

## RWANDA

### UNHCR UPDATE ON BURUNDI SITUATION

31 January 2017

#### KEY FIGURES

**83,485**

Burundian refugees biometrically registered in Rwanda

**732**

Burundian new arrivals were received in Rwanda in the month of January

**1,781**

Burundian unaccompanied and separated children registered

#### FUNDING

**USD 83.1 M**

Requested for the comprehensive needs for the 2017 interagency Burundi refugee response in Rwanda

#### PRIORITIES

- Continue advocating for the government to urgently provide more land in Mahama camp to accommodate the growing number of Burundian refugees.
- Continue to prioritize the construction of semi-permanent shelters in Mahama camp.

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Two new durable health centres for Mahama Refugee Camp were inaugurated on 26<sup>th</sup> January by the UNHCR Representative and Minister of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR), accompanied by the US Ambassador and the State Minister for Health, which will serve over 50,000 Burundian refugees currently living in the camp as well as new arrivals. As the camp is split into two administrative units, UNHCR with its partners American Refugee Committee (ARC) and Save the Children International (SCI) constructed two health centers serving Mahama I and Mahama II, with support from the United States, United Kingdom, Japan, and European Commission Department for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection.

Mahama I's health centre includes an outpatient department (OPD), in-patient department (IPD), laboratory and HIV/AIDS section. The health centre in Mahama II was upgraded with the construction of a maternity ward and laboratory. A medical isolation center (MIC) has also been constructed to isolate infectious diseases.

UNHCR delivers primary healthcare for all refugees with ARC and SCI and ensures access to secondary and tertiary care through support for national hospitals. When the camp opened in 2015, UNHCR with ARC immediately established a health center in the camp, however, this was built with emergency structures which after a year and a half required upgrading to more durable and dignified structures which can be used by the host community as well.



**Read More:** <http://www.unhcr.org/rw/934-new-health-facilities-inaugurated-in-mahama-refugee-camp.html>

# UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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## Protection

- The rate of new refugee arrivals in the month of January has doubled from last year to 732 refugees. New arrivals continue to cite insecurity in Burundi and family reunification as the main reasons for fleeing to Rwanda.

### Achievements and Impact

- **1,781** Burundian unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) are currently registered. The total number of UASC has decreased by **314**, which can be explained by the fact that many UASC have turned 18 years old in January 2017, classifying them as adults. To prepare them to take their adult responsibilities over, decisions have been made to continue providing them with support for a transition period while support may be provided to most vulnerable cases (e.g. youth caring for his/her younger siblings, young mother, etc.) beyond that period as relevant.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The limited space in the camp creates protection challenges, especially with regards to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and child protection.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- The construction of 81 classrooms was completed to accommodate all Burundian refugee students. Out of the 81 new room, 21 were built as an extension to the local school, Paysannat L, just outside of Mahama camp which hosts both Rwandan and refugee students. 60 classrooms were built inside the camp for younger students (P1 and P2) to easily access.
- 21 refugee and 6 Rwandan students were selected among the top students from Paysannat L School to be awarded higher education scholarships, supported by Maison Shalom.
- Kepler's higher education pre-program started January 2017 with 50 refugee students and 10 host community members.
- Back to school campaign: with the generous contribution of UNICEF, UNHCR conducted a campaign jointly with education partners in Mahama camp to sensitize parents and refugee community to send children to school in January 2017. The campaign will continue until March 2017 and the community and refugee leaders will be involved and make sure a number of refugee children re-enroll in school.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

- To date, a total of 4,055 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed in Mahama camp, which currently houses 28,532 refugees. An additional 813 shelters are in the final stages of construction. Of the initially planned 5,660 semi-permanent shelters to be constructed in Mahama, 2,766 shelters were completed and 623 are in final stage of construction.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to lack of land in Mahama, construction of a remaining 2,363 shelters is still pending. 30 hectares of land is required to complete all shelters.

## Working in partnership

- UNHCR, sister UN agencies and partners are grateful for the generous contributions of donors in support of the Burundian refugees in 2015-2016. Partners involved in the 2016 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Burundi Situation in Rwanda include: Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), African Humanitarian Action (AHA), American Refugee Council (ARC), CARE, CONCERN, FAO, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio (FSDS), Global Humanitarian and Development Fund (GHDF), Handicap International, IOM, Legal Aid Forum (LAF), OXFAM, PLAN International, Save the Children International, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.
- Under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR co-leads and coordinates with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) the interagency response to the Burundi refugee emergency in Rwanda. The RCM is intended to provide an inclusive platform for planning and coordinating refugee response in order to ensure that refugees and other persons of concern receive the protection and assistance they require through the collective efforts and capacities of all partners involved.

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**Daily Statistics:** <http://data2.unhcr.org/burundi> **UNHCR Rwanda:** [www.unhcr.org/rw](http://www.unhcr.org/rw) **Twitter:** @RefugeesRwanda