



Education Factsheet

June 2024

KEY FIGURES

49,405 refugee school-aged children in 5 camps

89% Gross Enrolment Rate

609 refugee university students

774 teachers trained in the use of ICT in teaching and learning.

OVERVIEW

UNHCR’s Education programme in Rwanda works to support the integration of refugee children into the national education system and strengthen the quality of education in refugee-hosting schools. This work is supported by the pledges made by the Government of Rwanda as part of the Global Refugee Forum in 2019 around enhancing the capacity, quality, and inclusiveness of the national education system.

In Rwanda, the provision of education services to refugees and the national population is handled by the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC). All refugee education programming is embedded within the national-level

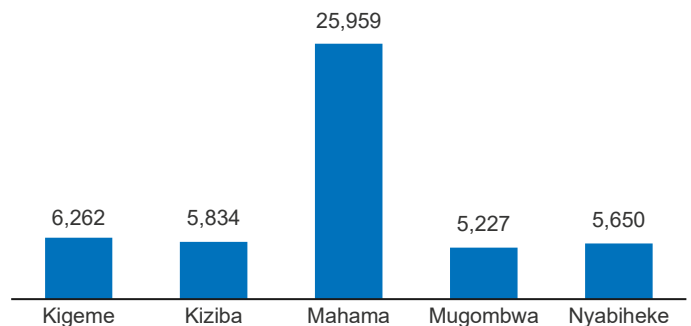
planning, assessments and data collection, analysis, and reporting.

UNHCR, in coordination with education partners, supports refugee students to access quality education at pre-primary, primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. Refugee students through the national system follow the same curriculum as nationals. Students sit for national exams and get national certificates. Refugee students are mainly hosted in fifteen schools surrounding the five refugee camps of Kigeme, Kiziba, Mahama, Mugombwa and Nyabiheke. Some secondary refugee students and those with special needs attend boarding and specialized schools across the country.

In 2024, 43,906 refugee children benefit from UNHCR’s education support at pre-primary, primary and secondary levels. UNHCR’s programme mainly focuses on the construction of new classrooms, covering the school feeding fees at secondary level for refugee children, providing scholastic materials, enhancing connected learning, and contributing to the salaries/incentives of over 371 teachers in schools attended by refugee children at ECD, primary and secondary schools in Kiziba refugee camp and Nkamira Transit Centre.

Refugee students in Rwanda have the opportunity to attend universities, but they typically need scholarships to do so. Unfortunately, they are ineligible for government student loans, leading to low levels of refugee students accessing higher education.

SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN (3-17 YEARS OLD)



Source: © MINEDUC conducts a school census annually through various questionnaires. MINEDUC prepares an education statistical yearbook where the gender and grade level is displayed and includes refugee students’ data.

CONNECTED LEARNING

The ongoing implementation of the Connected Learning Program, funded by ProFuturo, has significantly enhanced the quality of primary education. Through this initiative, over 16,000 students from both refugee and host communities now have access to digital tools and online education platforms. Additionally, around 774 teachers have received training to improve their digital literacy.

TERTIARY EDUCATION

A total of 609 refugee students are currently enrolled in various higher education institutions across the country. Most of these students are supported through UNHCR's DAFI scholarship program. Other organizations, including Kepler, Maison Shalom, Impact Hope, Mondiant Initiative, Mastercard Foundation, DAAD, UNIV'R, and the Refugee United Generation (a refugee-led initiative to support fellow refugees in accessing higher education), also provide vital financial assistance for tertiary scholarships. Additionally, several refugees from Rwanda have successfully secured scholarships to universities abroad.

EDUCATION RESPONSE TO THE DRC INFLUX

Following the influx of asylum-seekers from DRC since late 2022, UNHCR and partners such as UNICEF have mobilized resources and launched an education in emergency programme in March 2023. This initiative included constructing 10 temporary classrooms and recruiting 57 teachers from among the refugees. As a result, over 4,400 children and young people gained access to education at the Nkamira Transit Centre and in existing schools within refugee camps. Of the 4,400 children and youth supported through the programme, approximately 3,300 (75%) have since been integrated into the national education system after relocating to established refugee camps in Rwanda. Currently, Nkamira hosts 1,508 students, including 449 in early childhood development (ECD), 923 in primary education, and 136 in secondary education.

Refugee students in Rwanda need more support to strive for a better future.



Forced to flee their native village in eastern DR Congo in 2013 due to increased insecurity caused by militia, Innocent and his family sought refuge in Nyabiheke, a Congolese refugee camp located in the eastern part of Rwanda.

Growing up in the camp, he always believed that going to school was the best way to deal with the tough times of being a refugee. Despite financial obstacles, such as a lack of transportation to school or the means to meet other basic needs, he remained convinced that education could help him overcome these difficulties.

[Read the full story here](#)

WORKING WITH EDUCATION PARTNERS



Other partners: Districts, Universities outside of Rwanda (Complementary Education Pathways), School General Assembly Committees