Nyabiheke Refugee Camp, Rwanda

July 2023

11,877 refugees live in Nyabiheke refugee camp which is located in Gatsibo District in the Eastern Province of Rwanda. The camp was established in 2005 mainly to reduce the overcrowding in Gihembe (Northern Province) and Kiziba (Western Province) camps. 78.5% of the camp's population is women and children below 18 years old.

AGE COMPOSITION OF NYABIHEKE CAMP POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 4</td>
<td>1,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 11</td>
<td>2,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 - 17</td>
<td>1,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 - 59</td>
<td>5,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>11,877</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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26 UNHCR STAFF BASED IN THE KABARORE FIELD OFFICE IN KABARORE COVER THE NEEDS OF REFUGEES IN NYABIHEKE REFUGEE CAMP

Refugee and Rwandan farmers at Nyabicwamba marshland dry soyabeans after the harvest to ensure maximum quality of produce before sales.

CONTACTS

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Main Activities

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- Nyabiheke refugee camp is managed by the Rwandan Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) represented by the Camp Manager, Social Affairs Officer (Deputy Camp Manager) and supported by the Directorate-General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE) staff and Police. The Camp Manager position is vacant at the moment and the replacement is pending. The camp is divided into eight quartiers and each quartier consists of an average of four villages. In total, there are 29 villages.

- Each village elects eight Village Leaders, and each quartier elects eight Quartier Leaders. Among these leaders, the Executive Camp Committee is selected internally. Many religions are present in the camp, but majority of population are Christians (Adventists).

- UNHCR works with 12 implementing and operational partners in Nyabiheke camp: Alight, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Caritas Rwanda, Food for the Hungry (FH), Humanity and Inclusion (HI), Inkomoko, Plan International, Practical Action, Prison Fellowship Rwanda, Rwanda Red Cross, Save the Children International (SCI) and World Vision International (WVI).

- UNHCR’s office in Kabarore is part of the Gatsibo Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) which ties in many aspects of the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) to improve lives for both refugees and Rwandans.

Protection

- UNHCR and partners in Nyabiheke camp provide a range of protection services to refugees and the Rwandan host community. These include individual case management, supporting survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation and preventing their occurrence, birth registration, issuance of birth certificates, ID documents and other civil status documents, supporting refugees if they are detained, legal counselling and assistance/representation in the court if necessary, and providing psychosocial support.

Registration and Documentation

- UNHCR maintains accurate data of refugees living in Nyabiheke camp through regular registration of individuals and groups. UNHCR is currently following up on the cases of 41 asylum seekers and in the meantime provides the individuals with a “Proof of Registration” that serves as an identification document, and Machine Readable Convention Travel Documents are issued upon request.

Education

- Refugee children in Nyabiheke camp are integrated into the national education system. A primary school (satellite school of Groupe Scolaire (G.S) Nyabicwamba) is based in the camp and follows the curriculum of the Rwandan Ministry of Education. It is open
to both refugee and Rwandan children who live in the surrounding area. Other refugee pupils and secondary students attend national schools outside the camp ensuring 12 years of basic education.

Health

- There is a health centre in operation in Nyabiheke camp, run by UNHCR and SCI. The Rwandan Ministry of Health also supports the centre through providing medical equipment. The centre mainly provides primary health care services, including laboratory tests, dental care, sexual and reproductive health care, HIV services, family planning services and post-natal care. An average of 2,500 individuals benefit from such services every month, including hundreds of members of the local host community. In addition, the prevention of mother-to-child HIV+ transmission program (PMTCT) has been successful with zero transmission among infants born from HIV+ mothers for the past three years.

Food Security and Nutrition

- World Food Programme (WFP) provides support to refugees through cash for food, which is transferred to refugees monthly, via bank cards, and sometimes via cash agents in the camp in cases where bank cards have errors. Refugees are divided into three vulnerability categories, whereby the highly and moderately vulnerable groups receive foods assistance of 10,000 RWF and 5,000 RWF respectively.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR and its water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) partner WVI work with Water and Sanitation Corporation WASAC to provide safe drinking water to all refugees living in the camp. In total, there are 27 water points, 60 latrine blocks, 18 garbage collection blocks, 42 shower blocks, 14 washing stands and 75 handwashing facilities. On average, the camp’s residents receive 14.1 l of water per person per day, which is below the minimum water supply of 20 l per person per day. Nyabiheke camp’s water is supplied by three boreholes in the camp - the only camp in Rwanda that uses boreholes for fetching water. Mechanical condition of the boreholes, alongside flooding at the Gihengeri water treatment plant, has significantly impacted the water supply in Nyabiheke during 2022 and early 2023, however, the long-term problems with the water pumps were resolved in March 2023.

Shelter and NFIs

- Nyabiheke refugee camp covers 35 ha of land and has a total of 2,325 shelters occupied by refugees. On average five people live in every shelter.

- UNHCR provides shelter assistance to all refugees living in Nyabiheke camp. Activities include construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of shelters, replacing plastic sheeting with corrugated iron sheets on roofs and maintenance of communal facilities.
Energy and Environment

- In Nyabiheke refugee camp, all refugee households receive cash assistance for to help them purchase cooking energy from UNHCR on a monthly basis. Despite this, since June 2023, the distribution of cash for energy has been put on hold due to a lack of funds.

- UNHCR works with Practical Action in Nyabiheke camp through their Renewable Energy for Refugees (RE4R) project to provide environmentally friendly solutions to refugee communities. In total, 1,195 solar home systems and 110 solar streetlights were installed during phase one of the project between (2018-2022).

- Nyabiheke refugee camp faces extreme environmental degradation due to its weather pattern and topographical nature. The absence of a well-planned drainage system coupled with the frequent rains of this area has resulted in the creation of life-threatening gullies and ravines within and around the camp. Dealing with deforestation, caused by human activity, has also posed a serious challenge. To prevent further environmental degradation, UNHCR partners with WVI and the refugee community to conduct a variety of environment related projects.

Livelihood and economic inclusion

- Since April 2021, UNHCR, MINEMA and Gatsibo District partnered to support 228 refugees and 228 host community (in total 456 families) to implement agricultural project on 23 hectares of land in Nyabicwamba marshland through funding from Denmark. UNHCR supports refugee and Rwandan farmers to in their agricultural endeavours on the marshland through providing seeds, fertilizers, and other agricultural inputs. Regular harvests enable farmers to make an income and also improve their household food security.

- During the season B harvest in June 2023, 25.515 MT of soyabean were harvested whereby 20.405 MT were sold to African Improved food (AIF) while 5.11 MT were taken by farmers for home consumption. The marshland project has also included the construction of a drying shed to support optimal production in the marshland.

- To promote business and job creation in the camp, UNHCR has constructed two business centres within which 13 rooms have been allocated to refugee business owners. In addition, the market constructed by UNHCR supports 64 refugee businesses. Currently, an additional business centre to be used by 35 refugee business owners, is being constructed by Practical Action in Nyabiheke camp. All businesses are connected to the national electricity grid.

- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is an important part of supporting the next generation of refugees find meaningful employment. In 2023, 75 refugee youth (50 female and 25 male) were supported to attend TVET schools, by Rwanda Red Cross, in addition to 222 refugees’ youth who were supported in 2022 by various partners, making a total pf 297 (152 Females and 145 males). They were supported in tailoring, hair dressing, culinary arts, plumbing, construction and Welding courses.
Durable Solutions

- In 2022, a total of 1,569 refugees were submitted for resettlement from Nyabiheke, making a 25 percent contribution towards the total submissions from Rwanda. In 2023, Nyabiheke has been allocated a quota of 1,603 submissions to different countries, although the number may change during the year.

- Refugees in Nyabiheke camp primarily originate from Eastern DRC. Due to ongoing security concerns in their area of origin, UNHCR is currently neither promoting nor facilitating voluntary repatriation to the DRC at the moment.