refugee students attended the Africa Universities Summit held in Kigali from March 18th to 20th, 2024. The summit featured various discussions, including a UNHCR panel entitled "*Mobilising University Leadership for Refugee Education: Building a Solidarity Movement for Greater Access to Higher Education.*" During this session, Kigali Independent University pledged scholarships to twenty refugees.
- The Mastercard Foundation, in partnership with the World University Service of Canada (WUSC), conducted outreach in Rwanda from 11–14 March 2025 to inform refugees about scholarship opportunities and promote refugee inclusion in higher education.
- On 25 March, a joint visit with Danida was conducted in Nyabiheke camp. The objective of the visit was to join government officials, partners, and farmers for the launch of the planting season of soybeans in

Nyabicwamba, as well as to monitor the activities implemented during phase II of the Climate Smart Agriculture project funded by Danida.

Financial Information

UNHCR is deeply grateful for the generous and essential support from donors to the Rwanda operation, and for contributions to UNHCR's work across the region and globally—through both broadly earmarked and unearmarked funding.

2025 EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS to UNHCR Rwanda | USD

European Union 6.9 million
United States of America 1.7 million
Denmark 1.3 million
España con ACNUR 365 thousand
Private donors in Canada 158 thousand

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS¹

Norway 2.8 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS²

Sweden 74.1 million | Norway 56.9 million | Denmark 37.8 million | Netherlands (Kingdom of the) 36.3 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Switzerland 20.4 million | Republic of Korea 16.8 million | Australia 14.3 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Belgium 10.7 million

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¹ Due to their earmarking at the region or sub-region, or to a related situation or theme, the other softly earmarked contributions listed are those which can potentially be used for Rwanda. Where a donor has contributed \$2 million or more, the total amount of the contributions is shown.

² Contributed without restrictions on its use, unearmarked funding allows UNHCR critical flexibility in how best to reach refugees and other populations of concern who are in the greatest need and at the greatest risk. Where a donor has contributed \$10 million or more, the total amount of the contribution is shown.