Rwanda

July 2024

In July, **9,000+ refugees** living in urban areas were enrolled in the national community-based health insurance (CBHI) scheme for the financial year (July 2024 – June 2025).

Over **700 Sudanese asylum seekers** have arrived and sought asylum in Rwanda in 2024 due to ongoing displacement in the region as a result war in Sudan.

Over **2,700 refugee students** in secondary school grades Senior 3 and Senior 6, alongside their Rwandan peers, took the end of year exams in July before the end of the 2023/24 academic year.

KEY STATISTICS

134,272 refugees and asylum seekers are in Rwanda as of 31 July 2024. Mainly including people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (61%) and Burundi (38%).

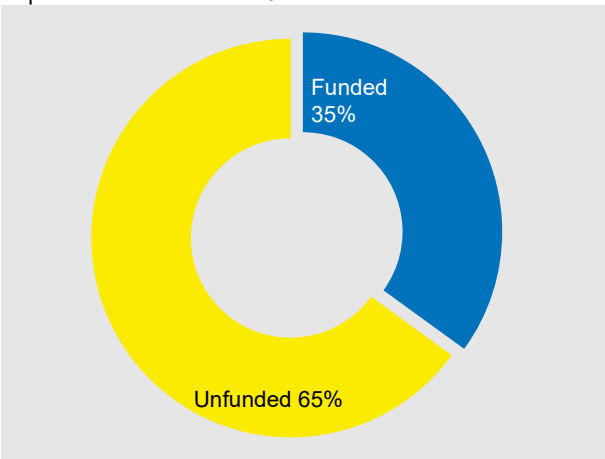
178 asylum seekers from DRC arrived in Rwanda in July 2024.

3,477 refugees were submitted for resettlement so far in 2024

FUNDING NEEDS

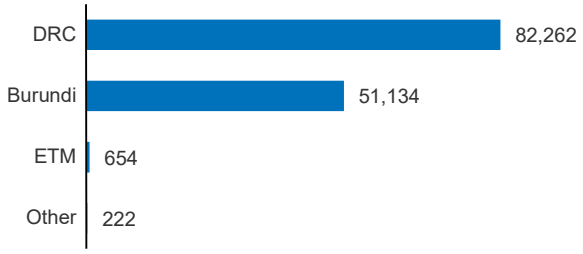
USD 91.7 million

requested for Rwanda in 2024



UNHCR supports farmers irrigate their crops at Nyabicwamba Marshland near Nyabiheke refugee camp as the dry season began in July.

CURRENT POPULATION



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

Operational Context & Partners

The Government of Rwanda (GoR), through the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), leads the refugee response in Rwanda in coordination with UNHCR. In addition, a range of UN Agencies, NGOs, operational and development partners participate in sector working groups at both country and district levels. In 2024, UNHCR works directly with nine NGO partners in implementing key activities to assist both the refugee population and Rwandan host communities. To further strengthen the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR maintains close collaboration with key government institutions, ministries, operational partners, and the private sector working with refugees in Rwanda.

PROTECTION

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Rwanda, specifically Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, to issue refugee ID cards to refugees over 16 years old. Currently the Refugee ID coverage stands at 86 percent.
- UNHCR works in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) to provide legal counselling including on asylum procedures. In July, 50 asylum seekers from Sudan, Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, and South Sudan were provided counselling about asylum procedures and supported to submit their asylum application to the Rwandan Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE). UNHCR, in collaboration with PFR, also continues to facilitate the travel of refugees located in camps to Kigali to participate in refugee status determination interviews conducted by DGIE.
- UNHCR has continued to observe an increase in the number of Sudanese asylum seekers fleeing to Rwanda. 718 Sudanese asylum seekers have been recorded as arriving in Rwanda in 2024. This includes 354 individuals (197 families) in Kigali and 364 individuals (209 families) in Mahama refugee camp. In July, UNHCR held a meeting with members of the Sudanese community in both Mahama and Kigali. They highlighted several challenges, including language barriers, difficulties in accessing education for their children, and issues with healthcare access.
- In July, 178 new asylum seekers fled from DRC to Rwanda and were initially accommodated at Nkamira Transit centre. As of the end of the month, Nkamira hosted 5,314 individuals.
- Following approval from the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR commenced the official registration of asylum seekers at Nkamira transit centre in May. Over 4,900 individuals were registered and provided with Proof of Registration documents by the end of July.
- Thirty-four percent of the refugee population were born in Rwanda. The birth registration rate among individuals born in Rwanda, regardless of age, is 96%, with a coverage rate of 99.5% for children under 5 years old. In July, Kiziba Camp achieved full birth registration coverage for all refugees born in Rwanda. UNHCR continues to collaborate with the Government of Rwanda and relevant ministries to enhance birth registration rates, integrating refugees into the national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system.
- To continue to fulfil its mandate, UNHCR has established various channels to facilitate communication with refugees such as help lines, SMS, WhatsApp, email, face-to-face counselling, and community meetings. In July, 154 displaced persons made inquiries in Kigali and Nyamata with 75 percent of requests concerning health care and community-based health insurance (CBHI) enrolment.
- In Rwanda, UNHCR partners with Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to support people with specific needs. In July, a range of mental health and psychosocial support services continued to be provided to refugees with specific needs across all camp locations. 2,750 people with disabilities, for example, received services such as distribution of non-food items, support to get assistive devices, financial

assistance, and referrals to Kabgayi eye hospital for specialized medical services. As of the end of July HI concluded their work in refugee settings. UNHCR consequently worked on the transition to hand over activities related to supporting displaced populations with special needs and disabilities to PFR and SCI to ensure continuity of services.

- UNHCR in collaboration with Prison Fellowship Rwanda visited 14 refugee males detained at the Rwamagana Correctional Facility on 24 July. The detainees were found to be in good condition but requested updates about their court cases as well as the necessity for additional non-food items. During the visit, they were provided with blankets and buckets.
- In July, UNHCR participated in a meeting organized by the National Child Development Agency to develop a joint action plan on ending violence against children, improving child sensitive justice processes, and strengthening child protection coordination in Rwanda. UNHCR's emphasized the necessity to include refugee children within this plan and associated national mechanisms.
- In July, 259 best interest procedures for child protection cases were conducted by UNHCR and partners. This included assessments to determine the best course of action in supporting unaccompanied and separated children.
- UNHCR continued to follow-up and support new and previously reported cases of gender-based violence (GBV) in July. Where needed medical services, psychosocial support and referrals to legal assistance are provided to victims/survivors by UNHCR and partners.
- UNHCR partners with Save the Children and Plan International in Rwanda to run activities for refugee children in camps. In July, 9,123 refugee children attended different activities at child friendly spaces in refugee camps.
- In July, UNHCR partnered with Spirit for Peace and Solidarity, a refugee-led organization, to implement a soap-making project in Kiziba refugee camp. This initiative aims to promote refugee self-reliance and foster community development.

EDUCATION

- From July 8 to 10, primary 6 students nationwide took their national Primary Leaving Exams (PLE). Additionally, between July 23 and August 3, 2,747 refugee students in Senior 3 and Senior 6 sat for their secondary education national exams alongside their Rwandan peers. The completion of these exams marks the end of the 2023-2024 academic year, with students now beginning their school holidays before returning in September. For the 2023/24 academic year, the gross enrolment rate for refugee students stood at 89 percent.
- On 26 July, UNHCR met with 82 refugee students who are currently being supported to attend university through UNHCR's DAFI scholarship programme to understand the challenges that they are currently facing. The students expressed concerns over the monthly allowance of 85,000 RWF, which they find insufficient given the current market prices for accommodation, food, and transport. Additionally, the students highlighted the lack of laptops, a significant issue as the education system increasingly relies on digital resources. Unlike students under government scholarships who receive laptops, these students expressed that they are at a disadvantage in keeping pace with their peers.
- UNHCR is currently conducting an orientation programme in Mahama refugee camp to support 87 refugee and asylum seeker students from minority backgrounds familiarize themselves with the Rwandan education curriculum and acquire basic English language skills. This initiative is being implemented in response to the increasing numbers of Sudanese asylum seekers who are fleeing to Rwanda and being accommodated in Mahama. The programme is being implemented during the

summer holidays, aiming to prepare these students for enrolment in national public schools when the new academic year starts in September.

- During the summer holidays, UNHCR in partnership with World Vision and schools neighbouring refugee camps is conducting catch-up classes for children in primary school who did not pass the end of year exams and need further support to get up to standard before the new academic year resumes.
- On July 14, UNHCR participated in a workshop organized by Mondiant Initiative to motivate refugee university students and empower them with leadership, computer, and other life skills. Mondiant Initiative, a refugee-led organization, is currently supporting 19 refugee students in attending higher education institutions across Rwanda.

A nurse working for UNHCR and Save the Children in Kiziba refugee camp advises a refugee mother on the vaccinations needed for her new baby.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- UNHCR is managing eight camp-based health care facilities in Rwanda in cooperation with Save the Children (SCI) and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) at the ETM. The health centres and posts offer a broad range of primary health care services, including laboratory tests and vaccinations. In addition, some services including the provision of TB and HIV medications are provided in cooperation with district government health centres. In July, 20,975 primary health care consultations took place at the camp-based facilities making the ratio 45 consultations per day, per clinician. The local Rwandan host community also have access to these health facilities free of charge.
- Due to funding challenges, UNHCR is currently only able to support the referrals of refugees to secondary and tertiary healthcare in emergency or lifesaving cases. Other refugees in need of elective healthcare including routine or minor surgeries are having to be put on a waiting list. In July, 746 cases were referred to hospitals for further treatment.
- At the ETM clinic, 699 primary health consultations were conducted in July. Additionally, 36 refugees were referred to hospitals for further treatment.
- To support the nutrition of refugees and prevent malnutrition, UNHCR and partners conduct regular nutrition screenings and provide support for vulnerable refugees especially infants, children under the age of six, mothers and refugees with chronic diseases. By the end of the month, 34 SAM and 135 MAM children were still admitted in the therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs respectively in all the camps.
- On 24 July, Rwandan Ministry of Health announced an outbreak of Mpox with four cases confirmed in the country by the end of the month. As a result, UNHCR and SCI are working closely with the Ministry of Health and district health authorities to prevent its spread to refugee settings. Clinical staff and community health workers working for SCI in refugee health clinics and camps have been trained on the preparedness and active surveillance measures in placed as part of the Rwanda Biomedical Centre protocol.

- At the ETM, two refugees were diagnosed with TB during July. In collaboration with AHA and district health authorities, the individuals were placed in isolation for 14 days and provided with anti-TB treatment to prevent the further spread of the disease.
- In July, UNHCR completed the annual enrolment of urban refugees and refugee students attending boarding school into the national community-based health insurance (CBHI) scheme. A total of 8,623 urban refugees and 723 boarding school students were enrolled, allowing them to access healthcare services in national public health centres and hospitals.
- On 30 July, UNHCR, SCI and refugees celebrated World Hepatitis Day throughout refugee camps in Rwanda which aimed to encourage communities to focus on hepatitis preventions, testing and timely treatment.

FOOD SECURITY

- In support of the World Food Programme (WFP) cash assistance for food programme in refugee camps across Rwanda, UNHCR provides lists of refugees in the highly vulnerable and moderately vulnerable categories who are eligible to receive assistance. In total, 90 percent of refugees are classified as highly vulnerable, while 5 percent of refugees are moderately vulnerable. As part of the cash transfers for food assistance distributed by WFP refugees in the highly vulnerable category receive 8,500 RWF a month while moderately vulnerable receive 4,250 RWF. In addition, asylum seekers in Nkamira Transit Centre receive two meals a day from WFP.
- To support school feeding programmes, UNHCR provides briquettes to Early Childhood Development (nursery) centres in refugee camps which are used as fuel for cooking lunch.
- In July, UNHCR continued to provide three hot meals a day to refugees and asylum seekers accommodated at the ETM in Rwanda.

WATER AND SANITATION

- UNHCR, in partnership with World Vision, provides water to refugees living in all refugee camps, reception, and transit centres across Rwanda. In July, water supply averaged 21 litres per person per day throughout the refugee camps in Rwanda. Despite this, water supply remains a challenge in Nyabiheke and Kigeme.
- In July, UNHCR in partnership with World Vision, distributed 2,464 litres of liquid soap for handwashing and other cleaning practices to stave off diarrheal diseases in all sites. Throughout the month, UNHCR also worked to remove sludge from septic tanks across the camps and dispose of garbage.
- In July, UNHCR completed the reconstruction of seven sanitation facilities, including latrines and showers, in Mahama refugee camp. This construction will enhance the camp's hygiene and sanitation infrastructure, improving the overall living conditions for refugees.
- In Nkamira transit centre, UNHCR ensured the provision of basic WASH services to 5,161 asylum seekers with access to average of 22.0 litres of clean water person per day, 39 persons per latrine drop hole and 37 persons per shower stance.

SHELTER AND NFIS

- In July, UNHCR rehabilitated a total of 99 shelters across the camps, this includes: 33 shelters in Mugombwa camp, 26 shelters in Mahama camp, 22 shelters in Kiziba camp, 12 shelters in Nyabiheke camp and 6 shelters in Kigeme camp. This brings the total number of shelters rehabilitated across the camps for the year 2024 to 667 shelters.
- In addition, during the month, UNHCR re-constructed 13 critically old shelters in Nyabiheke camp and one shelter in Kigeme camp. UNHCR constructed an additional 14 new shelters (6 in Nyabiheke camp, 4 in Kiziba camp, 2 in Kigeme camp and 2 in Mugombwa camp). This brings the total number of new shelters constructed in 2024 to 84 shelters.
- In July, UNHCR distributed the monthly cash assistance of $50 per person to refugees and asylum seekers at the ETM in Rwanda. UNHCR, in partnership with Equity Bank, also supported refugees and asylum seekers who were evacuated in the flights in June 2024 to open bank accounts and receive bank cards so that they can receive and utilize their cash assistance.
- In Mahama refugee camp, UNHCR distributed 137 kitchen sets, 278 sleeping mats, 278 blankets, 270 bars of soap and 42 mosquito nets to newly arrived asylum seekers in the camp in July.

Water and sanitation blocks in Mahama refugee camp. In July, UNHCR completed the reconstruction of seven facilities which were in dire need of repair.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- In Mahama and Mugombwa refugee camps, UNHCR supplies refugees with Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) for clean cooking and other energy needs. LPG cookers are a cleaner alternative than traditional cooking methods, emitting 50 times fewer pollutants than biomass-fuelled stoves such as mud stoves. In July, a total of 16,858 LPG cylinders were distributed across both camps.
- UNHCR provides cash assistance for energy needs to refugees in the Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme refugee camps. This support enables refugees to purchase gas for cooking and other energy requirements. However, the cash assistance programme is currently on hold due to a lack of funds.
- In July, UNHCR, in partnership with World Vision, began preparations for the upcoming tree-planting season, scheduled to start in October. This effort includes preparing the ground in the camps for tree nurseries where seedlings will be cultivated.

LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

- Agriculture plays a pivotal role in fostering refugee self-reliance in Rwanda. Currently, UNHCR is overseeing three projects aimed at enhancing livelihoods and self-reliance for both refugees and Rwandan host communities through the Misizi project (covering Mugombwa camp), Nyabicwamba project (covering Nyabiheke Refugee Camp), and Mushishito project (covering Kigeme Refugee Camp) marshlands. In July, the harvest in Nyabicwamba marshland was completed and farmers are waiting for a potential buyer for their soyabean produce. In Mushishito and Misizi marshlands, the planting of beans, sweet potatoes and vegetables for the next agricultural season began.
- In Mahama and Kiziba refugee camps, in partnership with Caritas Rwanda and through funding from Denmark, UNHCR has supported refugee entrepreneurs and businesses through the *Pathways to Economic Inclusion and Self-Reliance* programme. In July, 325 Rwandan and refugee entrepreneurs who are part of the project in Mahama refugee camp received mentoring on business development from Caritas.
- In July, 354 refugees and asylum seekers and 82 members of the host community benefitted in various vocational and skills training activities at the ETM such as hairdressing, driving lessons, language classes, tailoring and ICT/computer literacy.
- In July, UNHCR met with the International Trade Centre (ITC) to further collaboration in supporting refugee-led businesses in Rwanda. ITC agreed to work with the Misizi Marshland Cooperative (consisting of both refugee and Rwandan farmers) to help them link with markets to sell their maize flour.
- The three-year Poverty Alleviation Coalition (PAC) project implemented by World Vision and Caritas Rwanda across refugee camps in Rwanda came to an end. Closing ceremonies were held in camp locations including Nyabiheke, Kigeme and Kiziba where the success of the project was showcased. In Kiziba refugee camp, for example the project has supported 17 saving associations which are now fully operational with a total capital of 37 million RWF in savings.
- On 3 July, UNHCR, MINEMA and SCI staff convened a panel for the Wi-Fi Entrepreneurship Pitch Competition as part of KUMWE HUB's Bridging Digital Divide aimed at bringing sustainable internet access to refugees in Mahama Camp. A refugee in Mahama camp who runs an internet café was among the winners to receive investment in her business.
- UNHCR supports women's weaving cooperatives across refugee camps who with support from Indego Africa make handmade products which are sold through UNHCR's Made51 brand. IN Mahama refugee camp, the cooperative made over 500,000 RWF in July.

DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- In 2024, UNHCR Rwanda received submission resettlement quota of 7,037 individuals. By the end of July 2024, 3,477 individuals are submitted to resettlement countries. 3,556 refugees have departed for resettlement and 86 refugees departed through complementary pathways.
- In July, German conducted a selection mission in Kigali where they interviewed 149 refugees from the ETM with a view for resettlement. RSC Africa, who process resettlement cases for the USA, also continued case processing in July from Karongi, Kirehe and Kabarore.
- So far in 2024, UNHCR has supported 95 Burundian refugees to repatriate home from Rwanda. This brings the total to 30,877 Burundian refugees who have returned home from Rwanda since 2020. An additional 200 Burundian refugees have expressed their intention to repatriate over the coming months.

- In July, UNHCR supported the return of 98 Rwandan refugees and provided cash assistance to assist their reintegration. In total, UNHCR has supported 493 Rwandan refugees to return home in 2024.

MISSIONS, AND EVENTS

- Between 9 and 11 July, UNHCR and WHO Rwanda conducted a joint mission to Nkamira transit centre and Kiziba refugee camp to explore areas of potential collaboration including on sexual and reproductive health, GBV, teen pregnancy, mental health, and maternal mortality. Following the mission, UNHCR will work with WHO to see how they can include refugees within their nation-wide health programmes.

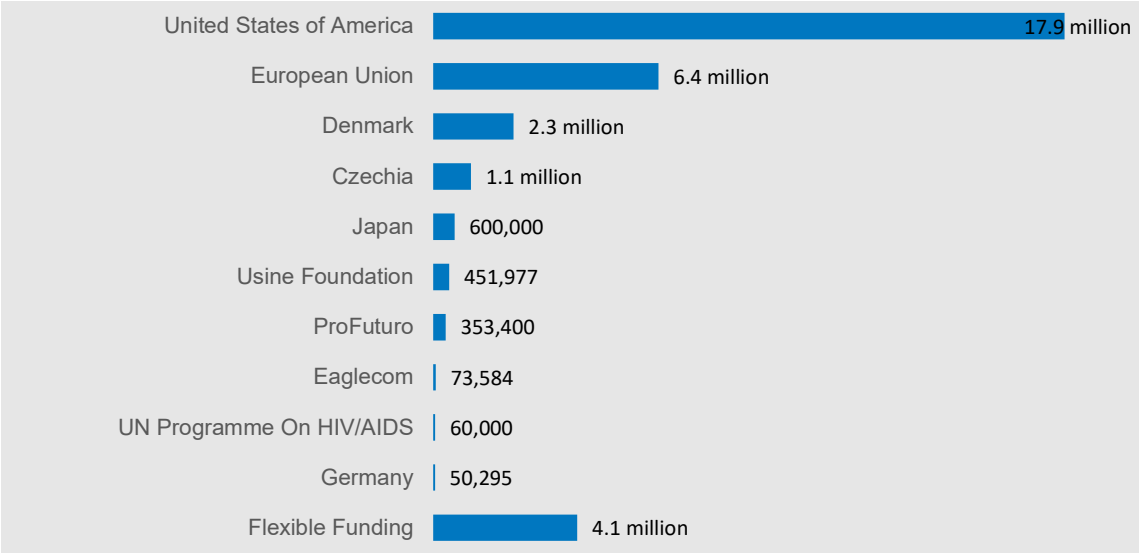
UNHCR, WHO and MINEMA conduct a focus group discussion with asylum seekers in Nkamira transit centre about the challenges they are facing with health care.

- On July 17, UNHCR met with a group of students from Utah University together with their professors who were interested in understanding more about the refugee context in Rwanda and how refugees are included within the national education system.
- In July, UNHCR conducted a public lecture to over 70 law students at UNILAK in Kigali on refugee law. The university request UNHCR to facilitate similar lectures in the future.
- On July 23, the Special Advisor on the Prevention of Genocide, accompanied by UNHCR Rwanda Representative and MINEMA Permanent Secretary, visited Nkamira transit centre. During the visit, the delegation talked with asylum seekers who have recently fled different areas in Eastern DRC to understand the different dimensions of the continuing conflict.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Rwanda operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes regionally and globally with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS to UNHCR Rwanda in 2024 | USD



UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of other softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Finland 6.6 million | Australia for UNHCR 6.5 million | Italy 4.9 million | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe 3.3 million | Norway 2.8 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Sweden 90.6 million | Norway 58.9 million | España con ACNUR 44 million | Denmark 37.8 million | Netherlands (Kingdom of) 36.3 million | France 33.6 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Japan for UNHCR 23.4 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 20.1 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Belgium 14.2 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Private donors in Italy 12.8 million | Australia 10.7 million

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