



DRC NEW INFLUX TO RWANDA: UPDATE # 9

17 March 2023

KEY STATISTICS

5,708 new asylum seekers arrived in Rwanda from DRC between November 2022 and 17 March 2023

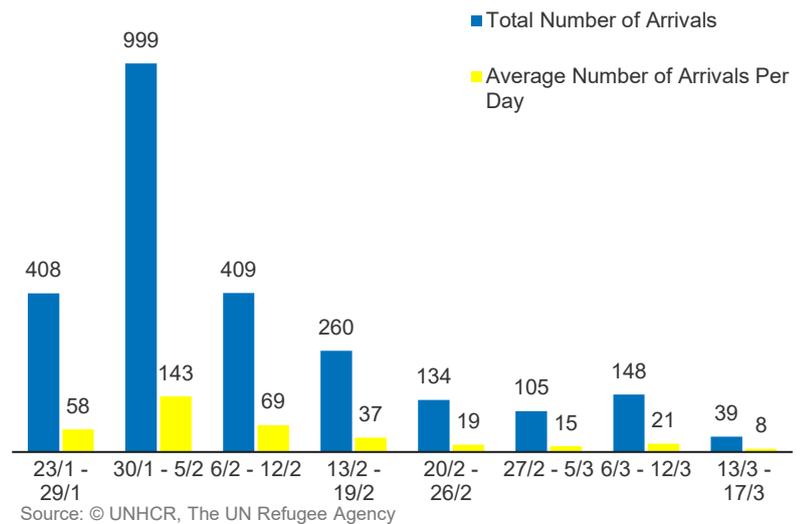
1,775 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama camp up until 12th January

3,933 asylum seekers accommodated at Nkamira Transit Site

58% of the new arrivals in Rwanda are children below 18

99% of arrivals originate from **North Kivu** specifically Masisi and Rutshuru

Number of New Arrivals from DRC to Rwanda



OVERVIEW

The escalation in fighting within Eastern DRC is resulting in an increase of new asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. As of the mid March, over 5,700 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. As of March 2023, UNHCR and partners continue to build the capacity of the site to accommodate the new flow of arrivals.

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. Weekly coordination meetings are happening at the field level and three high-level coordination meetings have also taken place in Kigali.



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. The capacity of the site is **10,000 persons**. There were eight existing accommodations available in the site (each comprising a living room, two bedrooms, a washroom and kitchen) which could be used for accommodation / offices / stores.

Protection

UNHCR protection staff continued to be present in Nkamira providing fundamental protection and assistance, alongside Plan International Rwanda (PIR), and Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR). Child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services are available through PIR, while legal assistance and community-based protection services, including assistance to people with specific needs are provided by PFR. Due to resource and capacity limitations, comprehensive assistance for people living with disabilities, including provision of assistive devices have yet to be provided. So far, 173 persons living with disabilities have been recorded, including 58 children (27 boys and 32 girls), 56 adult males and 58 adult females. GBV response services are provided to survivors who experienced GBV incidents during flight and during their asylum. Best Interest Assessments are being carried out for 271 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk. Child protection activities are ongoing with 13 UASC in need of tracing and family reunification. 28 unaccompanied children have been placed under foster care arrangements while 28 are under supervised independent living. Additional foster families are being identified to ensure family-based care for all UASC.

Community-based protection mechanisms are being strengthened at Nkamira, however, there is a gap in provision of psychosocial counselling as well as a communal space for the population through which to provide services such as for women at risk and children. Over the previous week, more than 1,467 attended various activities at the child friendly space (CFS) and 60 adolescents participated in targeted programs such as knitting, modern and traditional dances.

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) is leading the process of recording the new arrivals and conducting nationality assessments. UNHCR is also identifying alternatives to the standard registration procedures and discussions are ongoing as to how to register the status of the new arrivals if the population decides to remain in Rwanda. Regarding

birth registration, thus far, 13 new births have been recorded in Nkamira and 1 in Mahama, 9 new-borns have been issued with a birth certificate, while 5 cases are pending issuance.

Health

Asylum seekers in both Nkamira and Mahama continue enjoying health and nutrition services delivered by Save The Children with the support of UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF and district health authorities of Rubavu and Kirehe. A key component of the services provided over the reporting period has been the response to measles situation. Cumulatively, 40 cases have been reported (14 cases in Nkamira and 26 in Mahama) including 16 cases among the preexisting refugees and 1 case in the host community. At the end of the period, only 9 cases remained under isolation (3 in Nkamira and 6 in Mahama). The rest are cured and have been discharged. As a result, a team from the Rwanda Biomedical Center conducted an investigation around measles cases in Mahama and a mass vaccination campaign is subsequently in the pipeline to vaccinate everyone ages 9 months – 15 years old in the camp. In Nkamira, following a vaccination campaign which happened during the first week of March, asylum seekers are now being vaccinated against measles upon arrival.

Shelter

Asylum seekers at Nkamira are currently being accommodated in 30 hangars which have been constructed since the site's opening. Men, women, and children are currently assigned separate living areas. Separate accommodation for older persons and women at risk has also been allocated utilizing existing structures. UNHCR and ADRA have completed the construction of a communal kitchen which is currently being used for preparing hot meals for the asylum seekers. A dish washing shed, guard house, fencing for the kitchen and fencing of the gas tank have also been completed. Construction of additional five hangars are in progress to increase the capacity of the site and receive new arrivals. Installation of additional 21 public lights to increase safety of residents in the Nkamira site was completed, however, sufficient lighting inside the hangars is still lacking. The power circuit was also upgraded to enhance the efficiency of public lights in the site. Backfilling and levelling of the ground to enable the construction of child friendly space and education facility is planned to start this week.

Food and Nutrition

WFP, through its partner ADRA, was able to start preparing hot meals at the new kitchen facilities at the Nkamira transit site this week following the installation of gas tanks by UNHCR. Fresh vegetables were also added to the hot meals, provided by WFP. In combination with the nutritious porridge served to all asylum seekers every morning, these additional efforts continued to successfully prevent acute malnutrition. No new cases were found among the asylum seekers already hosted at the site or among new ones who arrived this week. The number of malnutrition cases remain at 4 SAM and 40 MAM cases across Nkamira and Mahama. Outpatient treatment of 19 children with moderate and 3 children with severe acute malnutrition (MAM / SAM) continued along with regular nutrition screening of 973 children, 74 pregnant and 76 lactating women as well as persons with HIV and Tuberculosis.



Celebrating the first on-site preparation of hot meals in Nkamira. WFP/Sarah Colbourne

Education

Over the past week, education sector partners started teacher training for refugee education facilitators who will implement the education in emergencies programme to children among the new arrivals at Nkamira. In total 57 teachers have been trained on literacy methodologies including 24 individuals to be early childhood development caregivers. Through this programme, children in emergency situations will be able to obtain content that they may have already missed, allowing them to catch-up, and bridge their knowledge to transfer to the next level, and for older children, be able to access skills-based technical and vocational education. In addition, UNICEF provided 87 school in a box (education materials) to the Nkamira Transit Site to facilitate such efforts. It is envisioned that education in emergency activities should begin over the coming week.

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, urgent need for plastic sheeting



Construction of latrines (at least 128 drop holes is urgently needed)



Solar lighting for inside hangers and outside lighting for communal areas



Provision of Education in Emergencies

WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services to asylum seekers at Nkamira Site is ensured through the provision of a range of basic services and facilities. Following the unfortunate collapse of one latrine block (10 stances) this week, a WASH team conducted a joint assessment of facilities at the transit site and devised ways to reinforce the existing facilities to avoid future collapse.

This means that there are currently a total of 63 latrine stances serving 62 persons per drop hole, which is over UNHCR's emergency standards of 50 persons per drop hole. In addition, there are 78 shower rooms serving 52 individuals per shower stance and 39 usable water taps within the site, serving 116 individuals per water tap. A total of 20.6 litres of potable water is provided per person per day, which is above the emergency standards of 15 litres of water per person per day. Water trucking is also serving as a backup to cover any interruptions in water services and access to enough water. Clean water and liquid soaps throughout Nkamira. One laundry area (18 basins) has been completed and is in daily use by the community, while two additional laundry slabs (12 basins) are under construction. UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision continue providing hygiene items at the site and have put emphasis on the replacement of aging pipes. The installation of water booster pump to the national water system was completed and water pressure issues have been addressed.

Interagency Budget Needs

\$15.6 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 also takes into account the needs of implementing NGO partners working with UNHCR, UNICEF and WFP. FAO is also assessing options for livelihood assistance including poultry and farming activities.

To date, no additional funding has been received for the emergency response. UN agencies are currently repurposing funds from the existing refugee response.

	UNHCR	UNICEF	WFP	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	8,598,815	9,098,815
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	\$15,680,315