



DRC NEW INFLUX TO RWANDA: UPDATE # 15

01 June 2023

KEY STATISTICS

7,661 new asylum seekers arrived in Rwanda from DRC between November 2022 and 01 June 2023

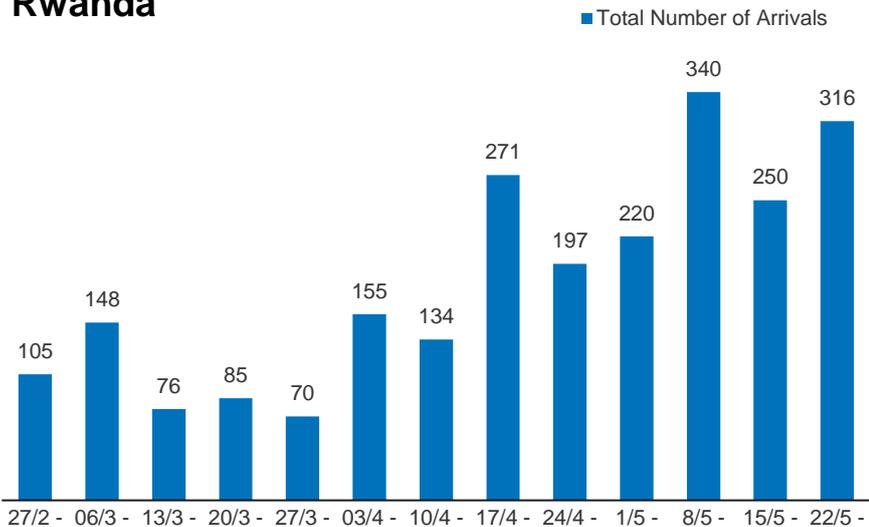
1,775 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama camp up until 12th January

5,886 asylum seekers accommodated at Nkamira Transit Site

56% of the new arrivals in Rwanda are children below 18

Most of the new arrivals originate from North Kivu (Masisi and Rutshuru)

Number of New Arrivals from DRC to Rwanda

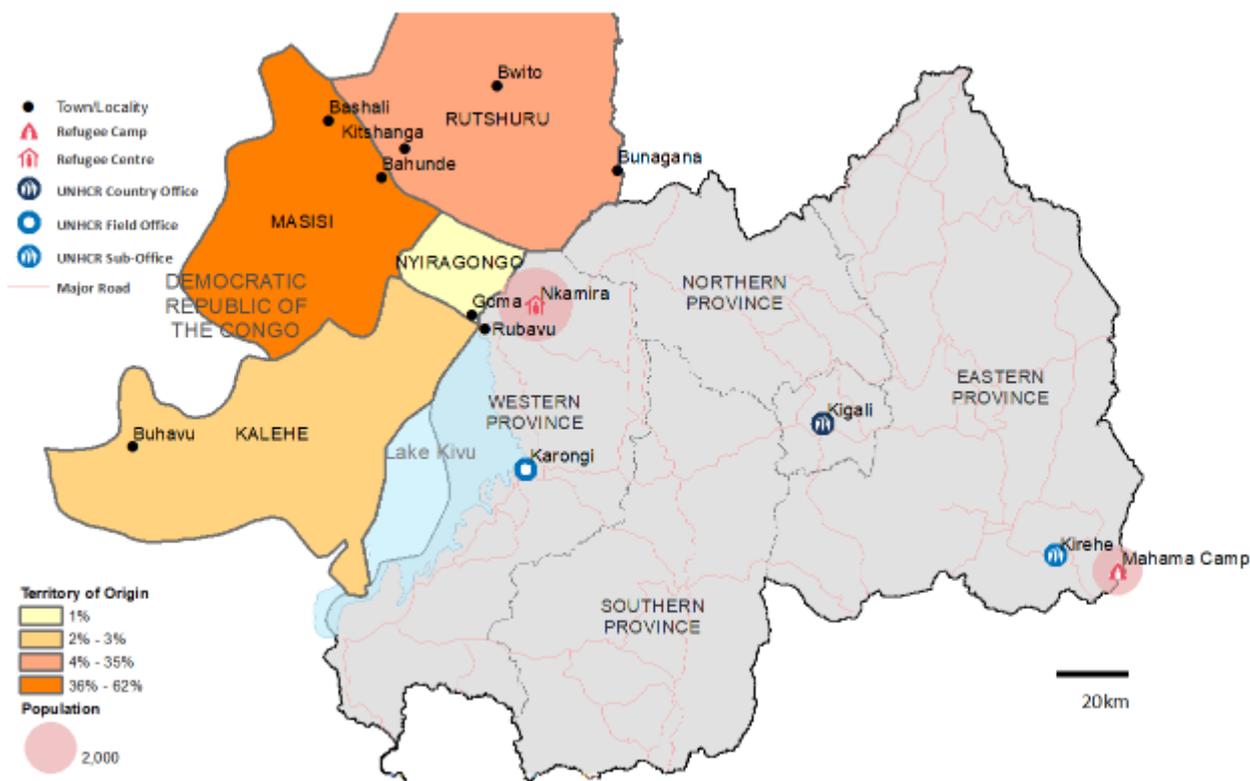


OVERVIEW

The continuous instability within Eastern DRC is resulting in an increase of new asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. As of beginning of June, over 7,661 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. Although the numbers of new arrivals decreased in late February and March, UNHCR has observed an increase in the flow of new arrivals since April. Working alongside partners, UNHCR continues to build the capacity of Nkamira Transit Site and provide basic services to support the new arrivals. Nkamira is now close to its full capacity and the Government recommends the extension of Mahama refugees camp to add 6,000 new shelters.



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.

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. Other UN agencies such as UNFPA and IOM have also supported with technical expertise and in-kind materials. 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 partners in Nkamira and Mahama departure centre. Child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services are available through Plan International Rwanda (PIR) in Nkamira and Save the Children International (SCI) in Mahama, while legal assistance and community-based protection services, including assistance to people with specific needs, are provided by Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR). GBV response services are provided to survivors who experienced GBV incidents during flight and during their asylum.

Until now, Best Interest Assessments (BIA) have been carried out for 436 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in Nkamira and Mahama while 272 BIA's are ongoing. 28 UASC were placed in individual supervised living care. Currently, 35 children with disabilities are also supported by UNHCR and partners, including 4 UASC. One of the gaps remains the continued requests from children and families for reunification with family members living in different locations within Rwanda.

During this period, more than 2,268 children attended various structured activities conducted in a safe, child friendly, and stimulating environment activities at the child-friendly space (CFS) in Nkamira and Mahama. 777 adolescents also participated in resilience programs, including sports such as karate, football, knitting, painting, modern and traditional dances. Due to heavy rain, the open sports ground used for CFS activities has been damaged and continues to pose as a barrier to provide adequate sports and expand the available CFS spaces for children at Nkamira.

Community-based protection mechanisms are functioning and monitored by UNHCR and partners in Nkamira and Mahama. Community-based protection structures are contributing to addressing the gaps in awareness on child protection and GBV prevention. Over the last two weeks, 569 individuals were reached with messages on child rights and responsibilities and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and prevention of gender-based violence.

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) is leading the process of recording the new arrivals and conducting nationality assessments. The process of formal registration of the population will start over the next few weeks to formalize the status of the new asylum seekers in Rwanda.

Health

Primary health services for the new arrivals are provided at Nkamira and Mahama refugee camp in partnership with Save the Children. Over the previous week, a total of 1,283 consultations were conducted for asylum seekers hosted in Nkamira, including 347 (27%) for children under five years of age. 31 individuals were subsequently referred to a higher level of care for more investigation and treatment. The main cause of consultations remains respiratory tract infections representing 40.8% of consultations. The deliveries of 11 new-born babies were also conducted and both Mahama and Nkamira and 105 women are currently pregnant.

Measles vaccination coverage among the new arrivals has now reached 98.5%. In addition, 139 children aged 09 months-15 years among new arrivals received measles vaccination over the last two weeks. Booster dose for measles are also being provided in Mahama camp and the departure site where asylum seekers are hosted. Currently, more than 6,000 children including 150 in the departure site received the second dose and the campaign continues. No new cases of measles among the asylum seekers have been identified during the previous weeks. This is a result of a measles vaccination campaign conducted by Rwanda Biomedical Center, the district health authorities of Kirehe, Gisenyi in collaboration with Save The Children.

Shelter

Asylum seekers at Nkamira are currently being accommodated in 45 accommodation hangars which have been constructed since the site's opening, each accommodation hanger is partitioned into 20 rooms. Men and women are currently assigned separate living areas. In view of increasing accommodation capacity, the construction 10 additional hangars were completed over the last two weeks. The asylum seekers are using solar lamps which were procured and distributed by UNHCR as a source of light in the hangars during the night.

As of the end of May, SOLEKTRA and Practical Action donated 15 and 10 streetlights respectively, while ALIGHT also donated 10 streetlights for Nkamira. After having conducted mapping exercise in Nkamira to identify critical points that required lighting, the installation of these public lights will take place in June and are expected to illuminate the access corridors for the accommodation hangars, as well as aid movement at night, reducing security and SGBV incidents.

Nkamira site is almost full and the MINEMA has proposed to expand the Mahama camp where additional land will be provided by the Government. A technical assessment mission is scheduled to take place in coming weeks.

Food and Nutrition

WFP through its cooperating partner ADRA continued to distribute two hot meals per day to all asylum seekers. The hot lunches and dinners include fresh vegetables and alternate maize meal with rice. In addition, the most vulnerable groups also received nutritious morning porridge benefitting children under five, pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls, as well as persons with HIV or TB. Nutrition screening also continue for newly arrived children, with continued support for 32 children with identified cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), and two children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) at Nkamira Transit Site, as well as for six children with MAM cases at Mahama departure centre.



URGENT NEEDS



Supply and provision of non-food items, including mattresses and mats



Construction of additional communal kitchens (at least 4) and provision of LPG



Construction communal hangars, including need for plastic sheeting



Construction of latrines

Education

The ongoing education in emergency program at Nkamira has achieved an enrolment of 430 children for Early Childhood Development with attendance of 81.75%, 882 students for primary school with an attendance rate of 93.45%, and 1,769 students for secondary students with an attendance rate of 86.06%. Despite ongoing efforts, gaps such as lack of latrines near the school, insufficient temporary classes and lack of school furniture remain persistent. A total of 56 education facilitators are teaching students to get familiarized with the Rwandan national education system. Similar education activities have also been introduced for the asylum-seekers from DRC hosted at the departure center Mahama camp. Children are being enrolled in the existing schools and getting orientation as preparation for placement examinations which will happen for the expected integration into formal schools at the beginning of the new academic year in September 2023.

WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services for asylum seekers at Nkamira Site is ensured through the provision of a range of basic services and facilities. Currently 54 latrine stances remain, serving 108 persons per drop hole (over UNHCR's emergency standards of

50 persons per drop hole). Construction of 10 mobile toilets is in progress and the construction of water holding tanks has been completed, pending installation of the toilets. Increasing the number of facilities while maintaining the existing WASH facilities is a priority for UNHCR to reach appropriate sanitation coverage standards.

Currently, there are 100 shower rooms serving 58 individuals per shower stance and 51 usable water taps within the site, serving 115 individuals per water tap. An average of 20 litres of potable water is provided per person per day, above the minimum emergency standards of 15 litres of water per person per day. The centre has four water storage tanks with a total capacity of 60 cubic meters and one bladder tank with a capacity of 10 cubic meters.

Regular disinfection at sanitation locations is conducted to maintain appropriate standards. The community is supported to keep good sanitation conditions through disseminating hygiene promotion messages and regular latrine emptying. UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision continue providing hygiene items at the site and have put emphasis on redesigning the sanitation infrastructure and increasing sanitation coverage.

Interagency Budget Needs

\$16.1 million is required to respond to the needs of the asylum seekers at Nkamira Transit Site and Mahama refugee camp over the next six months. The budget is calculated based on an estimate of 10,000 new arrivals and considers the needs of implementing NGO partners working with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and FAO.

UNHCR has currently only received \$1.5 million from the USA and \$500,000 from Japan to support the response. As a result, UN agencies are currently repurposing funds from the existing refugee response to support the new arrivals.

	UNHCR	UNICEF	WFP	FAO	Total
Protection	300,000	200,000			500,000
Health	655,000	500,000			1,155,000
Shelter	1,074,000				1,074,000
WASH	320,000	1,000,000			1,320,000
Food Security and Nutrition		500,000	8,777,208	220,000	9,497,208
Education	400,000	340,000			740,000
NFIs & Energy	375,000				375,000
Energy	350,000				350,000
Camp Management	44,000				44,000
Refugee Coordination	635,000	388,500			1,023,500
TOTAL	4,153,000	2,928,500	8,598,815	220,000	\$ 16,078,708