

HIGHLIGHT

From January 14-16 the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), in partnership with Rwanda National Police and support from UNHCR, held an **emergency preparedness simulation exercise** to test out the country's readiness for potential large scale influx of refugees.

This training, which involved over 100 participants was intended to enhance mutual understanding of the roles and responsibilities of key stakeholders in response to refugee influx in different sectors (i.e. emergency coordination and management, public order and security, protection, emergency shelter and infrastructure, health, food and nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene) as well as public relations and resource mobilization and civil-military cooperation (CIMIC).

The exercise was the first such emergency simulation exercise organized in Rwanda for refugee influx. *(Highlights continued on p. 3.)*



Front row (left to right): UNHCR Deputy Representative; Coordinator for RNP; Hon. Minister of MIDIMAR; UNHCR Representative; MIDIMAR Permanent Secretary

KEY STATISTICS

323

Rwandan returnees received in 2015

278

2015 submissions for resettlement

186

Resettlement departures in 2015

6,009

Rwandan returnees since 2014

2,942

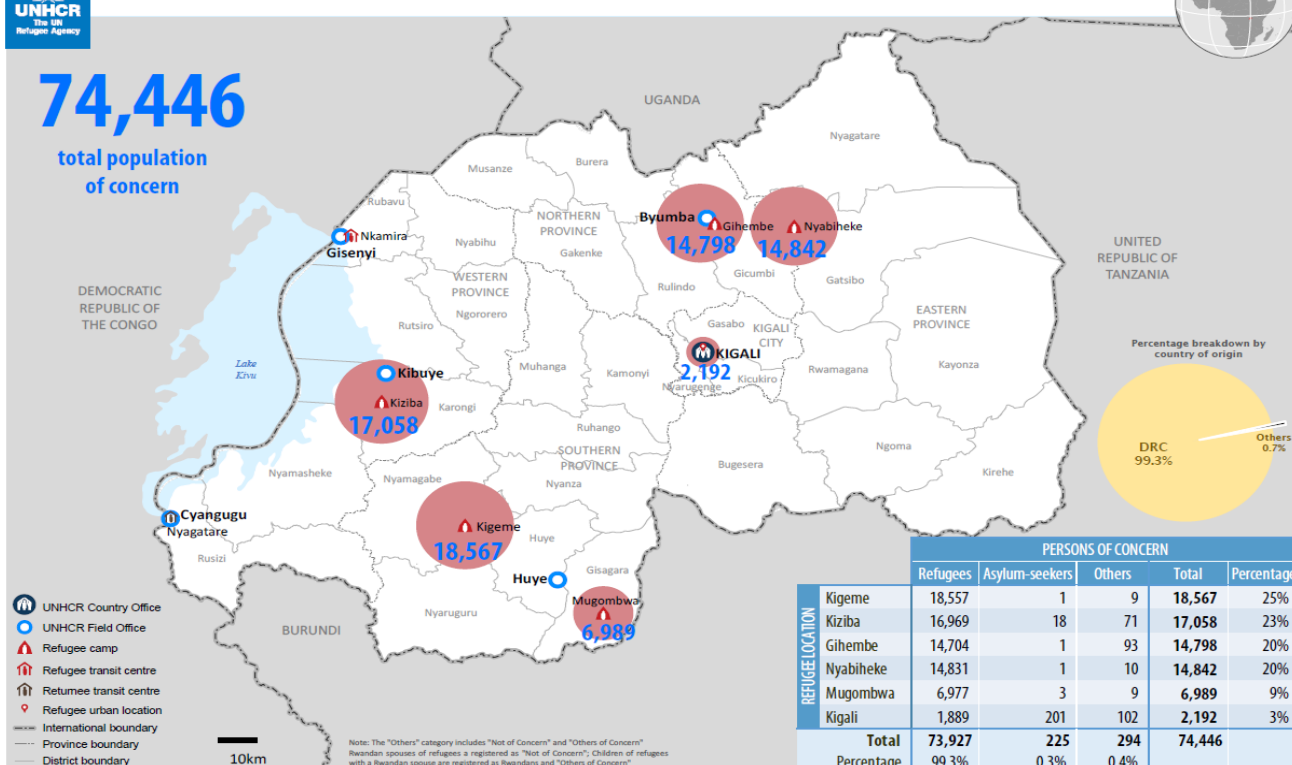
Resettlement submissions since 2014

2,755

Resettlement departures since 2014



RWANDA: Population of concern to UNHCR | As of 01 February 2015



MAJOR NATIONAL & REGIONAL POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- **FDLR missed the January 2nd deadline to disarm; Rwanda is calling for military action by MONUSCO.** MONUSCO indicates that its soldiers are in position to attack FDLR pending instruction from Kinshasa.
- Burundian soldiers killed nearly 100 alleged rebel combatants during five days of fighting near the border of DRC. Officials have yet to say whether they were rebels from the FNL movement, which operates in the region, but there is suspicion the alleged attack may be part of an attempt to disrupt elections scheduled for May.
- Two officers and two protesters were killed in Kinshasa as opposition parties tried to block a change in the law that may delay the upcoming 2016 elections.
- Heavy fighting took place in northeastern DRC between the Congolese army and a rebel militia following a breakdown of talks. Fighters from the Ituri Patriotic Resistance Force (FRPI) advanced close to a UN camp but were repelled by peacekeeping troops.
- A UN electoral observer mission tasked to monitor the series of Burundian elections has begun its operations in Burundi.
- Burundian soldiers are accused of shooting dead 17 rebels after they had surrendered in January. It is still unclear who the rebels are, but the government is denying the allegations.

REFUGEE RESPONSE SECTOR ACHIEVEMENTS



Protection

Resettlement (to a third country):

- The target for 2015 is to submit 2,400 individuals for resettlement and manage 2,000 individual departures:
 - Thus far in 2015, UNHCR has submitted 278 individuals for resettlement to the USA (11.5 % of the target); 2,942 have been submitted since 2014.
 - 186 individuals have departed in 2015 (9% of target); 2,755 have departed since 2014.
- The UNHCR Resettlement Unit officially launched a Resettlement Card initiative (*pictured top right*) to increase information sharing and transparency of resettlement processing with refugees in Rwanda. A total of 137 cards have already been issued this year to refugees currently in the resettlement process to tangibly document the progression of their resettlement cases. The Resettlement Card is a visual guide to be updated based on proGres events and distributed in coordination with individual counselling regarding the resettlement case status.



Disability Inclusion Audit

- After conducting a disability inclusion assessment in all five refugee camps in December 2014, Handicap International, with support from Plan International, conducted a disability inclusion audit in January 2015 (*pictured bottom right – in Kiziba*).
- After the successful completion of the first phase of the socio-therapy pilot in Nyabiheke and Kiziba camps, the next phase was launched in Jan 2015. During the first phase, 151 refugees participated in socio-therapy groups. Socio-therapy assists people to constructively deal with the personal and social consequences of mass violence and to contribute to sustainable processes of reconciliation and psycho-trauma healing within their communities. It focuses in particular on the reconstruction of trust, respect, dignity and feelings of safety within the society.





Education

- Representatives of Kepler University visited refugee camps in Rwanda with the aim of availing opportunities for university scholarships. Kepler is a nonprofit university program combining online learning and an American competency-based degree program with in-person seminars and intensive education-to-employment support. Refugees who had completed secondary education but who lack the means to attend university were provided with information on courses available at Kepler University, selection criteria and other terms and conditions for scholarship application opportunities. Hundreds of refugees were assisted in filling out their application forms and ADRA, UNHCR's partner for education, will facilitate their submission. Those who will be selected will pass an entrance examination in March 2015.



Environment

- As part of the implementation of UNHCR Rwanda SAFE strategy (Safe Access to Fuel and Energy) for 2015-2018, energy saving cook stoves—also known as Save80—are being distributed in Mugombwa camp. To date, 600 stoves out of 1,400 have already been distributed to the equivalent number of households.

HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

- Refugees received a special gift in celebration of the New Year from the Government of Rwanda, WFP, UNHCR and partners—one kilogramme of rice in addition to the standard monthly food rations. Refugees have been living on monthly food rations of beans, maize, cooking oil and salt provided by WFP, but UN partners recently responded to the request from the Hon. Minister of MIDIMAR with a generous gift of over 57,200 tonnes of rice (valued at over \$46,540) for the 74,500 refugees living in all five camps in Rwanda.



Ceremony in Kigeme camp, home to over 18,000 refugees, celebrating the rice distribution with MIDIMAR, UNHCR, WFP and partners including ADRA.

- Following the success of the cash transfer pilot project in Gihembe camp in Northern Province, refugees in Kigeme and Nyabiheke camps will soon start receiving cash by the end of the year.
- Clowns without Borders (CwB) Ireland visited all five camps in Rwanda in the span of a week in January. CwB is a voluntary aid organization which performs and offers workshops for communities around the world that are under stress or in crisis due to disease, war, and/or poverty.
- ECHO's Regional Rapid Response Coordinator, Mr. Jean-Yves SCOTTO, and the ECHO Head of the Great Lakes Desk in Brussels, Ms. Sandra DECROIX, undertook a mission to Gihembe and Kigeme camps in January. In Gihembe, they were briefed on the ongoing cash transfer pilot and also visited ongoing livelihood projects. The mission also viewed education, water and sanitation facilities, where important gaps have been highlighted, and was informed on planned integration activities and the foreseen livelihood strategy being prepared by UNHCR. In Kigeme camp, ECHO visited homes of unaccompanied minors and requested UNHCR and Plan International to continue focusing on actions that will contribute to the improved protection of children.
- On January 26, UNHCR, MIDIMAR and partners signed sub-agreements for 2015 in order to officially launch agreed refugee response activities according to agreed priorities and critical needs. The ceremony was attended by the UNHCR Representative, Permanent Secretary of MIDIMAR, UNHCR Deputy Representative, and Heads of partner agencies.

Implementing Partners	Sectors	Sites
 <p>Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs, Immigration and Rwanda National Police http://www.gov.rw/</p>	Security, Camp Management and Coordination	All Refugee Camps
 <p>https://plan-international.org/</p>	Protection, including Children, GBV and persons with special needs	
 <p>ADRA ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY RWANDA http://www.adra.org.rw/</p>	Logistics, Warehousing, Distribution, Fleet Management, and Education	
 <p>ARC American Refugee Committee http://www.arcrelief.org/</p>	Shelter	
	Infrastructures	Gihembe, Nyabiheke and Kiziba Refugee Camps
	Livelihood and Economic Recovery (complementary support from BPRM)	
	WASH	
 <p>http://www.africahumanitarian.org/</p>	Health, HIV/AIDS and Nutrition	Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps
	Health care services, Nutrition, Reproductive Health (HIV/AIDS prevention and care)	Kiziba, Kigeme and Mugombwa Refugee Camps, and Nkamira and Nyagatare Transit Centres
 <p>http://pajer.org.rw/</p>	WASH	Kigeme
 <p>World Vision® http://www.wvi.org/rwanda</p>	WASH	Mugombwa

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Links: <http://data.unhcr.org/drc> Twitter: @RefugeesRwanda