

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN



JANUARY 2024 – DECEMBER 2025

UPDATED AS OF APRIL 2025




© UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane March 27, 2025: Congolese refugees fleeing violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, arrive at Kabazana Reception Centre, in Nakivale Refugee Settlement in southwest Uganda, in March 2025, after first being received at Nyakabande transit centre, near the border. More than 40,000 Congolese refugees have fled across the border into Uganda, since January 2025.

Contents

REGIONAL RESPONSE DRC SITUATION	4
FOREWORD	5
REGIONAL FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS	7
REGIONAL OVERVIEW	9
2025 POPULATION TO BE ASSISTED	10
REGIONAL RESPONSE PRIORITIES AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	12
REGIONAL CROSS-CUTTING PRINCIPLES	16
HUMANITARIAN-DEVELOPMENT-PEACE	18
PARTNERSHIPS AND COORDINATION	19
REGIONAL MONITORING FRAMEWORK	19
ANGOLA	20
CURRENT SITUATION	21
COUNTRY RESPONSE AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY	23
PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION	28
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS	28
BURUNDI	30
CURRENT SITUATION	31
COUNTRY RESPONSE AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY	34
PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION	39
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS	40
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO	43
CURRENT SITUATION	44
COUNTRY RESPONSE AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY	46
PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION	50
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS	51
RWANDA	53
CURRENT SITUATION	54
COUNTRY RESPONSE AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY	56
PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION	60
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS	61
UGANDA	64
CURRENT SITUATION	65
COUNTRY RESPONSE AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY	68
PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION	75
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS	76
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA	80
CURRENT SITUATION	81
COUNTRY RESPONSE AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY	83
PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION	88
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS	89
ZAMBIA	91
CURRENT SITUATION	92
COUNTRY RESPONSE AND SOLUTIONS STRATEGY	95
PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION	99
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS	100
ANNEXES	102
ANNEX 1: REGIONAL BUDGET BY PARTNER	103
ANNEX 2: COUNTRY AND REGIONAL TARGETS	108

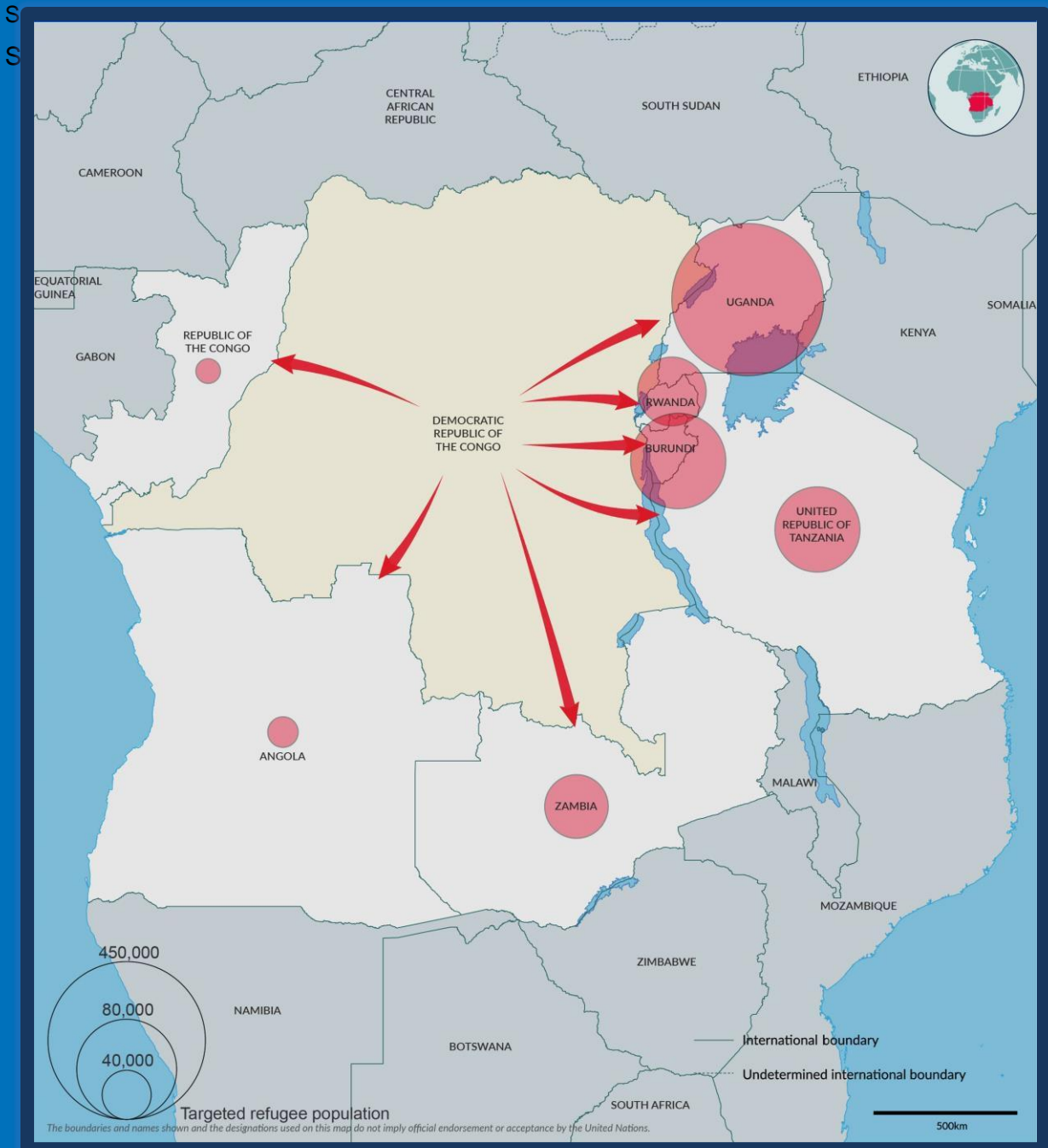
REGIONAL RESPONSE DRC SITUATION

 **1,172,111**
2025 refugee population to be assisted

 **949,587**
2025 host community members to benefit from assistance

 **773.2 M**
2025 total financial requirements

 **107**
Partners involved





© UNHCR/Yonna Tukundane Congolese refugees fleeing violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, arrive at Kabazana Reception Centre, in Nakivale Refugee Settlement in southwest Uganda, in March 2025.

Foreword

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has been faced with conflict during much of the past three decades. Yet, developments over the past three months have descended much of the eastern part of the country into new turmoil, resulting in staggering levels of need, egregious human rights violations and significant population movements. These developments, which unfolded as the update of the 2024-2025 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) for the DRC Situation was being finalized, have had severe ramifications for neighboring countries.

While the core priorities and strategic direction that underpins the RRP has not changed, the eastern DRC crisis upended our basic planning assumptions. This shift is most apparent in the significant increase in the number of refugees and asylum seekers from eastern DRC who have sought protection in neighboring countries.

Over the first four months of 2025 alone, some 139,000 new arrivals have been received in neighboring countries, well over double the number recorded over the entirety of 2024. Over 70,000 of

these new arrivals have been received in Burundi, leading to an almost 80 per cent increase in the number of refugees from the DRC and overwhelming existing response capacities. In Uganda- which was already receiving high and sustained arrivals from DRC during 2024- the first four months of 2025 have seen a 600 per cent increase in cross-border arrivals compared to the same period last year. Although not directly related to the crisis in eastern DRC, over 8,000 people have fled across DRC's western border, seeking refuge in the Republic of the Congo (RoC). This already exceeds the total number of arrivals received in RoC between July 2022 and December 2023 in the last major flare-up of ethnic and inter-communal violence in Mai Ndombé Province.

The updated 2025 DRC Regional RRP reflects this new reality. First and foremost, it sets out how we will alleviate the suffering of the most vulnerable through the provision of life-saving humanitarian and protection assistance. This includes working with host governments to establish a conducive protection environment by ensuring refugees have access to documentation and providing tailored



support- including through case management services- to those with specific needs including GBV survivors and children. In Burundi and Uganda, which are both contending with new and evolving emergencies, partners have updated their financial requirements under the RRP, identifying- within their overall RRP appeal- the emergency resources required to respond to new arrivals.

Alongside these emergency responses we must continue to prioritize the search for solutions. In a climate where opportunities for voluntary repatriation and resettlement to third countries are increasingly scarce, the RRP continues to set out a compelling vision to strengthen the resilience and self-reliance of refugees, including by promoting inclusion. Despite the financial pressure we find ourselves under, we will be relentless in making the case that investing in sustainable responses- whether by supporting inclusion in national systems or equipping refugees with the tools to become self-sufficient- is the smart option in reducing the humanitarian funding burden and reversing the trend of growing needs. This will build on the catalytic role of DRC refugee host countries in driving best practice including, for instance, as part of the ongoing efforts by the Government of the Republic of Zambia to transform refugee settlements into economic hubs and the landmark policies in Uganda and Rwanda that give refugees more opportunities to contribute to their host countries.

To deliver on this vision 107 partners are collaborating under the DRC Regional RRP are appealing for a combined US\$ 773.2 M to support close to 1.2 M refugee and asylum seekers as well as 950,000 host community members. Of these requirements, Burundi and Uganda are appealing for US\$111 M to provide emergency assistance to 170,000 new arrivals from DRC who have sought refuge within their borders since the beginning of 2025

Inevitably, against the backdrop of the unprecedented funding crisis we face, our capacity to deliver on this vision will be severely compromised. As this plan highlights, scaling-up the emergency response will mean scaling-back or deprioritizing other interventions. As the High Commissioner stated, these trade-offs will be measured in lives lost and futures squandered. Colleagues from the frontlines already speak of the agonizing decisions they face daily: which assistance package to reduce? which health facility to shut down? which population group to cut lifesaving aid to?

Yet, despite these challenging times, I take reassurance from the solidarity and shared humanity of the host governments and populations on the frontline of the crisis: The decision of the Government of Burundi to grant- without hesitation- prima facie refugees status to those fleeing for their lives across the Rusizi river to safety in Burundi; Uganda's willingness to keep borders open to Congolese seeking safety despite already hosting the most refugees on the continent; the hospitality of host communities in the Republic of Congo who are currently sheltering thousands of DRC refugees who have arrived since the beginning of the year; These actions underline the resolve and commitment to respect the fundamentals of refugee protection.

The international community must rise to the occasion, providing unwavering support to host governments and their communities. At this critical juncture, as the world faces unprecedented challenges, including the dire humanitarian crisis in the DRC, we cannot afford to let them down

Chansa Kapaya

**Regional Refugee Coordinator for the DRC
Situation**



Regional Financial Requirements



Total
financial
requirements

2024
\$668,277,343

2025
\$773,249,219

Budget by Hosting Country

Country	2024 Financial requirements in US\$	2024 Partners involved	2025 Financial requirements in US\$	2025 Partners involved
Angola	20,646,267	8	20,227,157	8
Burundi	64,310,270	13	132,607,380	22
Republic of the Congo	23,619,974	8	22,496,181	8
Rwanda	78,302,432	24	82,800,886	31
Uganda	355,093,420	73	381,641,785	73
United Republic of Tanzania	94,132,855	15	100,408,210	15
Zambia	32,172,125	10	33,067,620	10

2025 Budget by Partner Type

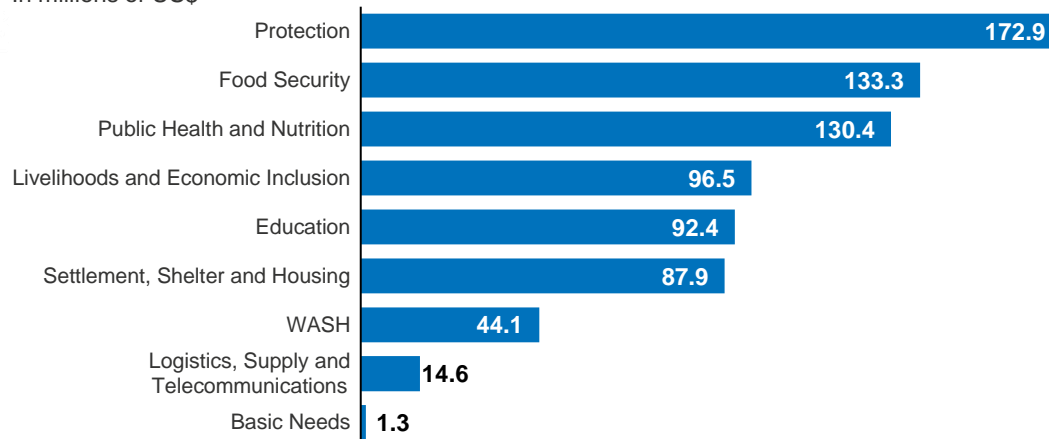
107 Partners Involved 	11 UN Agencies	5 Development actors	60 International NGOs	29 National NGOs		
	\$525,339,451	\$4,185,913	\$199,621,589	\$42,895,674		
	1 Academia	1 ICRC/ IFRC	12 Faith-Based Organizations	 Refugee-Led Organizations 4	 Faith-Based Organizations 3	 Women-Led Organizations 1
\$429,488	\$777,104	\$38,246,335	\$1,010,822	\$249,842	\$604,400	


This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with partners, funded by RRP partners, to carry out RRP activities.




2025 Budget by Sector*

In millions of US\$



 Total Protection Requirements \$172,900,650	
GBV	Child Protection
\$28,075,889	\$33,675,740

 Total Cash Assistance Modality* \$74,453,334		
Protection	Food Security	Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion
\$536,688	\$49,126,946	\$1,885,303
Basic Needs	Public Health & Nutrition	Settlement, Shelter & Housing
\$500,000	\$7,587,226	\$14,817,171

*The financial requirements under Settlement, Shelter, and Housing for Uganda incorporate the Environment & Energy, Shelter, Settlement, and NFI financial requirements from the Uganda Country RRP.&

** Cash assistance is pursued as a key modality of assistance and protection and is used as a cross-cutting intervention across the various Sectors. As the modality of choice of refugees, the RRP aims to use cash assistance as the primary means to meet immediate basic needs and provide protection.



Regional Overview

2025 Regional Situational Overview

The humanitarian emergency in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) continues to be one of the most complex crises in the world, with its effects spilling across borders. The challenges of the past three decades, which have included deadly confrontations between armed groups, rampant violence, frequent flooding in some regions, high-impact epidemics like Ebola and Mpox, acute food insecurity¹, and inadequate or absent basic infrastructure, have caused unprecedented levels of need and forced millions to flee their homes, including to neighbouring countries. This situation has worsened since the end of 2024, with conflict between FARDC, M23 and their respective Non-State Armed Group (NSAG) spreading across eastern DRC. In turn, the humanitarian and protection crisis in eastern DRC has deepened, amidst widespread reports of human rights violations against civilians - including sexual and gender-based violence (GBV) - forced recruitment of children, attacks on heavily populated civilian areas and forced displacement- as well as return- of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of people. While not directly related to the escalating situation in eastern DRC, traditionally safe areas, such as Mai-Ndombé, have also seen a resumption of inter-communal violence in recent months, forcing over least 8,000 people to seek refuge in the Republic of the Congo over the first four months of 2025, with the actual number of arrivals likely much higher.

As a result of the escalating conflict and continued instability, as of the end of 2024 an estimated 7.8 million people were internally displaced within the DRC - the highest DRC IDP figure on record and an increase of over a million in under a year - while over 1.1 million refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC are hosted across the Southern and Great Lakes regions. Despite the continued efforts of regional partners to engage the parties to the conflict in a sustainable peace process, including through the Doha process mediated by Qatar, the security situation in eastern is likely to remain volatile. At the same time, beyond the ongoing conflict between the FARDC and M23 in North and South Kivu, attacks by other armed groups have also ramped-up, particularly in Ituri Province. In addition, ongoing uncertainty around the presence of the United Nations

Organization Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO) could be a further instability. Following its withdrawal from South Kivu in April 2024, the MONUSCO mandate for operations in North Kivu and Ituri provinces was extended until December 2025. While there are concerns that any potential full withdrawal could be a further source of instability, the mission also continues to face challenges from the civilian population due to misinformation and disinformation from various groups, who claim that it is not doing enough to curb hostilities and prevent escalation.

Against this backdrop, it is expected that the asylum-seeker and refugee population from the DRC will continue to grow in 2025, adding to the 53,500 people who sought protection in neighbouring R-RRP countries during 2024. In the first 4 months of 2025 alone, at least 139,000 people fled DRC to neighbouring, almost double the total number of new arrivals recorded over the whole of 2024.

The 2024-2025 DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (Regional RRP or RRP) details the inter-agency response in seven neighbouring countries to the DRC: Angola, Burundi, the Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia. Together, they host close to 1 million refugees from the DRC – more than 53,000 of whom fled in 2024 alone. People fleeing from North Kivu, South Kivu, and Ituri provinces in the DRC tend to cross the border towards Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and the United Republic of Tanzania; those leaving Mai-Ndombé province, in the western region, mostly seek safety in the Republic of the Congo; and those escaping violence in the southern provinces of Kasai, Haut-Katanga, and Tanganyika tend to flee into Zambia and Angola. In addition, there are also onward movements, whereby people may move from their first country of asylum to another country in search of better living conditions. In view of the current emergency in Burundi, UNHCR is closely monitoring onward movements to other countries, including via Lake Tanganyika towards Zambia.

High population growth rates, food insecurity and poor nutrition status, and worsening socioeconomic conditions, all exacerbated by escalating fuel and fertilizer prices, epidemics, and supply chain constraints, continue to put substantial pressure on host governments and communities. Additionally, food insecurity continues to be exacerbated by extreme weather patterns. Countries in the region are

¹ Some 25.5 million people in the DRC are forecast to experience high levels of acute food insecurity (i.e. IPC phase 3 and above) in the first 6 months of 2025, with over 22 per cent of the population

affected. The most affected populations are displaced persons and returnees - concentrated in eastern provinces - as well as



highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events such as droughts and floods, with a devastating impact on food security and livelihoods. The resulting loss of income and resources can force individuals and families to adopt harmful coping strategies exacerbating protection risks, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and children.

All seven DRC RRP countries are parties to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, have acceded to the 1969 Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Problems of Refugee Populations in Africa, and have affirmed the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). In accordance with these frameworks, some host countries pledged at the 2019 and 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to strengthen their asylum system capacity, as well as their registration and data collection systems, in order to enhance refugee protection and pathways towards

effective inclusion and solutions. Notably, countries like Rwanda and Uganda have adopted progressive refugee laws, granting forcibly displaced communities the right to work and access national services, including education, health, and banking.

Other States have maintained reservations to specific provisions of the 1951 Convention and have adopted their own restrictive legislations, hindering refugees' self-reliance and enjoyment of human rights. Zambia, for instance, has four reservations to the 1951 Convention concerning freedom of movement and access to education, employment/business opportunities, and travel documents. Similarly, Angola has reservations to nine provisions to the 1951 Convention related to access to employment and property, as well as to the rights of association, freedom of movement, and reciprocity. In 2023, Angola resumed the process of registration and documentation of refugees, which had been on hold since the adoption of a new Asylum Law in 2015; however, the reestablishment of a functioning refugee status determination system is still pending. The United Republic of Tanzania's 2003 Refugee Policy imposes restrictive measures on refugee livelihoods and enforces a strict encampment policy, although there was an agreement to ease restrictions reached during a High-Level Bilateral Meeting between the Government and UNHCR, followed by subsequent meetings with the High Commissioner for Refugees in 2022 and 2023.

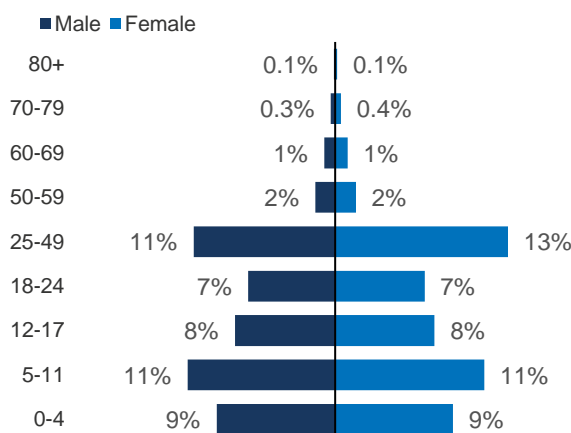
2025 population to be assisted

Country	Refugee population to be assisted	Host community members benefitting from assistance	Total population to be assisted
Angola	27,127	3,000	30,127
Burundi	181,150	22,000	203,150
Republic of the Congo	30,794	5,615	36,409
Rwanda	95,591	12,139	107,730
Uganda	665,580	869,192	1,534,772
United Republic of Tanzania	101,869	22,641	124,510
Zambia	70,000	15,000	85,000
Total	1,172,111	949,587	2,121,698

*Planning figures, financial requirement breakdown, and targets for 2025 can be found in Annex 2 & 3.



2025 Age and gender breakdown - refugee population to be assisted



16% People with disabilities



52% Women and girls



48% Men and boys



56% Children

Regional Risks and Needs

While some hosting countries continue to demonstrate significant generosity towards displaced populations, others are tightening their asylum regulations, impacting various aspects of the day-to-day life of refugees, such as access to territory and services, freedom of movement, registration, and efficient asylum procedures. The reduction of asylum space through the suspension of government-led refugee status determination procedures in some host countries has resulted in the risk of forcibly displaced people being left without the prospect of claiming and obtaining refugee status and accessing life-saving support. In certain instances, overall access to asylum and the quality of refugee status determination are further hindered by a shortage of human resources among government officials. In some countries, securing the necessary exit permits for resettlement, family reunification programmes, and complementary pathways to third countries has become a challenge. Incidents of discrimination, expulsions, and deportations have been documented in some host countries.

Gender inequality and GBV represent significant concerns for refugees from the DRC. Instances of GBV among people affected by the humanitarian crisis are widespread, with heightened risks due to high poverty rates which are exacerbated in settlements by the lack of public lighting, inadequate shelters, and insufficient privacy in communal facilities. GBV incidents frequently go unreported due to fear of reprisal, limited access to justice, stigma, discrimination, a culture of impunity, and a lack of confidence in reporting channels.

The challenging protection environment significantly impacts the well-being of refugee children, especially in areas where access to asylum and protection is restricted. In such circumstances, children face barriers in accessing child-friendly procedures and are generally excluded from national child protection systems and services. As a result, refugee children are more often exposed to significant protection risks, as reported by RRP Partners who documented cases of family separation, psychosocial distress, and other violations, including instances of sexual violence, psychological abuse, trafficking, and exploitation.

Some host countries continue to promote encampment policies, limiting refugees to overcrowded settlements, in areas where basic services are stretched to their limits. This creates risks for refugee well-being, in no small part because the health conditions in most host countries are fragile and compounded by natural hazards. Outbreaks of measles, cholera, ebola, mpox malaria, and other diseases place further strain on already-limited health services and infrastructure. Moreover, experiences of violence and loss coupled with breakdown of supportive community structures have led to high levels of residual mental health issues among both adults and children in refugee and host communities.

Food insecurity and related poor nutritional status, inaccessibility of agricultural land, rising prices of commodities, prolonged drought, and tropical storms and cyclones are growing concerns among families. There is a pressing need to address food insecurity and to support populations to meet their basic needs. At the same time, lack of access to sustainable



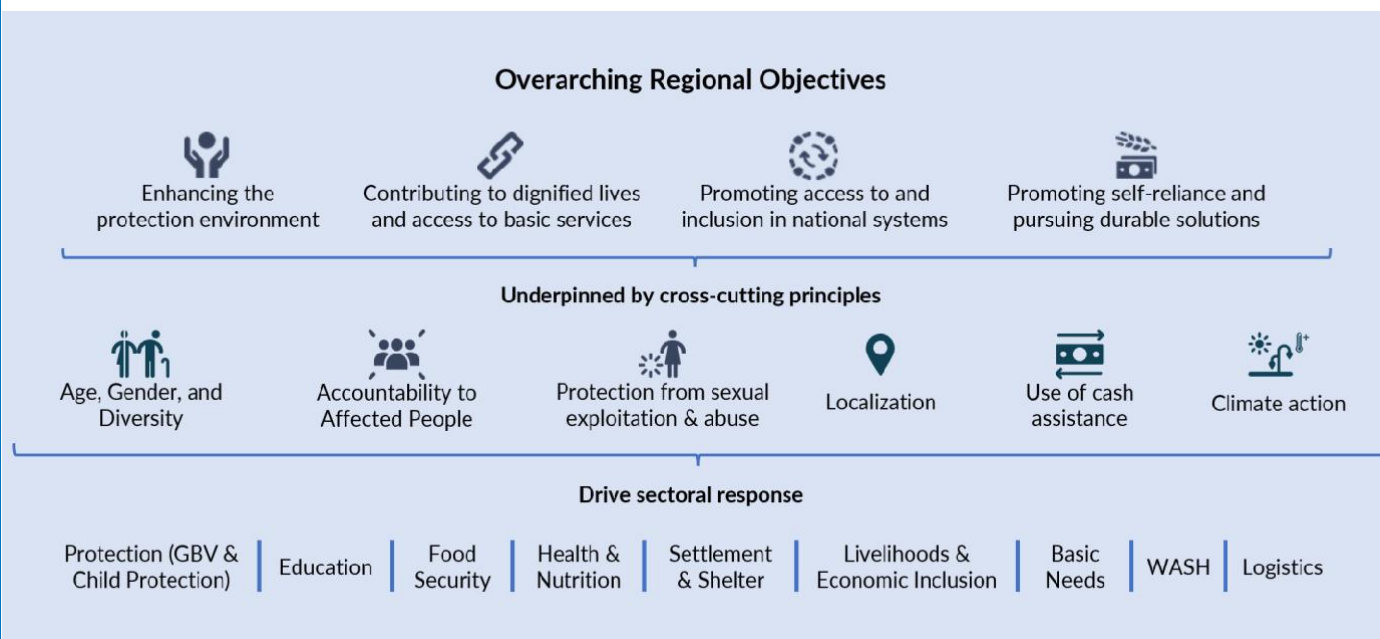
employment and livelihood opportunities and restrictions on refugees' freedom of movement and on their right to work, own land and property, and access education and justice remain major challenges.

Under these constraints, refugees are increasingly vulnerable to human rights violations, exploitation,

and abuse, and more frequently resort to harmful coping strategies to meet their basic needs, resulting in the exposure of segments of the population, particularly women, children, older people, and other persons at risk of exclusion, to additional protection risks.

Regional Response Priorities and Strategic Objectives

The DRC Regional RRP is in the second year of a two-year plan. The shift to a two-year planning cycle reflects the emphasis on longer-term programming and sustainable responses which contributes to tangible improvements in community resilience and real progress towards solutions for refugees and asylum seekers.



In the spirit of the GCR and in accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) principles, governments steer the response, while RRP Partners, led by UNHCR, support and complement national and regional strategies, working closely with donors, development actors, the private sector, local partners, and civil society. **The DRC Regional RRP is steered by four overarching objectives**, which drive the respective sectoral responses, and is underpinned by cross-cutting principles and priorities, which are mainstreamed in all country responses.

Protection programming will involve enhancing

asylum systems and legal protection frameworks. This includes improving access to territory, advocating for the civilian character of asylum, and promoting access to fair and efficient status determination procedures, registration, and data management/analysis, as well as border and detention monitoring. The March 2025 revised UNHCR position on returns to the DRC will serve as guidance to facilitate granting of refugee status to new and existing asylum-seekers from eastern DRC.

Efforts will be directed towards refining the



prevention, risk mitigation, and response to GBV, including ensuring that quality, life-saving GBV services for survivors are available, strengthening collaboration with key response Sectors, including health and psychosocial and legal support, and working closely with other Sectors to mitigate the risks of GBV. To strengthen the inclusion of refugee children in national systems, the plan will focus on bolstering child-friendly procedures and enhancing child protection prevention and response services, including the continued implementation of best interest procedures for children at risk. Furthermore, efforts will be directed towards strengthening protection monitoring and case management and reinforcing community-based protection.

Partners will continue to complement and deliver community-driven basic assistance programmes. This will include continued support to health and nutrition services; as well as the maintenance and expansion of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) systems. Consistent with the protection mainstreaming approach applied across the RRP, Partners will strive to ensure that such services provided to beneficiaries are strategically located, well-lit, and easily accessible, especially for children, women and girls, and people with disabilities. Furthermore, efforts will continue to improve household shelter infrastructure, with an emphasis on making them safer, more accessible, and more resilient to climate-related hazards. Partners will also promote climate-smart agriculture and training on climate-resilient practices to ensure long-term food security and self-reliance, and foster initiatives like reforestation, clean cooking, and solar energy projects. The distribution of food assistance, both through in-kind and cash or voucher-based modalities, will continue, prioritizing the most vulnerable communities and with a particular focus on camp-based populations. While working with host governments to facilitate local inclusion in education systems will remain the core focus of education programmes, partners will also directly support the

provision of education services to refugee children, especially girls, where necessary. This will include the delivery of non-formal education programmes which can provide a learning pathway for refugee children who, for whatever reason, are out of school and either face interruptions to their learning or are unable to re-enter formal education without dedicated 'catch-up' support.

As highlighted, local integration will be supported for those who choose to remain in countries of asylum, with emphasis on cultivating sustainable livelihood opportunities and fostering financial inclusion for both refugee and host communities, including women and young people, to reduce and mitigate socioeconomic vulnerabilities, food insecurity, and harmful coping mechanisms. To promote local inclusion, social cohesion, and peaceful coexistence, partners will, where national policies allow, aim to strengthen inclusive national systems and public services - particularly with regards to education and health - benefitting refugees and host community members alike.

Overall, opportunities for return will remain limited in 2025. In areas where conditions are conducive to sustainable return, voluntary repatriations to the DRC will be facilitated in collaboration with humanitarian and development partners on the ground.

Case identification for refugees facing heightened protection risks and who are most in need of resettlement will continue, based on advocacy with resettlement countries for larger, more flexible programmes and equitable responsibility-sharing. Additionally, access to family reunification and complementary pathways for refugee admission to third countries through private sponsorship, access to higher education and labour mobility opportunities on par with nationals in host countries, and other innovative programmes will be expanded through communication, advocacy, recommendations for program design and strategic partnerships.



Regional Strategic Objectives

The RRP is aligned with the objectives of the GCR, guiding the work of Partners and Governments toward refugee inclusion, self-reliance, and resilience. Notable progress has already been made, particularly in Rwanda, Uganda, and Zambia, where Governments have committed to working within the scope of the [Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework](#). Governments in the region have made pledges at the 2019 and 2023 GRF that aim to improve conditions of asylum, enhance the protection environment, expand livelihood opportunities and extend inclusive policies that support access to public services, and strengthen synergies with national planning frameworks. Through four overarching objectives, Partners will aim to ease the pressures on host governments by enhancing the self-reliance of refugees and host communities, expanding access to third-country solutions, and supporting safe and dignified return to the DRC.

► Enhancing the protection environment

Protection remains at the centre of the response. Through close engagement with authorities at the local and national levels, RRP Partners will help to strengthen national asylum systems; promote policies and legislation that safeguards unhindered and non-discriminatory access to asylum and international protection, including in the context of mixed movements; uphold the rights of refugees; and promote a conducive environment for local solutions. GBV prevention and response will be strengthened, and risk mitigation will be mainstreamed across all Sectors. Child protection and support services to people with specific protection needs, including people with disabilities, will be enhanced, in coordination with State authorities and in cooperation with other local actors, including community-based organizations.

► Contributing to dignified lives and access to basic services

Refugees and vulnerable host populations face a range of challenges arising from displacement and the socioeconomic impacts of multiple crises, with the most vulnerable struggling to access food, education, WASH and health services, housing, and employment opportunities. RRP Partners will provide multi-sector assistance and deliver basic services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable refugee and host communities, ensuring that they receive the support they need to live in dignity, while also strengthening their capacity to deal with future shocks.

► Promoting access to and inclusion into national systems

Where possible, the RRP will be anchored in national systems, development plans, multi-year strategies, and regional frameworks. RRP Partners will continue to work with governments and other partners to integrate asylum-seekers and refugees from the DRC into national systems, including health, education, employment, and social services and (sub-) national development plans, in support of the pledges made by host countries at the GRF. With municipalities and local authorities often the primary responders to the needs of refugees, RRP Partners will build their capacity to deal with the impact of the crisis.

► Promoting self-reliance and pursuing durable solutions

Given the protracted nature of the crisis, promoting and achieving durable solutions for refugees remains a priority, be it through exploring local solutions and opportunities, supporting voluntary return when conditions allow, or advocating for more resettlement places and complementary pathways for admission to third countries. Locally, RRP Partners will prioritize the promotion of livelihood opportunities and economic inclusion of refugees and vulnerable host community members to increase self-reliance and foster social cohesion and peaceful coexistence, as well as to reduce harmful coping strategies and exposure to protection risks. Resettlement remains a critical option for vulnerable refugees, including persons with specific needs and medical cases, for whom local solutions are not possible. Meanwhile, refugees who decide to voluntarily return will continue to be supported.



Contingency Planning and Emergency Preparedness

In response to the deteriorating situation in eastern DRC during 2024, partners across 6 countries participating in the R-RRP- Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Burundi, Angola and Zambia- updated their Inter-Agency Contingency Plans in the first quarter of 2025. These scenario-based plans are complementary to the R-RRP and outline both preparedness and initial response requirements to respond to projected needs over a 3-month period. As of March 2025, Burundi and Uganda had activated their respective Contingency Plans, with the scale of new arrivals exceeding the plans activation triggers. In line with the Refugee Emergency Protocol, the Burundi and Uganda chapters of this R-RRP have been comprehensively updated to reflect multi-sectoral requirements to respond to both new arrivals and existing DRC refugee populations

Country	Refugee population to be assisted
Rwanda	100,000
Burundi	130,000
Uganda	60,000
Tanzania	20,000
Angola	35,000
Zambia	15,000

Regional Cross-Cutting Principles



- ▶ The regional response is underpinned by six cross-cutting approaches. These approaches are applied across all country and sectoral strategies.

Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)

RRP Partners will promote an age, gender, and diversity-oriented approach and pursue the 'leave no one behind' principle in all programmes and interventions. To strengthen the commitment to ensure and mainstream inclusive planning and delivery of humanitarian interventions, meaningful participation and engagement of forcibly displaced persons of different age, gender, and diverse characteristics, including people with disabilities and diverse SOGIESC, will be promoted across interventions.

Partners will ensure equal gender and diversity representation in community-based structures and will encourage and prioritize the participation of women and girls, people with disabilities, children, older people, and young people through robust community-based platforms, such as children and youth committees. RRP programming will also aim to alleviate physical, information, communication, attitudinal, and institutional barriers faced by different groups to ensure access to essential protection services and assistance. This will include, for instance, training and awareness-raising around age, gender and diversity approaches among all stakeholders engaged in the delivery of assistance and services under the RRP.

Accountability to affected people

Partners will promote a people-centred approach and ensure active participation and inclusion of diverse groups of refugee and host communities at all stages of project planning, implementation, and evaluation. Facilitating refugee inclusion and meaningful participation will involve timely and transparent access to information on services and referrals. Furthermore, ensuring systematic feedback from communities will be critical in tailoring interventions to

the actual needs of beneficiaries as stated by them. This will also be at the core of a beneficiary-based approach to organizational learning, with adaptation informed by the views of refugees and host community, including through engagement with organizations led by refugee women, young people, and people with disabilities.

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA)

Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) constitute acts of gross misconduct and a violation of the fundamental rights of refugees and other affected people. RRP Partners are committed to upholding a zero-tolerance policy on SEA. Across the response, partners will strive to establish a safe, trusted, respectful, and inclusive environment which puts the rights, wishes, needs, safety and dignity of survivors at the centre of all prevention and response measures concerning SEA.

As part of this survivor-centred approach, partners will integrate SEA risk assessment, mitigation, and prevention across sectors, ensuring survivors have access to timely support through GBV and child protection referral pathways, and strengthened complaint, feedback, and reporting systems. Such systems include GBV helplines, complaint boxes, protection litigation desks, and confidential email addresses that are accessible to the community and accommodate diverse genders, ages, and characteristics.

Furthermore, partners will provide PSEA training to personnel, volunteers, and other stakeholders involved in the response, emphasizing adherence to the Code of Conduct. Similar trainings will be organized to empower communities with information around protection from SEA. Partners will collaborate on targeted awareness-raising sessions and, where possible, develop harmonized key messages for the refugee population regarding PSEA and the process for reporting any concerns related to SEA.

Partners will work through the in-country inter-agency PSEA networks, the primary bodies for technical-level coordination and oversight of PSEA activities, to prevent and respond to SEA. These networks will facilitate joint efforts to minimize SEA risks, ensure effective responses, and raise awareness, while also strengthening linkages with other sectoral groups to mainstream PSEA throughout the response.

Localization

Partners will promote meaningful engagement and participation of civil society organizations, including grass-root organizations led by refugees and host community members, as well as local authorities, municipalities, and private sector actors. This will mean including them in refugee coordination structures, considering their views and needs within the response plans and throughout planning cycles, and advocating for financial support on their behalf. Partners will strengthen the role and capacity of refugee-led and civil-society organizations, including women-led organizations, acknowledging diversity as an asset. Partners will aim to build and nurture effective partnerships based on the principles of equality, transparency, responsibility sharing, and complementarity.

Use of cash assistance

Partners will aim to provide forcibly displaced people the dignity, choice, and flexibility to prioritize their own needs while supporting local economies and laying the foundations for recovery and resilience by increasing cash assistance wherever possible. Partners have made significant progress in harmonizing approaches, with an emphasis on digital and financially inclusive forms of cash delivery. The scaling-up of cash assistance is subject to security conditions, market functionality and affordability, and political goodwill. Efforts to expand the use of cash will be consistent with a needs-based and do-no-harm approach which will require strong collaboration between cash and protection actors.

Climate action

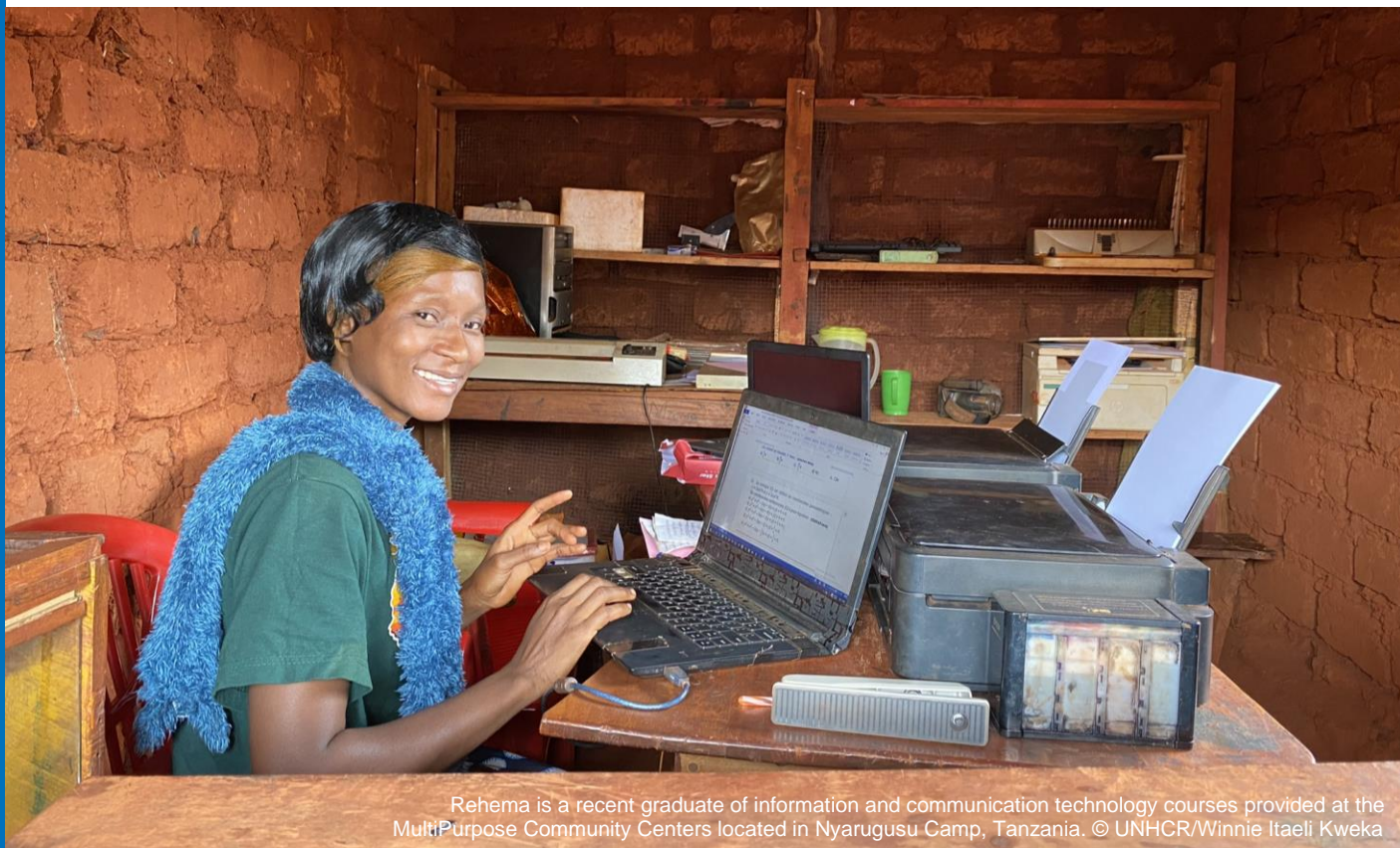
Partners will enhance efforts to ensure that their programmes are climate-smart and environmentally sustainable to strengthen the resilience of displaced people and host communities to climate-related risks. The expansion of initiatives aimed at safeguarding both individuals and the environment- including reforestation, clean cooking, solar energy interventions, and projects to make shelters more

climate-resilient- will be implemented across RRP countries. Furthermore, livelihoods initiatives such as climate-smart agriculture will be promoted among refugees, helping them to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change. Where applicable, data collection and analysis, as well as assessments of climate and environmental risks and their impact on protection and solutions, will be carried out to inform climate action and disaster risk reduction across humanitarian and development objectives. The promotion of community-based projects, which can be replicated, will be undertaken as proof of concept.

Mental Health and Psychosocial Support

MHPSS activities are integrated within programming for public health, protection (child protection, GBV, community-based protection) and education. This RRP prioritizes the following approaches for MHPSS within the relevant sectors.

- 1) making clinical mental health services available through integration into general health systems.
- 2) improving access to scalable psychological interventions.
- 3) strengthening families and communities to support each other.



Rehema is a recent graduate of information and communication technology courses provided at the MultiPurpose Community Centers located in Nyarugusu Camp, Tanzania. © UNHCR/Winnie Itaeli Kweka

Humanitarian-Development-Peace

The protracted nature of the DRC refugee crisis has had profound implications on host countries and communities, putting additional strain on national systems and public services. To advance local solutions for asylum-seekers and refugees from the DRC, the RRP will adopt a collaborative humanitarian-development-peace approach. RRP Partners will continue to support efforts by governments to incorporate refugees into their national education, health, livelihoods, and social protection systems. Where the policies of host governments do not allow inclusion, partners will advocate for a robust protection and solutions framework.

RRP interventions aim to promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion and adhere to a whole-of-society approach, the 'leave no one behind' principle, and the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The commitment of seven RRP host Governments to the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is resolute. RRP partners aim to contribute to various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and will place increased emphasis on ensuring interventions advance SDGs, both by supporting host governments in localizing the SDGs and meeting SDG targets.

RRP Partners will continue to collaborate with government counterparts and strengthen partnerships with development actors as part of efforts to support the inclusion of refugees into (sub-) national development plans, social protection programmes, labour markets, programming and interventions of development actors implemented under the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF).

Partnerships and Coordination

In accordance with the RCM, national leadership and capacities are central to the development and implementation of the DRC Regional RRP. In line with this, host governments will continue to play a leading role, while UNHCR coordinates with Partners – comprising UN Agencies, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), national NGOs, faith-based organizations, development actors, academia, private sector, regional organizations, financial institutions, and community-based organizations - to support the host government led response.

All RRP programmes and interventions are planned and executed in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts and aim to support and complement national systems, plans, and initiatives. At the regional level, as the Regional Refugee Coordinator for the DRC Situation, UNHCR's Director of the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa (RBSA) helps to set the overarching vision that frames the strategies for the seven RRP countries in responding to refugees from the DRC. Furthermore, under the leadership of the Regional Refugee Coordinator, regional colleagues support advocacy around the DRC situation, analysis on displacement trends and needs as well as ongoing resource mobilization efforts.

The 2024-2025 DRC Regional RRP also promotes connections with regional bodies, including the African Union and the Southern African Development Community. Strategic partnerships with development agencies, international institutions (such as the World Bank and the African Development Bank), bilateral donors, civil society actors, and the private sector will be established and strengthened to support the move towards resilience and durable solutions.

RRP Partners are committed to collaborate with Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams to ensure that refugees are included in all UN plans, including the UNSDCF. They will advocate for refugees' inclusion in national plans, datasets, budgets, and systems, and uphold the 2023 GRF pledges. Lastly, efforts will be made to strengthen the partnerships with refugee-led, women-led, and faith-based organizations through direct funding partnerships, capacity-building, and support or advocacy for direct funding from other actors.

Regional Monitoring Framework

- ▶ Progress and gaps will continuously be monitored and reported via the RRP regional indicators, as well as the regional monitoring framework, developed jointly by the seven country RRP Partners. Regional targets for both 2024 and 2025 are available in Annex 3. Monitoring on regional targets is undertaken on a bi-annual basis by all RRP Partners involved in the Response Plan.

ANGOLA



27,127
2025 refugee
population to be
assisted



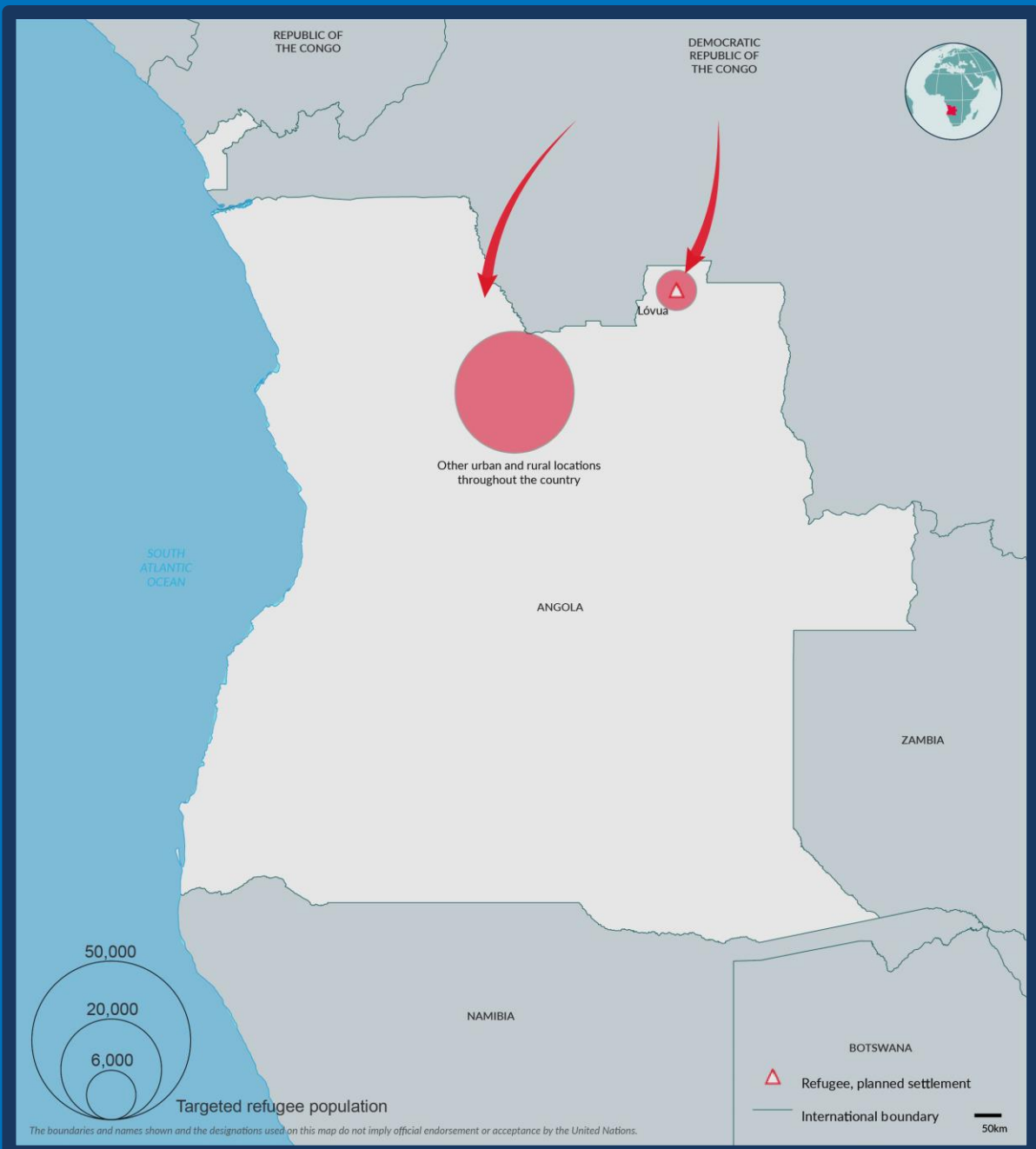
3,000
2025 host community
members benefiting
from assistance



20.2M
2025 total
financial
requirements



7
Partners
involved





Primary school class at the Lóvua Settlement, Angola. ©ADPP/Spelile Rosa Musonza

Current Situation

Situational Overview

As of the end of 2024, Angola hosted 22,906 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Out of this total, 88 per cent live in urban areas, most of them in Luanda. Around 40 per cent of refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC arrived in Angola during the 2017 mass influx from the Kasai region and were recognized as refugees on a prima facie basis. Approximately 9,100 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC live in Lunda Norte province, among whom 6,300 reside in Lóvua settlement.

It is expected that the refugee population from the DRC in Angola may increase during 2025 due to communal conflict in Mai-Ndombé and instability in Kasai, in the south of DRC. Furthermore, the escalation of the conflict in DRC could also trigger movements to Angola, either as a result of onward movements from other neighbouring countries or direct arrivals from DRC, particularly should hostilities move southwards into Tanganyika Province.

In 2023 and 2024, the Government of Angola showed greater engagement on issues related to the forcibly

displaced. Angola joined the UNHCR Executive Committee as a permanent member for the first time², resumed registration and documentation of refugees, and added references to refugees, stateless persons, and persons at risk of statelessness in the National Development Plan for 2023-2027.

In July 2023, the Government of Angola resumed the refugee registration and documentation process, which had been put on hold since the adoption of a new Asylum Law in 2015. In December 2023, the Government of Angola recognized all individuals who had submitted asylum claims prior to 2015 as refugees, enabling the documentation of over 28,000 previously pending asylum seekers. The authorities started with the renewal of expired refugee cards in Luanda and, in 2024, extended the exercise to other provinces, registering 7,266 individuals over the course of the year. Providing documentation to refugees is critical in enabling them to exercise their rights: documentation plays a crucial role in preventing arbitrary arrest, detention, and deportation and facilitates access to vital services and opportunities, including healthcare, education, social

² In 2023, the Government only registered refugees with the expired documents. However, the Government announced in

November 2023 that starting from 2024 also asylum-seekers will be provided with documents



assistance, livelihoods, and social welfare programmes. From October 2019 to February 2020, partners in Angola and the DRC, along with the Governments of both countries, conducted a voluntary repatriation programme. As a result, 2,900 refugees who resided in Lôvua settlement returned to the DRC. In 2020, voluntary repatriation was suspended due to restrictions and logistical challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The process resumed in 2022, with the repatriation of 820 refugees, and a further 660 refugees returned in 2023 and 2024 (majority by air transport). Preparations for voluntary repatriation involve joint efforts from national authorities and partners to organize birth registration brigades, issue vaccinations and education certificates, and conduct campaigns to allow refugees to make informed decisions and familiarize themselves with the repatriation procedures.

Despite comprehensive support for returns, according to a 2024 intention survey approximately 85-90 per cent intend to remain in Angola. While these intentions may shift based on the evolving situation, it is essential to prioritize local integration and self-reliance support as durable solutions, particularly for those who fear returning to their home countries. Additionally, some refugees from the DRC and other nations have lived in various provinces of Angola for up to 35 years and will also require similar support.

Country Risks and Needs

The main challenge refugees face in Angola continues to be the limited asylum space and the lack of reception and referral mechanisms. Even though the Government resumed registration and documentation for refugees in 2023, the reestablishment of a fully functioning asylum system, which includes refugee status determination processes (RSD), has been pending since 2015. A fully functioning asylum system would reduce the risks of asylum-seekers and refugees being subjected to arbitrary detention, abuse, and exploitation.

Furthermore, the Government has adopted strict measures in response to irregular cross-border movements and migrants, leading to a reduction of asylum space. Monitoring mixed movements remains challenging, especially the identification of people in need of international protection among these groups, due to the lack of referral pathways to facilitate access to the national asylum system, as well as ongoing police operations, which entail a heightened risk of arbitrary detention and refoulement for those who may be forcibly displaced.

Overall preparedness, including through border monitoring, also remains challenging. RRP Partners, in coordination with authorities, have put in place a contingency plan and trained partners to adequately respond to a population influx.

However, this plan is limited to the Lunda Norte province due to restricted financial and human resources. Partners only have access to six border points for monitoring and awareness-raising activities, all located in Lunda Norte. There is a need to expand preparedness and response to potential influxes to other areas that might receive influxes, including the provinces of Lunda Sul, Moxico, and Malanje.

GBV and other forms of violence against women and children, particularly girls, are alarmingly widespread in Angola, with high rates of early pregnancy and child marriage. Additionally, the lack of valid documentation hinders the access of women, children, and other vulnerable refugees to social protection and economic and educational opportunities that could prevent or mitigate such risks. Child protection and GBV interventions, including life-saving services for GBV survivors and for children at risk and referral pathways for urban-based vulnerable refugees are limited due, in part, to budget constraints. Opportunities for local integration and inclusion in public services are few due to Lôvua settlement's remote location. Despite partners' extensive advocacy around local integration, the Government has been hesitant to assume responsibility for service delivery in the settlement. While the Government has expressed willingness on multiple occasions to relocate refugees to other provinces, this has not materialized due to a shortage of financial resources.

In response to the mpox outbreak in neighbouring countries, Partners prioritized enhancing health surveillance and community awareness to prevent transmission among vulnerable populations, including refugees and asylum seekers. Training of healthcare workers and the establishment of accessible treatment centres are crucial components of this strategy, aiming to ensure timely detection and care for affected individuals. Collaborative efforts with local authorities and health agencies should be strengthened to improve response mechanisms and mitigate the possible impact on strained resources and services, particularly in high-risk areas such as Lôvua settlement.

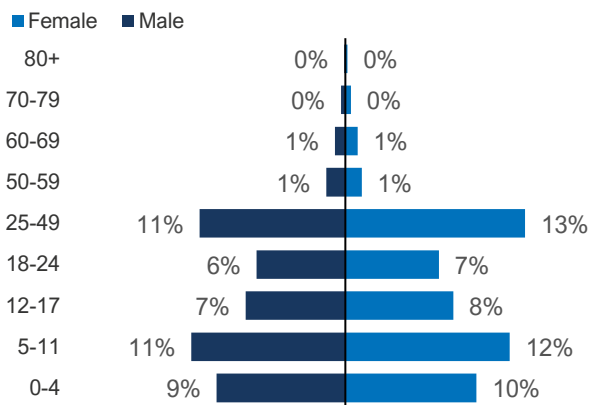
Lack of funding has also led to cuts in humanitarian assistance such as food rations as well as a range of services including vocational training, health referrals as well as child protection and gender-based violence prevention and response services. Planned investments, including in health infrastructure, have been put on hold. Reduced funding has notably affected Lôvua settlement, impacting the provision of basic services across sectors. RRP Partners will continue engaging with authorities to guarantee the sustained provision of services to refugees in the settlement, also highlighting the benefit for host communities.



Country Response and Solutions Strategy

- ▶ In 2025 seven RRP partners plan to assist **27,127** refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC of whom 52 per cent are women and girls, 48 per cent are men and boys, 58 per cent are children and 16 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition, partners will aim to support **3,000** host community members over the course of the year. Partners will also support preparedness planning for a potential new influx of refugees from the DRC.
- ▶ The Angola response plan is steered by four overarching objectives, which drive the respective sectoral responses, and is underpinned by the regional cross-cutting principles and priorities. Additionally, the RRP is aligned with the Government's GRF pledges made in 2019 and 2023- including those related to voluntary repatriation, supporting local integration, registration, and documentation- and with the 2024-2028 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which includes references to refugees in its People and Peace pillars.

2025 Age and gender breakdown - refugee population to be assisted



16% People with disabilities



52% Women and girls



48% Men and boys



57% Children

Country Strategic Objectives

► Ensure access to territory, registration, and documentation

RRP partners will continue advocating for asylum-seekers to have unhindered and safe access to territory and for the establishment of a functioning referral pathway to the asylum system. Further, partners will advocate for and support national authorities in the registration and documentation exercise, including registration of newly arrived undocumented asylum-seekers and documentation renewal of refugees residing in Lôvua settlement, facilitating access to basic rights and self-reliance.

Registration and documentation will improve the protection environment, including by lowering risks of arbitrary arrest, detention, and deportation, and improving access to services and assistance, including healthcare, education, social assistance, formal livelihood opportunities, and social welfare programmes. RRP partners will advocate with authorities to ensure newly issued refugee documentation is accepted by private and public services, to enable opening of bank accounts, registration of businesses, and student enrolment.

► Support the Government in the resumption of refugee status determination (RSD)

RRP Partners will continue to advocate with national asylum authorities for asylum-seekers to have access to functional and qualitative RSD mechanisms and procedures in line with international standards. Following the resumption of registration and documentation activities it will be critical to support authorities to adopt a fair and efficient asylum system to ensure refugees are properly identified, documented, and assisted.

► Promote access to durable solutions (livelihoods, and voluntary repatriation)

Given the socioeconomic challenges refugees and asylum-seekers face, partners will prioritize sustainability and resilience activities, in addition to the anticipated opportunities to access the labour market resulting from the resumption of registration and documentation efforts. Partners will seek opportunities and partnerships to scale-up agriculture and promote employment opportunities, academic studies, and vocational trainings.

Partners will focus on increasing livelihood opportunities and integration prospects through enhancing sustainable inclusion of smallholder farmers into agricultural value chains in Lôvua settlement. In addition, technical and vocational educational training will be offered to refugees for skills-building and integration into the labour market mainly in urban areas.

While promoting local integration as a primary durable solution, partners will empower refugees to make informed decisions regarding voluntary repatriation, providing support and resources for those considering return. This dual approach aims to enhance refugees' resilience and self-reliance while fostering social cohesion within host communities. In addition, such interventions can also help to facilitate access to complementary pathways including education or employment opportunities.

► Integration in national services

RRP Partners will prioritize the integration of refugees into public and national services, advocating for equal access to healthcare, education, and social protection programs.

Partners will continue to advocate for the inclusion of refugees in national development plans, increasing the prospect of more sustainable solutions to reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance and ensuring refugees have access to social services at the same level as nationals.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

Support will continue to be provided to the Government to support the exercise to register and provide documentation to refugees initiated in 2023, ensuring a fair, efficient, and non-discriminatory process. This will build on progress made in 2024, with 7,266 refugees registered and 3,092 receiving updated refugee cards over the course of the year. Advocacy will continue with the asylum authorities around the registration of new asylum seekers under the Refugee Law and to ultimately ensure that the entire refugee population is covered under the law's provisions. This is critical in ensuring access to essential rights and services, promoting social inclusion, and protecting vulnerable populations.

RRP Partners will continue to support different



Refugees during the registration process in Luanda, Angola. ©UNHCR/Lina Ferreira

initiatives to improve the overall protection space, including the training of police officers and other law enforcement officials (e.g. border control officers and officials from the Migration and Foreigners Service) in the basic principles of international refugee law, including in situations of detention and *non-refoulement*. Partners will also conduct regular missions to border areas to monitor any potential influx and strengthen reception capacity.

Assessment of return intentions, information campaigns, and the provision of counselling on voluntary repatriation will continue, taking into consideration the situation in the DRC. For those refugees wishing to voluntarily return, Partners will provide safe transportation and support on arrival.

Strengthening community structures by placing refugees at the forefront of decision-making remains crucial, promoting self-reliance while also facilitating a sustainable and contextually appropriate response to challenges. RRP Partners will ensure individuals of different backgrounds are involved in the annual participatory assessment to provide first-hand insights into evolving community needs.

Child Protection Sub-Sector

Partners will continue working with government counterparts and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to ensure the protection of children. This will include effectively responding to child protection risks through best interest procedures, alternative care, and family tracing and reunification for unaccompanied children, in collaboration with the

ICRC. RRP partners will promote community engagement to protect children from discrimination, abuse, neglect, violence, and exploitation, while ensuring access to appropriate services as needed. Exclusion from education due to lack of birth registration remains a challenge³. Lôvua settlement faces major challenges in registering newborns into the civil registry due to the unavailability of civil registration offices and a lack of necessary material infrastructure at provincial level. As of December 2024, partners are conducting a mapping of children lacking birth registration. Based on findings, partners will facilitate access to birth registration services within refugee communities by supporting the identification and registration of approximately 400 newborn children throughout 2025.

Partners will sensitize and provide training on child rights and protection, including for community leaders and mobilizers, teachers, partner staff, as well as government counterparts, foster families, and social workers, while promoting children's rights to information, participation, and representation.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

Partners will continue to work with authorities to prevent, mitigate, and respond to GBV and foster gender equality through the delivery of quality GBV services to survivors, promoting community-driven GBV prevention, including through the engagement of boys and men, and working with other sectors to mitigate the risk of GBV and elevate women and girls'

³ Many school-aged children are unable to register for school due to lack of birth certificates and documents (2023 RRP participatory assessment)

participation and engagement. The Women's Centre in Luanda and Women-Friendly Space in Lôvua settlement will remain key for the provision of services to GBV survivors, including immediate psychosocial support, as well as an entry point for referral to other services, such as health, safety, security, and legal assistance.

Partners will continue to work closely with specialized service providers across sectors to ensure the delivery of quality services that align with GBV guiding principles and approaches. To address the lack of community understanding of GBV, in addition to GBV response services, partners will also support community-based GBV prevention activities.

Multisectoral working groups will enhance coordination and help to address risk factors associated with GBV, such as lack of access to basic assistance, separation from relatives, lack of documentation, vulnerability, dependence, and the introduction of new power dynamics during displacement. GBV partners will be working closely across sectors to ensure accountability and proactive GBV risk mitigation.

Education

Partners will collaborate with national and provincial governments to ensure school-aged children have equal access to quality education, as mandated by the country's constitution. In Lôvua settlement, RRP partners will continue supporting schooling for children, promoting girls' retention in schools, and offering literacy classes for adults. In Luanda, Partners will support the integration of children in public schools, while continuing to explore how inclusive education under the national education system can be extended to refugee children in the Lôvua settlement.

Assistance will be provided to the Government to enable the certification of the studies of those refugees who wish to return to the DRC. Partners will collaborate with refugee community teachers to develop curricula tailored to the specific needs of refugees and will advocate with education authorities to implement technical courses for the municipality of Lôvua, which also covers the refugee settlement.

Lastly, partners will advocate for the inclusion of refugees in the national education system. The registration and documentation process will likely facilitate access to government-run schools and tertiary education. Partners will seek partnerships with local universities and the World Bank to integrate refugees into existing educational programmes and establish scholarship opportunities.

Food Security

Food security in Lôvua settlement remains a concern. Due to funding and logistical challenges, food distribution through 2025 remains uncertain. As such, partners will continue fostering self-reliance by implementing programmes to expand local food production and meet nutritional requirements. Partners will continue to support asset creation, including through the provision of farming training, seeds, and tools, with the aim of facilitating a gradual transition from general relief distribution towards more sustainable responses that facilitate the self-reliance of the settlement population.

In addition, in 2025, partners will conduct a food and non-food needs assessment and undertake a nutritional survey to establish the nutritional status of the population. Information based on a district-level nutritional survey in 2023 revealed that the nutritional wasting level was between 5 and 6 per cent in Dundo district, which hosts Lôvua settlement. This is above the WHO target to reduce the nutritional wasting level to less than 5 per cent. The composition of the general food ration will be reviewed to consider factors such as nutritional status, demographic distribution, level of physical activity, and self-reliance opportunities. In addition, awareness-raising activities will focus on promoting appropriate child feeding practices and behavioural changes related to nutrition within the community.

Public Health & Nutrition

Improving access to quality healthcare, reducing morbidity from communicable and non-communicable diseases, as well as improving child survival rates will remain priorities in Luanda and Lunda Norte. The health response will emphasize outbreak preparedness and management, mental health, and the control of diarrhoea, measles, acute respiratory infections, and malaria. Additionally, there will be a focus on the prevention of Mpox, ensuring that timely interventions are in place to protect communities. RRP Partners will work towards enhancing access to reproductive health, maternal and newborn care and childhood vaccinations while also supporting measures to prevent sexually transmitted infections, with a focus on preventing the transmission of HIV, as well as providing health services to GBV survivors.

Partners will continue to support preventative actions that look to avert undernutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, including anaemia, and strengthen treatment of acute and severe malnutrition. Selective feeding programmes for severely and moderately malnourished people will be included in baseline surveys. Partners also continue to advocate for inclusion of refugees in the national health system



Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

the formal economy, whether through employment or entrepreneurship. Livelihoods trainings will be organized to better prepare refugees for this new phase. In addition, partners will advocate for the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees, particularly women, in national plans and projects.

With the aim to increase financial independence and ensure financial stability for families and women and girls, refugees from the DRC living in urban areas in Luanda will benefit from vocational training delivered through local training institutions, and livelihood partners. These courses will create employment opportunities on completion, in turn mitigating protection risks, particularly GBV and child protection. In Lôvua settlement, partners will continue implementing the graduation approach focusing on integrated mixed farming, including crop, livestock, poultry, and fisheries. Additionally, they will continue initiatives supporting market development and the growth of small and medium enterprises through the provision of trainings and business start-up kits.



Settlement and Shelter/Housing

Shelter support for refugees from the DRC living in Lôvua settlement will focus on improving settlement infrastructure, including the building of durable infrastructure for the Protection Hub⁴, installing solar energy in different facilities, and promoting capacity-building for refugees in areas such as construction, with a specific focus on GBV and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse risk mitigation as well as reducing child protection risks.

Approximately 26 per cent of the settlement population (400 households) reside in refugee housing units (RHUs), which are susceptible to leaks during the rainy season. Therefore, refugees will be supported with building materials, such as timber, cement, iron zinc sheets, and nails, to construct transitional shelters to replace the RHUs.

Resumption of registration and documentation will help to mitigate barriers faced by refugees in entering



WASH

The WASH response aims to ensure consistent water supply, supported by clean energy, to maintain hygiene standards in Lôvua settlement. Partners plan to drill additional solar-powered boreholes in the settlement and host community areas, fostering peaceful coexistence. Partners will also adopt measures to mitigate protection risks linked to the use of WASH services, notably GBV, in consultation with affected populations.

Additionally, RPP Partners plan to install a 30m³-capacity water tank in the settlement to enhance the reliability of the water supply. Real-time monitoring of assets will support supervision of water levels and quality, contributing to an effective response. Furthermore, the WASH response will include rebuilding strategically located and gender-separated latrines and bathing shelters, along with the construction of ablution buildings in the clinic and the market. Finally, Partners will continue supporting hygiene awareness to prevent water-borne diseases

⁴ Protection Hub is a desk for refugees to come and address some issues of social protection, legal etc.

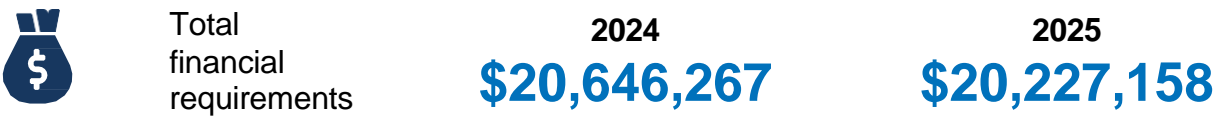
Partnership and Cooperation

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR will continue to coordinate the response, working closely with the Government, particularly the Ministry of Interior (including the Service for Migration and Foreigners), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and the Ministry of Welfare, Family and Promotion of Women. Eight Partners participate in the RRP, including UN Agencies and NGOs, and maintain close collaboration with provincial and municipal authorities.

The existing coordination mechanism encompasses sectoral meetings among Partners, as well as engagement with the national and provincial authorities, the refugee community through their community structures, development actors, and faith-based organizations. Partners continue to work through community structures, to involve refugee leadership, women's groups, and youth groups in decisions around the response.

The participation of development agencies in refugee support initiatives is set to increase. This expanded collaboration aims to strengthen the capacity of local and national systems to effectively respond to the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers. Development agencies will work closely with humanitarian organizations and government to enhance resource mobilization and support the integration of refugees into national development frameworks. By aligning efforts with local priorities, these Partnerships will foster sustainable solutions that empower refugees and contribute to the resilience of host communities.

Financial Requirements

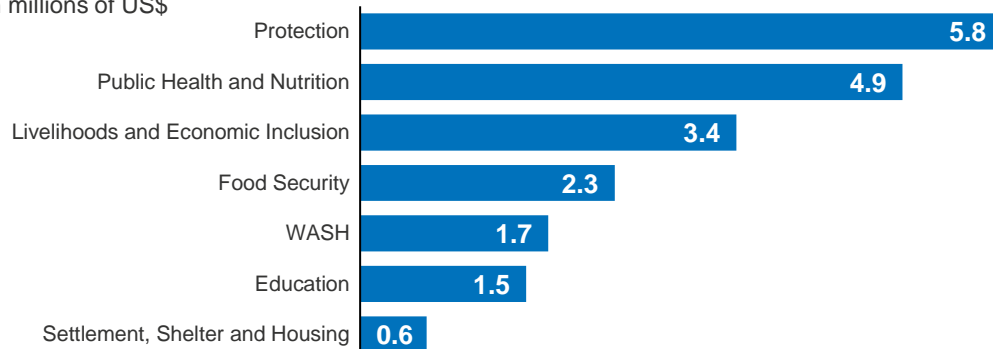


2025 Budget by Partner Type

7  Partners involved	3  UN Agencies \$18,939,858	2  International NGOs	2  National NGOs
		\$900,000	\$337,300
		 Faith-Based Organizations 2	 Faith-Based Organizations 1
		\$540,000	\$187,300

2025 Budget by Sector

In millions of US\$



Total Protection Requirements

\$5,834,044

GBV

\$1,243,731

Child Protection

\$4,240,622



Total Cash Assistance Modality

\$5,000


Protection

\$5,000

2025 Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
United Nations	19,768,967
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	15,756,785
World Food Programme (WFP)	2,563,073
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	620,000
International NGOs	840,000
Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)	660,000
World Vision International (WVI)	240,000
National NGOs	387,300
Igreja Evangélica dos Irmãos em Angola (IEIA)	187,300
Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP)	200,000
Total	\$20,227,158

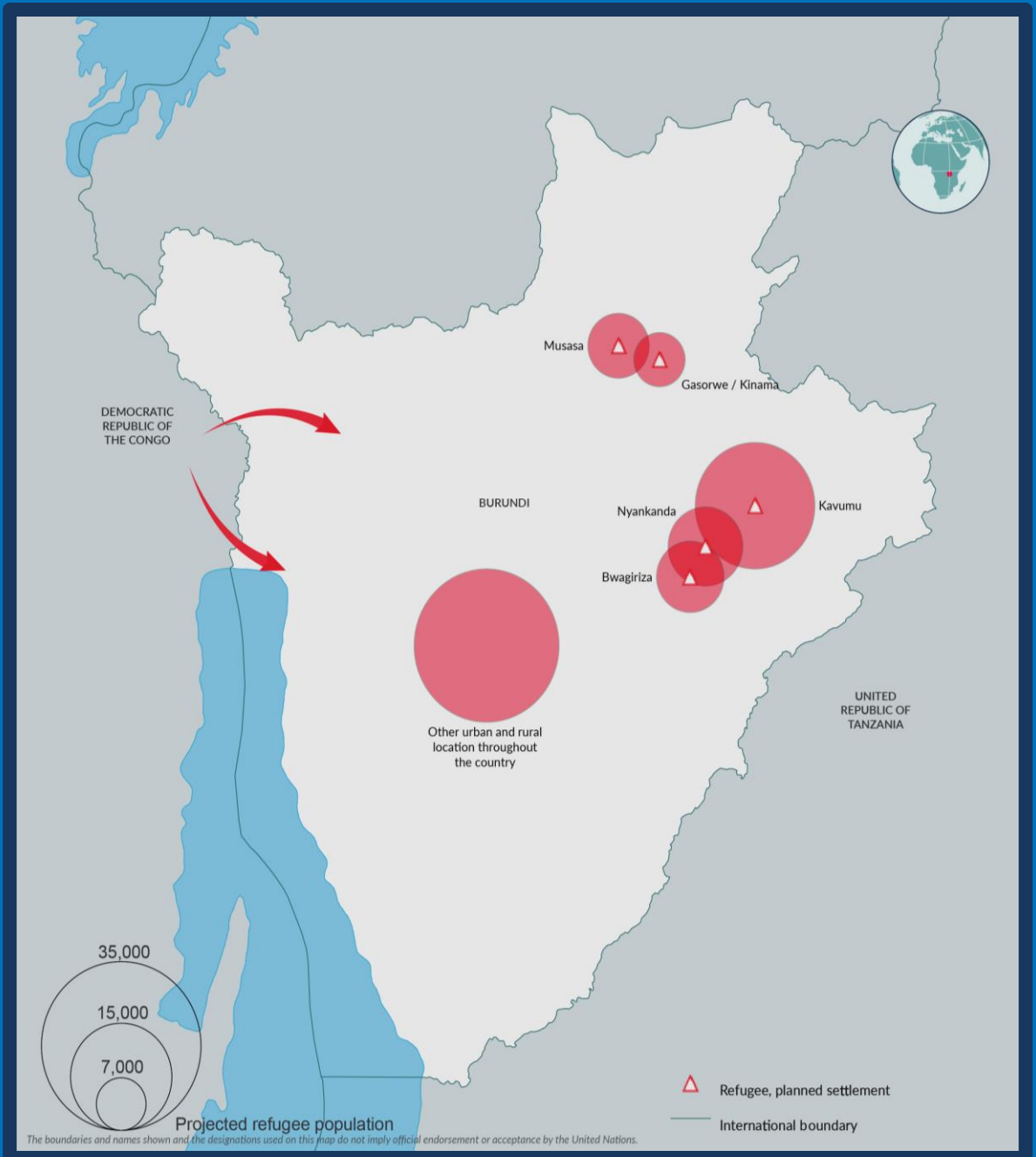
BURUNDI

 **181,150**
2025 refugee population to be assisted

 **22,000**
2025 host community members benefiting from assistance

 **132.6**
2025 total financial requirements of which 66.5 for emergency

 **22**
Partners involved





Refugee women in Musasa refugee camp in Burundi weaving handcraft. © UNHCR/ B. Ntwari

Current Situation

Situational Overview

As of 31 December 2024, Burundi hosted 90,145 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Most of these refugees from the DRC (57,200) have been residing in Burundi for over 20 years. Since 2019 and before the start of the year, approximately 26,500 refugees from the DRC fled to Burundi due to the unstable political situation in their home country, with 2,561 new arrivals recorded in the first nine months of 2024.

However, this steady influx escalated dramatically in early 2025, due to worsening conflict in eastern DRC. Escalating hostilities, have led to massive displacement of civilian populations. Due to this deterioration in the security situation, many refugees have sought safety in neighbouring countries, particularly Burundi, which shares a 236 km long border with South Kivu, DRC. As of April 2025, over 70,000 individuals have newly arrived in Burundi since the beginning of 2025, with the Government of Burundi granting prima facie refugee status to all new arrivals since the beginning of the year.

The refugee influx since the beginning of the year has resulted in an over 80 per cent increase in the number of DRC refugees in Burundi, putting the countries hosting capacity- including transit centres and refugee settlements- under extreme strain. Many of these

individuals, displaced by violence and insecurity, require immediate assistance, including protection, shelter, food assistance and medical care.

Humanitarian partners are therefore working to scale-up the emergency response to provide life-saving assistance to new arrivals while simultaneously maintaining support for sustainable responses that bolster the resilience and self-reliance of both new arrivals and long-term refugees in Burundi. The current funding crisis compounds this challenge, leading to extensive gaps in the response.

At the time of writing the situation in eastern DRC remained volatile. While some spontaneous returns were reported, new arrivals continue to be recorded with a high likelihood of increased new arrivals particularly should there be an offensive on Uvira town. In this context, maintaining protection space in Burundi will remain critical.

While Burundi ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1969 Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa, it maintains reservations to the rights to education, remunerated labour, and freedom of movement. Furthermore, some clauses of the immigration law passed on 5 November 2021 are yet to be clarified to ensure alignment with international

refugee standards. The law categorizes refugees, asylum-seekers, and stateless persons as part of the larger group of foreigners, which includes migrants. The Government of Burundi has made commitments to promote refugee and host community self-reliance, guaranteeing refugee freedom of movement, eradicating statelessness, and reducing the adverse effects of climate change.

The World Bank estimates 87 per cent of the population in Burundi lives below the poverty threshold, with youth unemployment at 65 per cent, according to the African Development Bank. This unfavourable socioeconomic context, coupled with the political environment, negative effects of climate change, and limited access to land, continues to adversely impact lives of Burundians and refugee populations alike. Rampant poverty within the country continues to lead to a deterioration in the living conditions of the population, specifically the most vulnerable refugees. This leaves them increasingly unable to meet basic needs, which is often the root cause of other protection concerns, including those related to child protection and gender-based violence (GBV). Providing support to the most vulnerable families to meet basic needs and increase access to livelihood opportunities will continue to be a focus of the response.

In the absence of large-scale voluntary repatriation opportunities, continued efforts are needed to support refugees through local integration initiatives – such as providing Burundian nationals access to basic services inside the camps – which should also benefit host communities, foster peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities, and advance the inclusion agenda. In addition, resettlement and complementary pathways will continue to provide a durable solution and address specific protection needs for only a small proportion of the most vulnerable refugees from the DRC, with 3,493 DRC refugees in Burundi resettled in 2024.

Country Risks and Needs

In principle and as per law, refugees and asylum-seekers enjoy freedom of movement in Burundi. In practice, however, camp-based refugees, which comprise 63 per cent of the overall refugee population from the DRC, are required to obtain an exit permit to leave the camp, a practice that restricts freedom of movement. At the end of 2022, a decision from the Minister of Interior to suspend issuance of exit permits further impeded refugees' freedom of movement. Fortunately, advocacy with the Government resulted in lifting of this suspension in March 2023. Nevertheless, the process of obtaining exit permits in

the camps remains problematic, undermining the right to freedom of movement.

GBV remains one of the main protection risks, frequently underreported due to fears of reprisal, restricted access to justice, stigma, cultural attitudes, discrimination, and a culture of impunity. Refugees continue to face challenges in accessing both formal and informal justice mechanisms, primarily due to issues of discrimination in access to justice and due process, and unaffordability of legal aid. A 2023 Results Monitoring Survey indicated that GBV risks are exacerbated by factors such as inadequate public lighting in camps, lack of adequate shelter, insecurity in neighbourhoods, a lack of privacy in communal facilities, and the low socioeconomic status of displaced women and girls in urban areas. With the recent influx of new arrivals, these risks have heightened further, particularly in overcrowded reception and transit centers where resources are overstretched. In response, a comprehensive GBV prevention and response strategy is being implemented, ensuring that new arrivals receive immediate support, are informed of available services, and can access survivor-centered care.

Access to quality education remains challenging, exposing young refugees to child protection risks, such as child marriages. The proportion of refugees and asylum-seekers enrolled in primary, secondary, and tertiary education in camps and urban areas is 73 per cent, 59 per cent, and 1 per cent, respectively⁵. Refugees in urban areas can access public schools, although the proportion of students enrolled in the National Education System represents only 8 per cent of the total refugee population. Even though the National Education Sector Plan (2022-2030) does not mention refugees, the Ministry of Education has shown willingness to include refugees in the National Education System, and a project to estimate the cost of refugee inclusion has started. With the sudden increase in refugee arrivals in February 2025, the education system is under additional strain, particularly in host communities near transit and settlement sites. To address this, emergency measures will be implemented, including the establishment of Temporary Learning Structures (TLS), teacher recruitment, and the expansion of the school feeding programme, ensuring that newly arrived refugee children can continue their education without disruption.

Lastly, access to livelihoods and financial inclusion remains a significant challenge. According to Article 66 of the 2021 Burundian Migration Law, every refugee has the right to work. However, refugees who secure employment lack valid employment contracts and do not enjoy labour rights on par with nationals. A high level of informality characterizes the economy.

⁵ [UNHCR Burundi Annual Results Report](#)



According to the Results Monitoring Survey (2023), many refugees have experienced a decline in income: 83 per cent of refugee households are unemployed and 88 per cent of refugee households reported a net reduction in the purchase of goods and services necessary for family survival, compared to a year ago. Additionally, according to a 2023 survey, only 33 per cent of refugees possess a bank or financial institution

account. Women encounter substantial difficulties in accessing bank credit due to their low financial inclusion and the lack of mortgages.

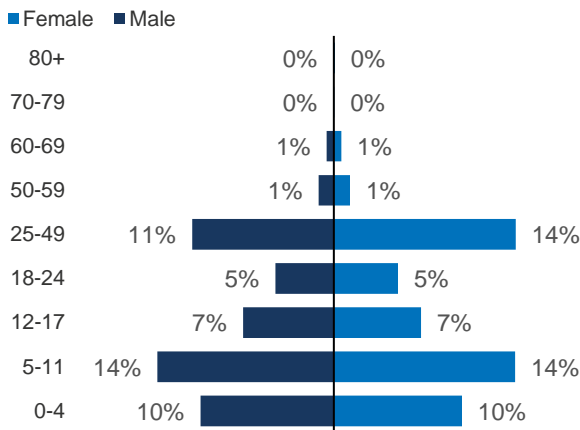




Country Response and Solutions Strategy

- ▶ In 2025, 22 DRC Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) Partners plan to assist 181,150 refugees and asylum seekers from the DRC (52 per cent of whom are women and girls, 48 per cent of whom are men and boys, 62 per cent who are children and 16 per cent who are people with disabilities). In addition partners plan to support 22,000 host community members.
- ▶ The Burundi response plan is steered by four overarching objectives, which drive the respective sectoral responses, and is underpinned by the regional cross-cutting principles and priorities. In 2024-2025, RRP Partners will continue providing support to government counterparts to strengthen national asylum systems, address main protection risks, and facilitate access to assistance and services for refugees from the DRC.
- ▶ A total of US\$66.5 M of these RRP requirements are to support the emergency response to new arrivals from eastern DRC since January 2025

2025 Age and gender breakdown - refugee population to be assisted



16%
People with disabilities



52%
Women and girls



48%
Men and boys



62% Children

Country Strategic Objectives

► Strengthen the asylum system and support a conducive protection environment

RRP Partners will advocate with government counterparts to maintain asylum space in line with international standards and obligations, including for the registration and documentation of newly arrived refugees from the DRC on an individual basis. Partners will also provide capacity-building to the authorities, while also engaging with them to identify and address gaps and weaknesses in the asylum system. This will aim to prevent refoulement, identify onward movement, address refugee status determination (RSD) backlogs, and identify and document non-registered asylum-seekers. For new arrivals in 2025, efforts will focus on strengthening the protection response capacity to ensure timely and inclusive life-saving assistance. This will include enhanced registration, border monitoring, and early identification of individuals at heightened risk. Specialized protection interventions will be reinforced to support those in urgent need, including child protection measures and targeted assistance for survivors of GBV and SEA, ensuring a survivor-centred approach. Additionally, RRP Partners will continue to advocate for an overall improvement of the protection space, including policies that enable refugees and asylum-seekers to access public services and enjoy freedom of movement, with a particular focus on camp residents

► Ensure vulnerable individuals meet their basic needs

The provision of multisectoral assistance, including food assistance, continues to be a priority. Partners will target the most vulnerable, with a specific focus on individuals who experienced GBV or who are at risk of GBV. Adopting a survivor-centred approach, partners will provide survivors with case management services and facilitate referral so that they can benefit from multisectoral support. Where possible, partners will advocate for the inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers under public services and national protection systems, with an emphasis on education and the social registry to be developed under the Merankabandi project.

Reception conditions will be improved to ensure that the safety and dignity of new arrivals by enhancing capacity at entry points, transit centres, and settlements. A multisectoral approach will be adopted to provide essential assistance, including food and other life-saving services, with a particular focus on the most vulnerable individuals. As part of these efforts, site planning and infrastructure will be strengthened to accommodate relocated new arrivals,

ensuring they have access to adequate services, protection, and a dignified living environment.

► Promote self-reliance & social cohesion

Considering the dire socioeconomic situation in Burundi, RRP partners will prioritize livelihood interventions to enhance self-reliance and social cohesion. For instance, Partners will continue the mapping of financial services and will sensitize refugees on the availability of opportunities for livelihood and self-employment. Regular assessments will be conducted to understand refugee engagement in self-employment. For new arrivals, the settlement development approach will follow the "solutions from the start" strategy, ensuring a sustainable system of services and assistance is in place.

Partners will provide support to refugees to participate in community-based savings and lending groups which can provide micro financing opportunities for small enterprises while, more generally, assisting refugee associations to engage in livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions. This will target small businesses, livestock, mill management, and soap making. Financial education and savings training sessions will be offered through establishment of and support to savings and loan groups to encourage financial inclusion, empowerment through income-generating activities, and social cohesion in camps. Recognizing that both Burundian nationals and refugees are impacted by socioeconomic challenges, partners will actively promote peaceful coexistence throughout the design and implementation of their interventions by including vulnerable host-community members in the programming.

► Invest in durable solutions

RRP partners will continue to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of refugees from the DRC. However, options remain limited, as over 98 per cent of refugees from the DRC in Burundi originate from areas where conditions are not conducive for a safe and dignified return. Therefore, Partners will strive to support refugees for whom local integration is not an option with resettlement or complementary pathways. Partners plan to submit resettlement cases for up to 1,900 refugees from the DRC in Burundi in 2025, subject to confirmation of quotas allocated by resettlement countries, while continuing to facilitate a larger and increasing number of departures from Burundi for third country solutions to reduce a backlog exceeding 15,000 refugees with cases already being processed by resettlement States. New resettlement

submissions will prioritize refugees with specific protection needs on an individual basis.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

In Burundi, asylum procedures, including registration and RSD, are managed by the Government. Capacity-building and material support will continue to be provided to the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons, the Secretariat of the Consultative Commission for Foreigners and Refugees, and the Appeal Committee. RRP partners will advocate for compliance with international instruments, national law, and international refugee law principles in national asylum procedures, including through RSD interview monitoring, individual coaching of asylum authorities, and provision of country-of-origin information.

Partners will provide legal aid to asylum-seekers undergoing RSD procedures at appeal level and will advocate for prioritized treatment of asylum-seekers with high protection risk to ensure they have access to fair asylum procedures and enjoy their rights. Furthermore, advocacy for the Government to undertake a joint assessment of the capacity of the asylum institutions in light of the 2021 legislation to identify any gaps or weaknesses will be pursued.

For new arrivals since February 2025, efforts will focus on ensuring access to territory and asylum through strengthened border monitoring, protection oversight at entry points, and enhanced coordination with ONPRA and Burundian authorities. Reception conditions will be improved at transit centres, where new arrivals will undergo medical and nutrition screening and remain for up to five days before relocation to designated refugee sites. Emergency registration, using biometrics, will be conducted at transit centres, allowing for the identification of persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied minors and survivors of GBV, in collaboration with UNICEF and MSNASDPHG. The civilian character of asylum will be reinforced through screening procedures at entry points and transit centres, ensuring the separation of combatants from civilian refugees. As relocation progresses, site planning and infrastructure will be scaled up, particularly at Musenyi and Bweru refugee sites, with the aim of expanding settlement capacity and developing essential services in line with a "solutions from the start" approach. Given the increasing number of arrivals, advocacy efforts will continue to secure additional land for settlement development, with contingency planning in place to accommodate future

influxes.

Child Protection Sub-Sector

RRP Partners will continue to protect children from violence, abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discrimination and ensure access to child-friendly procedures and inclusive national services. A strategic partnership with the National Independent Commission for Human Rights will enhance the management of and response to child protection concerns, including through an increased focus on access to justice.

Ongoing support for the most vulnerable children will be prioritized, including by enhancing the capacity of relevant national services. This will ensure an improved response aligned with international norms, the national child protection policy, and established referral pathways. These efforts will build upon collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

For new arrivals since February 2025, unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) will be identified, assessed, and documented at transit centres, with Best Interests Procedures (BIP) conducted at refugee sites or communities of return. Family tracing and reunification mechanisms will be implemented in collaboration with ICRC and UNICEF, while alternative care arrangements will prioritize family- and community-based options. Specialized social workers will provide life-saving child protection services and monitor at-risk children until their relocation. Additional Community-Based Child Protection Networks (CBCPNs) will be established, and Child-Friendly Spaces (CFSs) will offer psychosocial support and protection services. Awareness-raising on child rights and access to birth registration for unregistered children will be strengthened.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

GBV risk mitigation will be mainstreamed across programmes to reduce the risks of violence, especially for women and girls. Partners will support community-driven and inclusive prevention interventions that promote knowledge of gender equality and GBV, fostering positive change in the attitudes and practices of community members. Programmes will involve men and boys, recognizing that their inclusion is crucial in promoting positive masculinity as a catalyst for change in achieving gender equality. This preventive approach will involve establishing and supporting groups of men to become advocates for gender equality, while simultaneously engaging male religious and traditional leaders.

To identify new entry points for community-based



GBV prevention, effective tools such as inclusive sports for change, art therapy, and inclusive play therapy will be deployed. Communities will be empowered to support GBV survivors, cultivate a zero-tolerance stance towards GBV, and share information to enhance the understanding of topics such as diverse sexual orientation and gender identity, child marriage, sexual violence, and intimate partner violence.

For new arrivals since February 2025, all individuals will be sensitized on GBV risks and informed of available referral pathways upon arrival. Emergency GBV response services, including medical, psychosocial, and legal assistance, will be provided at entry points and transit centres, with Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) kits available for rape survivors. Safe spaces for women and girls, including mobile units in certain locations, will be established to offer protection and psychosocial support. Case management will follow harmonized tools, ensuring a survivor-centred approach, while targeted capacity-building will strengthen the response of health practitioners, law enforcement, and community structures.

Education

Partners will strive to ensure that 65 per cent of refugee children and younger people have access to early childhood, primary, secondary, and tertiary education, with a specific focus on removing barriers for girls to access education. The inclusion strategy developed by the ad hoc technical committee, established by the Minister of Education with support from RRP Partners, will continue to support the phased inclusion of refugee children in the national education system.

RRP partners will contribute to providing school materials to children in refugee camps, and young refugees will benefit from tertiary education scholarships. Partners will support complementary pathway initiatives, such as education scholarships and labour mobility to third countries.

For new arrivals since February 2025, Temporary Learning Structures (TLS) will be set up at transit centres and settlements to provide immediate access to education. Existing schools will be rehabilitated, and new classrooms will be constructed to accommodate the increased student population. The number of teachers will be increased, and the school feeding program will be expanded in partnership with WFP to support children's nutrition and learning. Essential education supplies, including textbooks and uniforms, will be distributed, and refresher training will be provided to Ministry of Education staff and volunteer teachers on Education in Emergencies (EiE) standards.

Food Security

RRP partners will continue to support refugees to access food and enjoy a balanced and nutritious diet, while also bolstering self-reliance by facilitating income earning opportunities. Vulnerable refugee groups, including pregnant and lactating women, children under five years with acute malnutrition, people living with HIV and AIDS, and the chronically ill, will receive complementary nutritional supplementary food. In camps, refugee households will receive food rations and cash assistance. However, to increase food security, additional emphasis will be placed on expanding livelihood and socioeconomic opportunities to supplement monthly humanitarian food assistance.

For new arrivals, WFP and partners will provide hot meals to those residing at transit and reception facilities upon their arrival in Burundi. Despite considerable strain on resources, efforts will be made to provide regular monthly mixed food rations to new arrivals, either upon their relocation to more permanent settlements or to the most vulnerable refugees living in urban areas. Given the increase in the refugee population and the current funding crisis, WFP had to reduce assistance to halve rations for all refugees in March. In case additional financial support is not forthcoming, further prioritization will be required.

Public Health & Nutrition

RRP Partners, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, will aim to ensure that refugees have access to primary health care and life-saving secondary care, including for GBV survivors, and to sexual and reproductive health, mental health, HIV, and nutrition services, including the infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices. Furthermore, partners will advocate for the inclusion of refugees in the national system, health insurance scheme, and the national strategic plan.

RRP partners will place more emphasis on reducing morbidity from communicable and noncommunicable diseases as well as the prevention of and response to epidemics in refugee camps, focusing on malaria prevention and early treatment to avoid complications. Additionally, partners will support community-based management of acute malnutrition, including detection, referral, and treatment of moderate and severe acute malnutrition cases, as well as the promotion and support of IYCF practices, and nutritional support for people living with HIV and tuberculosis.

For new arrivals since February 2025, health screenings will be conducted at entry points to identify

urgent needs, and a referral system will be established for emergency cases. Maternal and child health services will be prioritized, including emergency obstetric and newborn care. Nutrition screening and treatment will be provided, with a focus on vulnerable groups. Medical supplies will be procured, and transport for advanced care will be covered. Health outreach programs will be expanded to ensure essential services reach remote areas.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

Including refugees in projects aimed at supporting agriculture, livestock farming, fishing, employment, entrepreneurship, and vocational training is key to enabling refugees to become self-reliant. As such, technical and financial support will be provided to economically viable initiatives, including commercialization and marketing of local produce. Examples include supporting local cooperatives, promoting the commercialization and marketing of artisanal products, supporting vocational training and access to the labour market, and increasing access to credit and financial services, especially to reduce the risks of gender-based violence for women and girls.

To foster self-sufficiency among refugees and promote sustainable solutions, a comprehensive strategy for supporting livelihoods will be developed. This will involve strategic engagement with development actors, such as the World Bank, to leverage their operational portfolios to support protection and solutions objectives. Partners will also strive to ensure active contribution from the private sector to create job opportunities and to incorporate refugee enterprises and cooperatives into their value chains.

Settlement and Shelter/Housing

Through the new Shelter Strategy, RRP Partners will continue to collaborate on housing interventions with the Government, UN Agencies, and development actors. The five camps in Burundi, located in the east and north, are facing significant challenges. Most of the shelters in refugee camps, except Nyankanda in the east, require rehabilitation each year. With regards to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing shelters, Partners will consider safety, including from GBV, and accessibility, including for people with disabilities, and use environmentally friendly locally available materials capable of withstanding harsh conditions. The Government has allocated 60 hectares of land for the construction of the Musenyi refugee settlement. By mid-April 2025 the settlement was hosting 14,000 refugees, the majority of whom had arrived since February 2025.

For new arrivals since February 2025, site planning will ensure clear land allocation for infrastructure and household plots. Emergency shelters, including tents, will be distributed, along with essential Non-Food Items (NFIs) like bedding and cooking supplies. Community infrastructure, including child-friendly spaces and women's centres, will be established or rehabilitated. Special attention will be given to persons with special needs during shelter and NFI distributions.

WASH

RRP partners are committed to ensuring refugees have access to clean, safe, accessible, and sufficient drinking water, as well as accessible and gender-segregated sanitation facilities, and other hygiene services. This will contribute to healthy living environments, reduce the risks of GBV, and prevent WASH-related diseases. Partners will also provide hygiene items, including soap, water containers, and menstrual hygiene materials to support dignified living.

Based on national standards, the WASH response will focus on enhancing access to clean water, as well as safe and hygienic WASH facilities. Hygiene promotion will be a critical element of efforts to foster safe and dignified living conditions. Efforts will continue to integrate refugees into the national WASH system. In view of seasonal water supply challenges, the plan takes into account fluctuations in water supply and demand, as well as mechanisms for accessing drinking water, domestic water, and water for livelihoods.

For new arrivals since February 2025, a daily supply of clean water will be ensured, alongside the installation of communal latrines and waste management initiatives. Boreholes and pipelines will be rehabilitated, with hybrid fuel or solar-powered systems improving reliability. Water quality monitoring will prevent disease outbreaks, and WASH Committees will be strengthened to oversee community-level services. Institutional latrines and hygiene promotion activities will also be expanded to schools and healthcare facilities.

Basic Needs

RRP Partners will continue to make use of multipurpose cash assistance. Multipurpose cash assistance will enable refugees to cover their basic needs, including housing, food, energy, clothes, and communication. While currently cash interventions are limited in Burundi, efforts are ongoing to enhance the use of cash assistance and mainstream cash and

harmonize standards among the relevant Sectors.

Logistics, Supply & Telecommunications

RRP Partners will continue to manage four warehouses across the country, which provide critical contingency stocks. In the context of adopting a cash assistance modality, a market assessment will be conducted to ascertain market capacity to cover the basic needs of refugees and host community, with an emphasis on strengthening market integration.

Additionally, regarding transportation, a fuel delivery plan will be communicated to suppliers to secure an adequate fuel stock.

For new arrivals since February 2025, transport services will facilitate safe relocation, and storage capacity will be expanded to accommodate emergency supplies. Core relief items (CRIs) will be distributed post-registration. Warehouse capacity assessments will be conducted, and Frame Agreements for procuring NFIs and emergency shelter materials will be established. Strengthening transport logistics, ensuring stable food supply chains, and securing continuous fuel reserves will remain key priorities.

Partnership and Cooperation

RRP Partners aim to strengthen and improve partnership and collaboration at country-level, through multi-stakeholder and partnership mechanisms. In Burundi, as per the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), the RRP is led by UNHCR, supporting the National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Asylum- Seekers, acting under the Ministry of Interior, Community Development, and Public Security. In response to the new refugee influx, the formal activation of the RCM will ensure structured coordination, with ONPRA leading national efforts and UNHCR supporting as the mandated agency for refugee protection.

RRP Partners actively engage with government counterparts, through the Protection Sector and other working groups, to identify needs, priorities, achievements, and gaps. Dedicated coordination forums have been established to address the needs of mixed population movements, including refugees, returnees, third-country nationals, and migrants. Regular coordination meetings- including sector coordination meetings- involving ONPRA, CGM, DGRRR, UN agencies, and partners, will be held at national and field levels to ensure an effective and timely response.

Provincial, communal, and local authorities will be more vigorously involved in programming efforts and will receive the necessary capacity-building support in 2025. Monthly coordination meetings are held in camps and urban areas, with the participation of the refugee community, to ensure streamlined and collaborative approaches between UN Agencies, NGOs, and other humanitarian and development actors, leading to improved information sharing and joint advocacy. UNHCR will work closely with sector leads to develop a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework, systematically tracking key achievements and milestones to guide the response





Financial Requirements

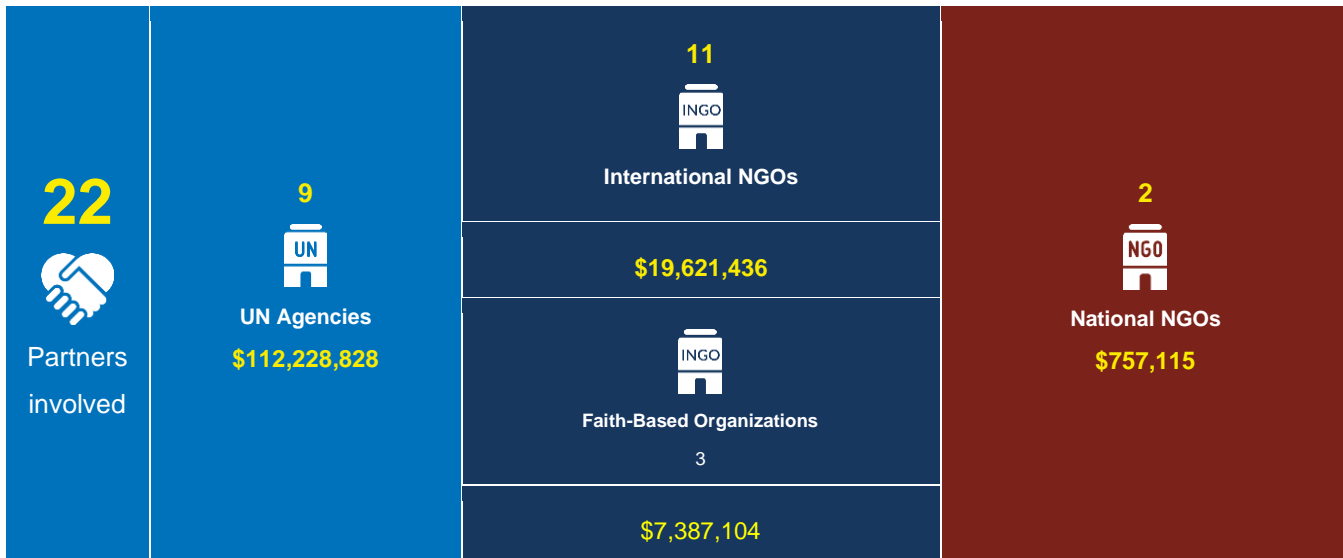


Total financial requirements

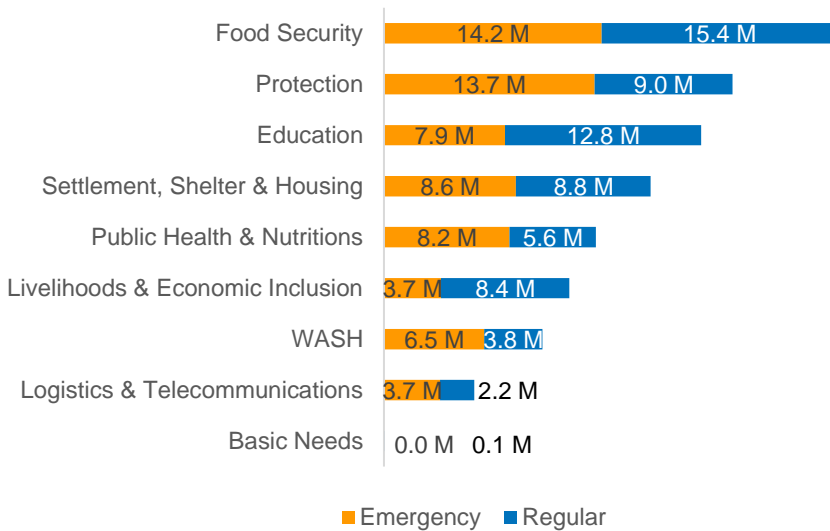
2024
\$64,310,270

2025
\$132,607,380
of which 66.5 M for emergency



2025 Budget by Partner Type



2025 Budget by Sector





 Total Protection Requirements \$22,733,854		 Total Cash Assistance Modality* \$28,479,356				
GBV	Child Protection	Food Security	Settlement, Shelter and Housing	Food Security	Protection	Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion
\$8,218,176.25	\$3,198,316.8	\$6,623,495	\$10,522,366	\$6,623,495	\$4,410,000	\$300,000


2025 Budget by Partner

Partner	Total Requirements in US\$	Emergency Requirements in US\$
United Nations	112,228,828	55,828,454
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	57,142,241	16,350,954
World Food Programme (WFP)	29,905,087	14,566,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	12,048,500	12,048,500
International Organization for Migration	6,800,000	6,800,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	2,290,000	2,200,000
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)	1,980,000	1,800,000
World Health Organization (WHO)	1,275,000	1,275,000
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	688,000	688,000
Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/ AIDs (UNAIDs)	100,000	100,000
International NGOs	19,471,436	10,070,000
Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)	6,558,080	1,099,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	5,420,000	5,420,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	2,000,000	2,000,000
World Vision International (WVI)	1,847,000	
WeWorld - Haranire Amaraga Meza – La communauté au service de la santé au Burundi (WeWorld GVC)	1,812,532	
World Relief Burundi	1,117,024	1,036,000
Save the Children International (SCI)	515,000	515,000



Refugee Education Trust (RET)	125,000	
Help A Child (HaC)	40,800	
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	36,000	
National NGOs	907,115	650,000
Conseil Pour l'Education et le Développement (COPEDE)	682,115	500,000
Caritas	150,000	150,000
Social action for Development (S.A.D)	75,000	
Total	132,607,380	66,548,455

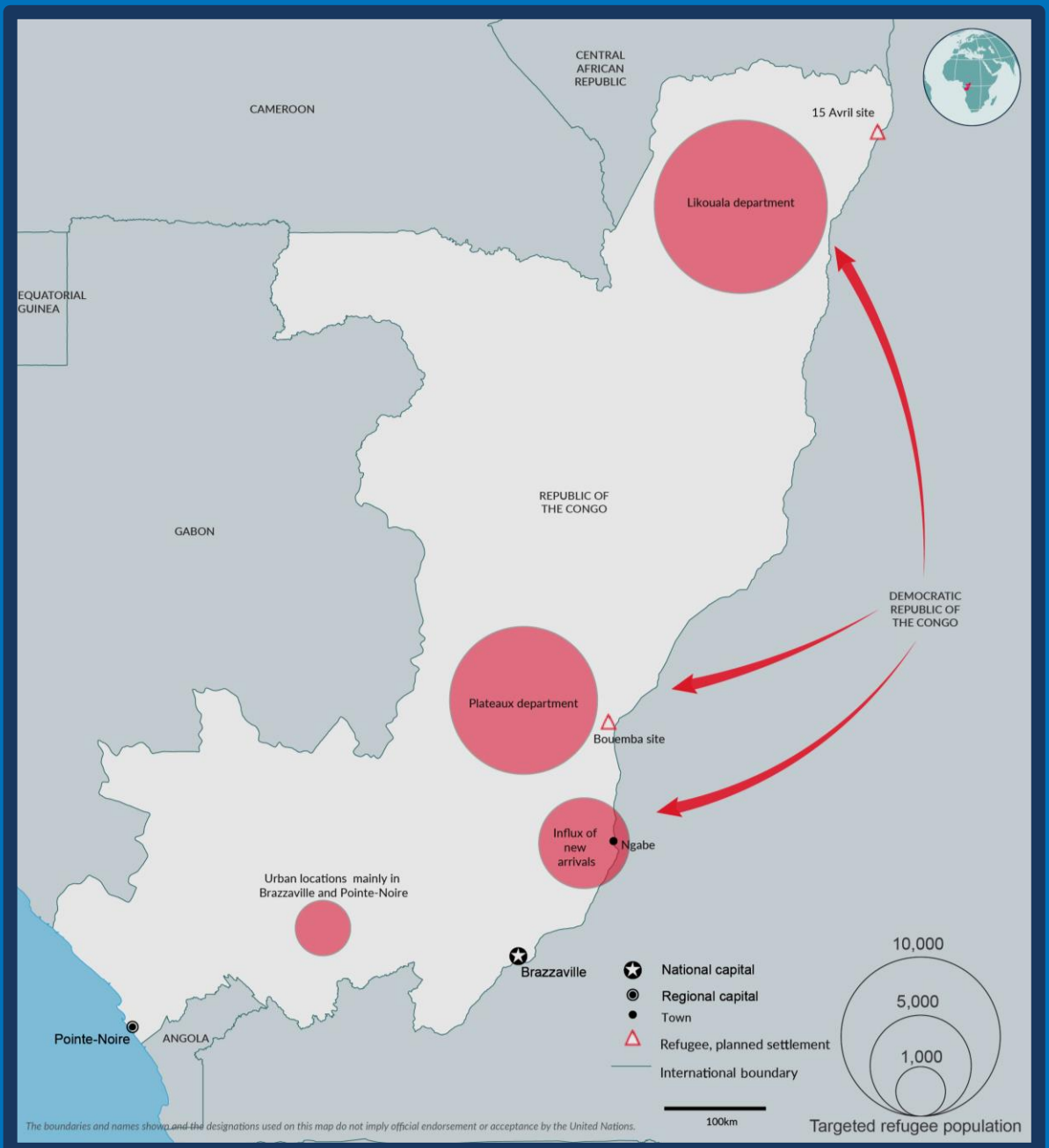
REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

 **30,794**
2025 refugee population to be assisted

 **5,615**
2025 host community members benefiting from assistance

 **22.5M**
2025 total financial requirements

 **8**
Partners involved





Asylum-seeker woman cooking cassava with a woman from the host community in the Republic of the Congo. © UNHCR/Cyprien Cheva

Current Situation

Situational Overview

As of the end of 2024, the Republic of the Congo hosted 32,346 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Ninety-five per cent live in remote rural locations, including in the Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool departments. Five per cent live in Brazzaville and Pointe Noire, cities that are home to more than half the Republic of the Congo's population.

Almost 23,000 refugees from the DRC have been living in the Republic of the Congo for more than five years. In December 2018, an outbreak of violence in Yumbi, Mai-Ndombé province, in the DRC, led some 8,900 refugees to flee to Plateaux, where they have since been living. Further instability in Mai-Ndombé, this time in Kwamouth, on the eastern bank of the Congo River, between July 2022 and December 2023 caused an additional influx of 5,200 refugees into Ngabé, Mpouya, and Ignié districts, Plateaux and Pool departments. A response plan was developed, in collaboration with the National Refugee Assistance Committee (CNAR) and local authorities, to meet their

most urgent needs. The security situation, particularly in Kwamouth in Mai-Ndombé province remains unstable with limited overall improvement over the last year. Over the first four months of 2025 over 8,000 new arrivals were recorded from Mai-Ndombé, largely to the localities of Bouémba and Mpouya in the Plateaux Department. In 2024, 90 individuals from DRC applied for asylum in Brazzaville.

Refugees enjoy a largely favourable protection environment in the Republic of Congo, with freedom of movement, access to the justice system and other basic services, such as healthcare and education. At the same time, refugees enjoy relatively unrestricted employment rights similar to those of nationals. In September 2021, the Government promulgated an asylum legislation ([Law 41-2021](#)), and on 3 October 2023, the Government published two statements granting refugee status on a prima facie basis to 14,100 individuals who fled intercommunal violence in Mai-Ndombé province in the DRC and sought refuge in Plateaux department in 2018 and in Pool



department in 2022. On 6 October 2023, the Government also published a decree setting the fees for issuing, transferring, and renewing biometric travel documents for refugees. These fees are the same as those paid by Congolese citizens. As of the beginning of 2025 the publication of the full decree to support the implementation of Law 41-2021 was still pending full publication

Additionally, the Republic of the Congo has been at the forefront of implementing the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges, showing commitment to promoting the socioeconomic integration of refugees and improving basic social services in refugee-hosting communities through the national development policy. At the 2023 GRF, the Republic of the Congo [pledged](#) that it would: elaborate and adopt a multi-year National Asylum Strategy for refugee management; continue to integrate refugees in national development programmes; operationalize the National Committee for the Eradication of Statelessness; finalize a quantitative and qualitative study of statelessness cases by 2026; continue public awareness activities to encourage the registration of every birth; and continue to reform nationality legislation. As of the end of 2024, UNHCR and partners are continuing to work with the Government to implement these pledges.

Prospects for local integration are further reinforced by inclusion initiatives such as the [Lisungi Project](#). This project, financed by the World Bank and rolled out in Likouala in 2021, will be redefined by the Government as a national social safety net programme. Its objective is to facilitate access to the Unique Social Registry for vulnerable individuals and ensure their access to national social protection programmes.

Despite this progress on local integration, refugees and host communities do face challenges linked to overstretched services and limited availability of economic opportunities amidst a protracted economic crisis in the Republic of Congo. RRP partners will continue to work in collaboration with the Government to support the effective integration of refugees, and to respond to refugees' and asylum-seekers' fundamental needs through protection and assistance, while simultaneously focusing their activities on promoting empowerment and self-reliance in cooperation with refugee communities.

Country Risks and Needs

While the protection environment may be favourable, many refugees from the DRC continue to require dedicated assistance, particularly the approximately 2,600 people with specific protection needs and at risk of marginalization and exclusion, who include single parents, people with chronic medical conditions, older people, people with disabilities, gender-based violence (GBV) survivors, and at-risk women and children – including separated and unaccompanied children. Risks for refugee children, especially girls, include exclusion from education or school drop-out, sexual violence, and child labour affecting their psychosocial well-being and development. GBV remains a persistent and complex challenge for women and girls. The main types of GBV identified by RRP Partners are physical assault, rape and attempted rape, domestic violence, sale and exchange of sex, sexual abuse, psychological violence, denial of resources, child marriage, and harassment.

Basic services in rural refugee-hosting areas continue to face particular pressure, compromising access to and the quality of services. In this context, provision of targeted multisectoral assistance and limited-service provision will remain critical in these areas. Priorities, include supporting access to shelter, clean water, hygiene and sanitation, primary healthcare, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), sexual and reproductive healthcare, and education.

Refugees from the DRC in Plateaux and Pool departments remain reliant on food assistance due to limited access to socioeconomic opportunities, especially in hard-to-reach areas. Between August and October 2024, UNHCR and CNAR resumed a nationwide verification exercise for refugees and asylum-seekers, which started in 2023. Of those surveyed 52 per cent of refugee adults are engaged in subsistence farming, fishing and hunting, while 22 per cent report no economic occupation.

Refugees need increased support to develop livelihoods and other income-generating initiatives to alleviate their reliance on assistance and facilitate their transition towards food self-sufficiency. Additionally, climate-related vulnerabilities require close attention, as refugees and asylum-seekers are mostly located in rural areas that are prone to tropical storms and recurrent flooding.

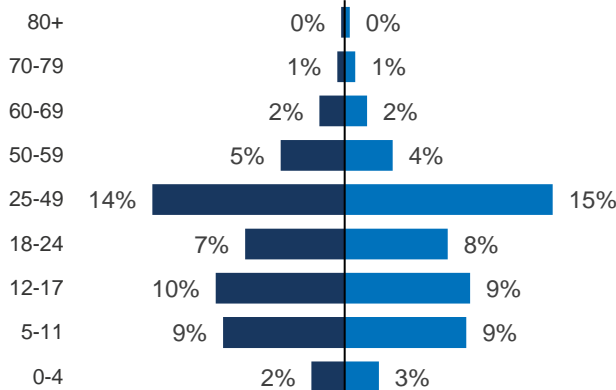


Country Response and Solutions Strategy

- ▶ In 2025, 8 RRP Partners plan to assist **30,794** refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC of whom 50 per cent are women and girls, 50 per cent are men and boys, 42 per cent are children and 16 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition RRP Partners will aim to assist **5,615** host community members over the course of the year.
- ▶ Taking advantage of the favorable protection environment and progressive legislation, and in line with the regional strategic objectives, the Republic of the Congo response plan is steered by four overarching objectives, which drive the respective sectoral responses, and is underpinned by the regional cross-cutting principles and priorities.

2025 Age and gender breakdown - refugee population to be assisted

■ Female ■ Male



16%

People with disabilities



50%

Women and girls



50%

Men and boys



42% Children

Country Strategic Objectives

Maintain the conducive protection environment and access to asylum

RRP Partners will focus on providing support to the Government for fast, fair, and efficient asylum procedures across the country, with improved quality refugee status determination (RSD) procedures to ensure that refugees are identified, documented, and assisted in a timely manner, while also reducing the current backlog of asylum-seekers awaiting adjudication for their cases and maintaining procedural standards of fairness and efficiency.

Additionally, protection monitoring, especially of refugees living near border points along the Congo River, will continue to be essential to safeguard international protection, including the respect for the

principle of non-refoulement. Lastly, to prevent statelessness, partners will support the Government in issuing birth certificates.

Promote access to essential services through inclusion into national systems

RRP Partners will continue to prioritize inclusion in national systems, while advocating for the enhancement of basic socioeconomic services in areas hosting refugees. Programmes will be anchored in a commitment to 'leave no one behind', with partners collaborating with national and local authorities to strengthen public service provision, including health, nutrition and education. This will follow a community-based approach that works

through community-structures and grass-root organizations.

Partners will continue to advocate for refugees to be included in development projects and the implementation of sound normative frameworks that stipulate and protect integration-related rights and strengthen the search for durable solutions, in line with the Government's 2017 and 2024 Letters of Development Policy and Law 41-2021.

Foster refugee empowerment and self-reliance

To promote self-reliance and social cohesion, and reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance, partners will prioritize the strengthening of services in remote areas, thereby facilitating effective socioeconomic inclusion. In regions where seasonal floods have affected refugees and host communities, partners will develop and implement preparedness and response measures in consultation with local stakeholders. Such initiatives will aim to alleviate the environmental-related impacts of climate change including soil erosion as well as the destruction of crops and shelters. These collaborative efforts will also prioritize projects aimed at bolstering climate resilience.

Joint initiatives with the Government, development actors and the private sector will also strive to empower refugees and increase their self-reliance through income-generating activities, vocational training, and financial inclusion. Partners will promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host communities by adopting area-based approaches that benefit both refugee populations and host communities in target areas. These self-reliance and social cohesion projects will specifically prioritize the inclusion of women as active enablers of peace. In addition, partners will work with local actors to support land access for refugee communities and implement mixed farming projects.

Lastly, partners will advocate for the inclusion of vulnerable refugees, who are unable to meet basic needs, in national social protection programmes and safety nets, and other World Bank-financed projects, to further the integration of refugees in both local and national systems.

Ensure access to durable solutions

Local integration, which can culminate in naturalization, remains the primary durable solution for refugees in the Republic of the Congo. During 2025, partners will pilot the provision of legal aid to refugees seeking naturalization targeting a minimum of five refugees, provided they meet criteria and

express a desire to follow necessary procedures for naturalization.

During 2024, there was no voluntary repatriation of refugees from the Republic of Congo to the DRC. For 2025, UNHCR is planning for the repatriation of 150 individuals of various nationalities (mainly from the Central African Republic, but with some from DRC). According to the verification exercise conducted between August and September 2024, 1,398 refugees from the DRC have an intention to return. Resettlement remains a viable solution for a very small number of vulnerable refugees facing urgent protection needs. Finally, complementary pathways, offering avenues to third countries through family reunification, humanitarian visas, employment, vocational training, and education opportunities, will remain available to a limited number of refugees.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

Protection Partners will support the Government's efforts to provide international protection to refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC, to whom the CNAR issues ID cards. Partners will also advocate for the Government to bring in interpretative legislation for the 2021 asylum law and ensure that their individual documents are promptly updated upon expiration or in case of significant life events. Differentiated case processing and other RSD management strategies - with emphasis on safeguarding the right to fair, efficient, and timely adjudication, child-friendly procedures, and legal counselling - will be promoted with asylum authorities to address the backlog of asylum-seekers awaiting a decision on their claims. Collaboration with district authorities will be strengthened to facilitate registration and the issuance of birth certificates for new-born children of refugees from the DRC, thereby reducing risk of statelessness. Further, legal assistance for access to justice in administrative, civil, and criminal matters, and for naturalization purposes, will be provided to those in need.

Child Protection Sub-Sector

To prevent and respond to child protection risks and ensure accessibility of child protection services for children at risk, RRP partners will advocate for protection of refugee children and bolster their inclusion in national systems in line with the 'leave no one behind' principle and through the adoption of a community-based approach. RRP Partners will also collaborate with the Government to facilitate the issuance of birth certificates for children not currently

registered in the national registry census.

RRP Partners will continue supporting the Government in undertaking best interest procedures and strengthening family tracing, reunification, and alternative care arrangements for separated and unaccompanied children and other children at risk. Partners will ensure child protection services are accessible to children with disabilities and other marginalized children.

In addition, mixed children's committees, comprising refugees and host community, will be set up and trained within hosting communities so they can carry out a range of awareness-raising activities on child protection (including the identification of children in need of protection), education, birth registration, and environmental protection. Through a participatory and accountability-based approach, these initiatives will help to promote peaceful coexistence.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

GBV partners, in collaboration with the Government, will continue to provide equitable and quality GBV services to survivors and promote gender equality and women's empowerment. Priority will be given to enhancing community-based GBV prevention and response mechanisms as part of a survivor-centred approach that enables holistic case management. This includes capacity-building on GBV for all stakeholders, including national authorities, community leaders, and community structures, such as GBV-management committees. GBV prevention interventions will be organized through community relays to enhance knowledge of GBV risks and share information about available response services among refugee and host communities.

Furthermore, partners will work with all sectors to ensure GBV risk mitigation considerations are reflected within sectoral interventions. Finally, the Government will be supported to strengthen national social services for GBV survivors, foster inclusion of refugee women and girls in national services and policies, establish survivor-centred referral systems for GBV responses, and ensure survivors' can access basic services and assistance.

Education

Education Partners will collaborate to ensure that children of primary school age – totalling 6,700 children between 5 and 11 years old – have equitable and inclusive access to the national education system and enjoy a conducive learning environment. In rural areas, refugees have the same access to state schools as children from the host community, but, in

practice, there is limited equality of opportunity for refugees. Improving equal opportunities between refugee and host community boys and girls and enabling the development of employability skills will be a priority. Partners will work with development actors to improve education services for refugees and host communities alike. This includes, for instance, collaboration under the World Bank-funded project “Transforming the Education Sector for Better Outcomes and Results” that aims to improve access to quality basic education and strengthen education sector management systems. This project has a specific focus on refugee-hosting areas, comprising a USD 21.2 million grant for refugees and host communities. Education Partners will advocate with the Ministry of Secondary Education and the Ministry of Technical Education and Vocational Training to promote refugees' inclusion and ensure the equitable deployment of schoolteachers across the Republic of the Congo. Partners will intensify efforts to engage development and private sector partners in expanding availability of educational opportunities and vocational training for girls, boys, and young people, as well as provision of school kits for vulnerable families.

Food Security

In-kind, cash-based, and hybrid food distributions carried out by partners remain insufficient to sustain most refugees in rural areas, where resources and livelihood opportunities are especially limited. As such Food Security partners will strengthen coordination to ensure the timely and targeted delivery of food items, prioritizing refugees in Ngabé, Mpouya, and Inié districts. There are plans to subsequently extend food assistance to residents in hard-to-reach areas within the Plateaux department. Provision of unrestricted cash assistance to enable refugees to meet their basic food and nutrition needs is contingent upon funding availability.

Food distributions will be complemented by timely post-distribution monitoring, and nutritional supplementation will be offered for the most vulnerable, including pregnant and breastfeeding women and children under 5 years old. These households will benefit from efforts to promote an understanding of nutrition, caregiving practices, and diets that contribute to improving nutritional status. As part of this, UNHCR plans to carry out joint assessment missions with WFP to better understand the needs of refugees from the DRC. These missions will inform vulnerability-based programmatic recommendations that will help, for instance, to determine the criteria underpinning social protection programmes.



Public Health & Nutrition

Aside from Bouemba (29 per cent), all refugee settlements face very high stunting rates, that average between 40 and 50 per cent. Additionally, anaemia prevalence is universally high, ranging between 50 and 77 per cent ([SENS survey](#), 2021). Health and Nutrition Partners will, therefore, collaborate to improve refugee access to national primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare, including curative consultations, sexual and reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, mental health, nutrition, outbreak management, and referral mechanisms for secondary and tertiary healthcare.

As part of this complementary support to the national health system, partners will focus on strengthening the national capacity in areas where health infrastructure and services are particularly weak. Support will also be extended to healthcare sustainability funds and initiatives like the Lisungi project, which supported the management of 17 health centres and continues to provide free consultations and medicine to vulnerable persons in departments hosting refugees. Partners will continue collaborating with the Government to strengthen community-based prevention and response to infectious diseases by implementing an integrated disease surveillance system, with specific emphasis on border entry points along the Congo River. Finally, partners will continue advocating with the Ministry of Health for the inclusion of refugees into sustainable health projects, ensuring that refugees receive the same healthcare as the host population.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

Through a community-based and integrated livelihoods approach, the Livelihoods Sector will foster empowerment and social cohesion, improve living conditions for refugee and host communities, and bolster local integration. Partners will continue to advocate for refugee integration into development and climate change adaptation projects, emphasizing socioeconomic inclusion as a means to enhance self-sufficiency. Priority will be given to expanding the national social safety nets project and providing cash for income-generating activities and conditional cash assistance to asylum-seekers from the DRC living in Plateaux.

Enhancing socioeconomic self-reliance through inclusion will require increased advocacy with local authorities for allocation of more farmland for refugees and for provision of capacity-building and support for innovative income-generating projects and start-ups. Partners will ensure activities involve host communities, promoting peaceful coexistence, and the effective management of and cooperation over natural resources.

Settlement and Shelter/Housing

In terms of shelter and renewable energy, efforts will be made to pursue risk-based programming that mitigates the impact of adverse weather and environmental conditions exacerbated by climate change as well as non-climate related emergencies. Shelter partners will support the construction of new safe and accessible shelters, emphasizing the use of local materials to establish resilient housing for people with specific needs. Shelters provided to refugees, asylum-seekers, and host communities in Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool departments will help promote social cohesion. Further, promotion and use of energy-efficient stoves, solar lamps, and other alternative energy sources in infrastructure will be a pillar of response that helps mitigate protection risks, including GBV. The sector will continue to advocate for refugee inclusion in national and international plans and programmes for climate action.

Due to exposure to adverse weather, Bouemba refugee settlement will need adequate equipment for the construction of resilient shelters, and environmental protection measures such as reforestation. Despite arriving in relatively small numbers, the ongoing flow of asylum seekers to RoC-as witnessed during the first two months of 2025-creates a constant need to replenish emergency shelter stock. RRP partners' current stocks of emergency shelter kits and materials are very limited.

WASH

Priority will be given to ensuring safe and inclusive access to WASH services. Efforts will focus on providing safe, accessible and equitable WASH services and increasing access to water for refugees and host communities in Likouala, Plateaux, and Pool departments. More water points are needed, particularly in Bouemba and Bouanga (Plateaux department). Menstrual hygiene management will be at the heart of all activities and will take into account the cultural preferences and feedback of women and girls from refugee and host communities.

While ultimately moving towards solar-powered pumping, interventions will first focus on the rehabilitation of non-functional hand-pumps, the promotion of single-family latrine ownership, improving hygiene practices, and empowering refugees to manage water and sanitation facilities. Establishment of a network for exchanging and selling spare parts is necessary to enhance operations and maintain hand-pumps at the community-level.



Logistics, Supply, and Telecommunication

Partners will continue to enhance the logistics and coordination chain to support the RRP response. To ensure backups to cash-based assistance- transfers of which can be disrupted by interruptions to the telephone network- storage capacities and warehouse management will be strengthened, especially in Bétou and Gamboma, where non-food items (NFIs) will be pre-positioned. Partners will coordinate the supply of goods to hard-to-reach areas with no NFI access. Telecommunication platforms will

be established to connect refugees, asylum- seekers, and host populations with protection and assistance monitoring and coordination units.

Special attention will be given to strengthening river transport and car fleets, enabling partners to carry out protection and assistance activities even in adverse weather conditions. Finally, interventions will also support efforts to improve land and river communication infrastructure to facilitate trade; boost the electricity supply by promoting sustainable energy; and support the protection and development of forest ecosystems.

Partnership and Cooperation

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model and the 2023-2026 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) in the Republic of the Congo, UNHCR coordinates the refugee response. As per the Global Compact on Refugees, the 2017 and 2024 Letter of Policy Development, and the [2022-2026 National Development Plan](#), the Government assumes a leading role in hosting refugees and asylum-seekers and facilitating their local integration through inclusion in national systems. Coordination is ensured through leadership of the CNAR at national level. In late 2023, an interagency refugee contingency plan was updated, revisiting planning scenarios and responses.

RRP Partners also work with the Ministry of Social Affairs, Humanitarian Action and Solidarity, local authorities, civil society and local grassroots organizations for broader refugee protection matters. Partners conduct regular coordination meetings at both strategic and operational levels. In 2025, RRP Partners will bolster partnership-building and advance the implementation of the pledges made at the 2023 GRF. Priority will be given to maintaining existing support from donors while engaging new private and public-sector stakeholders to expand the overall donor base.



Financial Requirements



Total financial requirements

2024
\$23,619,974

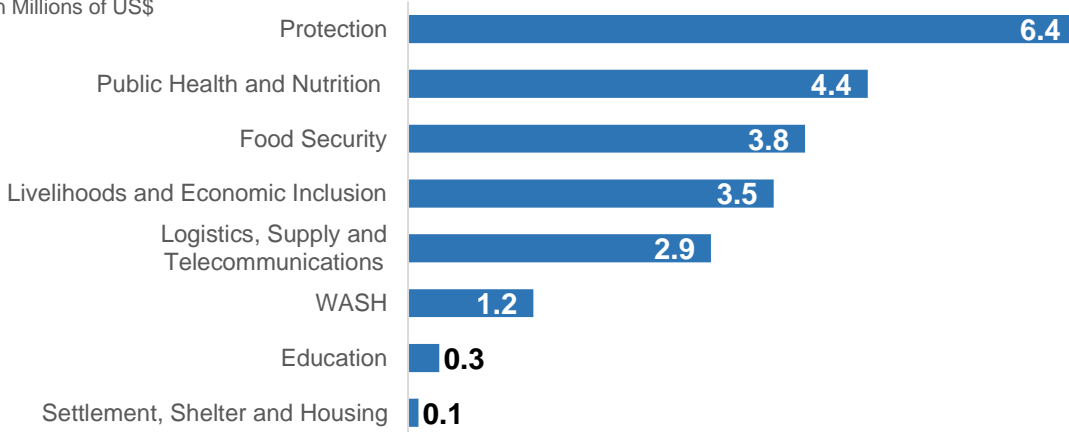
2025
\$22,496,181

2025 Budget by Partner Type

8 Partners involved	6 UN Agencies	2 Development actors
	\$21,461,894	\$1,034,287

2025 Budget by Sector

In Millions of US\$



Total Protection Requirements \$6,348,383	
GBV \$1,308,522	Child Protection \$114,478


Total Cash Assistance Modality* \$2,563,706	
Food Security \$2,563,706	



2025 Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
United Nations	21,461,894
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	8,222,480
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	4,000,000
World Food Programme (WFP)	3,765,465
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	2,634,717
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	2,439,232
World Health Organization (WHO)	400,000
(National) Development Actor	1,034,287
Medecins D'Afrique (MDA)	1,032,787
Association des Professionnels en Protection de l'Enfance (APPE)	1,500
Total	\$22,496,181

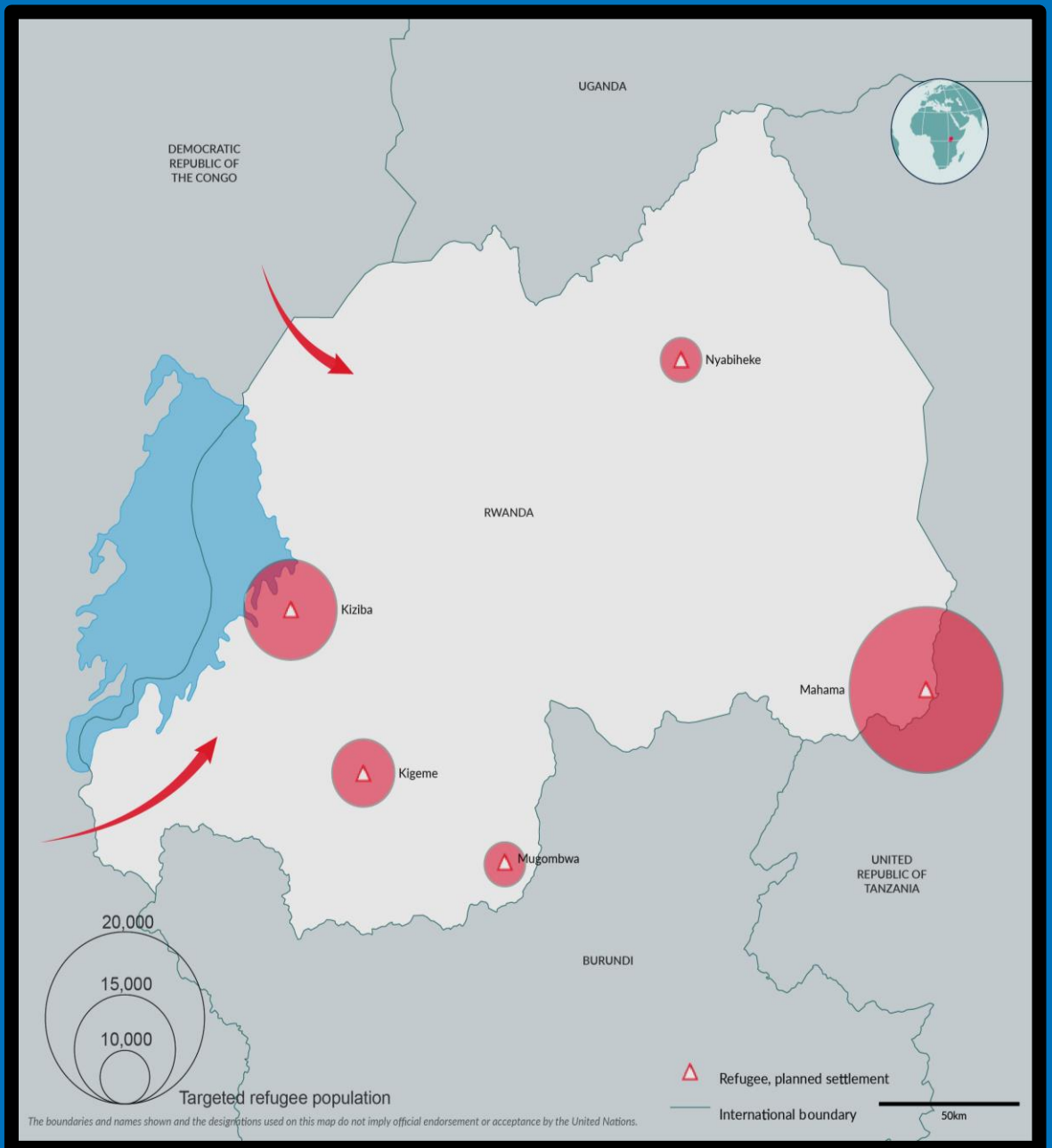
RWANDA

 **95,591**
2025 refugee population to be assisted

 **12,139**
2025 host community members benefiting from assistance

 **82.8M**
2025 total financial requirements

 **31**
Partners involved





18-month-old Stella arrived at the Nkamira Transit Centre, Rwanda in January 2023. ©SavetheChildren/ Biziyaremye, Thacien

Current Situation

Situational Overview

- ▶ *This chapter of the DRC Regional RRP extracts information from the Rwanda Country RRP, which relays the activities and budget needed to support refugees from the DRC living in Rwanda in 2025. All Partners working on the response to the needs of refugees from the DRC in Rwanda also support Burundian refugees, with most programmes delivered regardless of nationality.*

As of the end of 2024, Rwanda hosted 77,876 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC, which represent 58 per cent of the total refugee population in the country. The vast majority of them live in the five refugee camps of Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa, Nyabiheke, and Mahama and in Nkamira transit centre; only 1.5 per cent live in urban areas.

Most refugees from the DRC who are currently living in Rwanda arrived during the 2012-2013 influx, with 69 per cent of this group having lived in Rwanda for over 10 years and the remaining 41 per cent having been born in the country. However, since December 2022, Rwanda has received approximately 13,822 new arrivals fleeing increased instability in the eastern provinces of the DRC, and this upward trend is likely

to continue in 2024 and 2025. While most refugees from the DRC were previously registered on a prima facie basis, since 2020, all new asylum-seekers, regardless of nationality, now undergo refugee status determination by the Government.

Rwanda provides a conducive protection environment for asylum-seekers and refugees. The law is progressive, granting this population the right to work access essential services and enrol in financial services. These policies are facilitated through the widespread issuance of documentation. In alignment with its Vision 2050 and the National Strategy for Transformation, Rwanda has also solidified commitments to international frameworks like the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR)⁸ and the Sustainable Development Goals. This has helped to forge a strong working relationship between the Government of Rwanda and aid agencies participating in the RRP.

However, despite the favourable policies and legislation in the country, the living conditions for refugees remain challenging. Many camps in Rwanda are grappling with environmental degradation, and

there is an increasing need to repair and maintain refugee⁶ shelters and infrastructure in these locations – water consumption across camps, for instance, averages 21 litres per person per day, just one litre above emergency standards⁷. In addition, some 87 per cent of refugees in Rwanda are categorized as highly vulnerable and depend on cash assistance to meet food needs⁸. While 93 per cent of refugee children are enrolled in national primary and secondary schools, only 4 per cent access tertiary education.

In this context, RRP partners' advocacy is directed towards the inclusion of refugees' in national services and social protection schemes. For health, for example, partners ensure that refugees have access to essential healthcare through camp-based primary health facilities and the integration of urban-based refugees into the national Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI). Refugees also receive assistance to cover the cost of referrals to secondary and tertiary care at national hospitals.

Due to the protracted nature of the refugee situation in Rwanda, the response is expanding beyond a humanitarian approach to focus on sustainable responses that facilitate inclusion, access to livelihoods and strengthen social cohesion. This shift has led to increased efforts to help refugees escape poverty and become less reliant on assistance. At the same time, finding third country solutions for the refugee population through resettlement and complementary pathways, has been and will remain a priority for partners. During 2024 UNHCR supported almost 5,000 DRC refugees in Rwanda to resettle. Although volatility in eastern DRC, will likely continue to limit opportunities for voluntary repatriation, the Governments of Rwanda and the DRC continue to collaborate to support any refugees who may wish to return in safety and dignity.

Country Risks and Needs

In 2024 and 2025, most refugees from the DRC hosted in Rwanda are expected to continue to live in camps and remain dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. Since the

implementation of targeted food assistance distribution in 2021, several assessments by RRP partners have indicated a rise in the number of people resorting to harmful coping mechanisms in refugee camps⁹.

Among the most concerning behaviours undertaken by families are the sale of productive assets, begging, the sale and exchange of sex, child neglect, and the accrual of high levels of debt. Facing increasing financial difficulties, efforts to broaden targeting criteria and enhance the efficiency of food assistance delivery will remain priorities. However, these efforts may be stymied by cuts to assistance which would result in a further prioritization of households. Moreover, Rwanda's susceptibility to the adverse effects of climate change is resulting in floods, soil erosion, and the formation of dangerous ravines. In turn, this is increasingly forcing refugees to upend their lives to relocate from old camps to safer areas, compounding vulnerabilities.

In contrast to refugees living in the camps, urban refugees receive minimal assistance and are generally more self-reliant. However, many among this group grapple with poverty and deprivation due to inflation, with partners often requested to provide emergency support to the most vulnerable families.

Beyond basic assistance, refugees across Rwanda have crucial protection needs. Though improvements in the response have been made over the past few years, GBV and child protection incidents remain a significant challenge, with responses hampered by underreporting and limited availability of RRP partner case management services. Exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse also poses a significant risk for refugee communities in Rwanda, with more investment needed to boost prevention efforts.

While local integration is possible as per the nationality law¹⁰, there is little uptake among the refugee community, with partners continuing to collaborate with the Government of Rwanda to change this reality. For refugees unable to locally integrate, resettlement will remain the most viable durable solution in the next few years, as voluntary return is an unlikely option due to the increased instability in the DRC.



⁶ At the Global Refugee Forum in 2023, the Government of Rwanda recommitted to pledges made in 2019 and added a new pledge to facilitate the inclusion of camp-based refugees in the national community-based health insurance scheme 2024-2025 DRC Regional RRP

⁷ Against a standard of 20 litres per person per day for post-emergency situations.

⁸ As per criteria established by UNHCR and WFP related to targeting of assistance; 6 per cent of the population is

classified as moderately vulnerable and 7 per cent as least vulnerable.

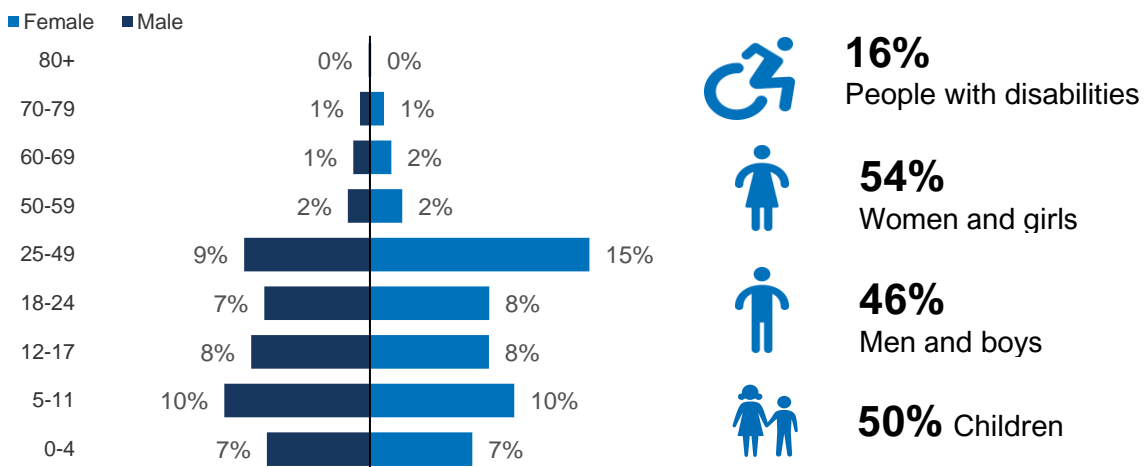
⁹ [Joint Post Distribution Monitoring Preliminary Report May 2022](#) indicated 50 per cent of refugees living in the camps are adopting emergency and crisis coping mechanisms.

¹⁰ As per the nationality law, refugees can get citizenship after being in Rwanda over 25 years or through marriage to a Rwandan. Currently, 7,600 refugees have been in Rwanda over 25 years according to data, of whom there is little interest in getting citizenship as dual nationality is not allowed in the DRC.

Country Response and Solutions Strategy

- ▶ In 2025, 31 RRP Partners in Rwanda are planning to assist **95,591** refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC, 54 per cent of whom are women and girls, 46 per cent of whom are men and boys, 52 per cent are children and 16 per cent are people with disabilities. In addition, partners will aim to support 11,972 members of the host community over the year
- ▶ The Rwanda response plan is steered by four overarching objectives, which drive the respective sectoral responses, and is underpinned by the regional cross-cutting principles and priorities. The delivery of assistance through cash modalities will be mainstreamed, where possible, to increase flexibility and allow people the autonomy to choose how to meet their most pressing needs. At the same time, cash transfers will directly benefit the local economy and contribute to peaceful coexistence with host communities.

2025 Age and gender breakdown - refugee population to be assisted



Country Strategic Objectives

- ▶ **Maintain and strengthen access to comprehensive & inclusive protection services**

RRP Partners will continue to ensure that inclusive protection services are available for refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals. With the adoption of a community-based approach, interventions will have a local focus and work through national structures. There will be particular consideration to the ability of people to access services as well as the active participation of women, girls, children, people with disabilities, older people, as well as other vulnerable groups. Individual case

management will be provided to people affected by violence and abuse, with psychosocial support and counselling being offered according to need. Community centres across Rwanda will continue to serve as safe spaces for the forcibly displaced and their hosts, providing an entry point to access inclusive protection services, and community-based initiatives. Such initiatives will include ongoing projects to train refugees and asylum-seekers as community volunteers and mobilizers, which will be expanded to improve capacity to detect protection risk and needs, refer cases, and inform communities on available services.

Partners will continue to offer free access to legal

assistance for refugees and asylum-seekers and to provide technical assistance to the Government to support access to fair, affordable and efficient asylum procedures. Partners will enhance the provision of both information and legal counselling in languages in which asylum-seekers are comfortable and advocate for inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in national legal aid systems.

► Improve living conditions and support dignified lives for refugees

Efforts will be dedicated to improving living conditions of refugees and asylum-seekers across Rwanda to ensure their protection and well-being. Partners will focus on tackling the key concerns highlighted by refugees during participatory assessments and reports, which include the increase in family conflicts, GBV risks (including the sale and exchange of sex), child protection issues (such as neglect and child sexual abuse), and food scarcity.

In supporting the living conditions of refugees, there will be a specific focus on camps. Climate-sensitive planning will guide efforts to enhance the environment of refugee camps.

Old and depreciating infrastructure, including shelters, WASH facilities, classrooms, and community centres, will be maintained, upgraded, and made accessible to all. In addition, RRP partners will work to improve service delivery, especially in education. Lastly, the most vulnerable refugee families will continue to receive cash assistance to meet their basic needs. Given the proposed further refinement of targeting criteria for cash and food assistance, programmes will seek to incorporate activities that mitigate the potential negative impact of cuts on refugee families. In particular, robust approaches to mitigate the risk of GBV will be implemented.

► Support the inclusion of refugees in national systems to increase self-reliance

Building on commitments made by the Government of Rwanda as part of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the response will continue to support the inclusion of refugees in national systems. Furthermore, efforts will be directed towards strengthening refugees' and host communities' livelihood opportunities and self-reliance, in accordance with the principle of 'leave no one behind'. Programmes will assist the large population of young refugees with technical and vocational skills training and support access to higher education.

► Seek durable solutions for refugees

Finding solutions for refugees from the DRC remains a core responsibility of RRP Partners. Resettlement opportunities for the most vulnerable refugees and support to expand access to complementary pathways for refugee admission to third countries will be prioritized. Voluntary Repatriation of refugees to DRC is likely to be extremely limited in 2025 due to the deterioration of the situation in eastern DRC over the first months of the year. UNHCR will continue to discuss opportunities for voluntary return should the security situation improve with the Governments of DRC and Rwanda. Where possibilities for local integration exist, refugees will be supported to obtain Rwandan citizenship.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

The RRP Protection priorities are to: i) support efforts to expand access to territory through advocacy and engagement with the authorities to strengthen the asylum system; ii) ensure comprehensive provision of registration and documentation services and; iii) promote social cohesion between refugee and host community populations. These will be pursued through advocacy with national asylum authorities and other line ministries, informed by analysis and protection monitoring; tailoring of services and assistance; capacity-building for authorities and partners; continued strengthening of community-based protection mechanisms; and provision of legal aid to asylum-seekers and other refugees in need.

The strengthening of community-based structures and capacity-building of community volunteers will improve two-way communication and feedback mechanisms, empower refugees to take the lead in their own protection, and help partners in the identification and referral of vulnerable individuals in need of specialized support. Awareness-raising on child protection, inclusion of people with specific needs, and promotion of gender equality will be conducted with the broader population.

In line with the principle of 'leave no one behind', the protection response in Rwanda will continue to advocate for refugee inclusion in national systems. The Protection Sector will also work towards durable solutions, such as resettlement, return, and integration. Moreover, coordination mechanisms to support the protection of refugees and host communities will be strengthened.



Child Protection Sub-Sector

Partners will ensure children are protected from violence, abuse, and exploitation and have access to child-friendly and inclusive procedures and services. Child Protection community-based structures will support identification and monitoring of at-risk children and facilitate child protection prevention interventions with communities. In turn Child Protection partners, will be responsible for initiating best interest procedures and ensuring the most vulnerable children have access to the required support, including alternative care arrangements and durable solutions, such as facilitated return and family reunification.

Child- and young people-friendly spaces offering psychological first aid and specialized mental health and psychosocial support will be rehabilitated, upgraded, and made more accessible to more at-risk children.

Increased collaboration with national authorities to promote the integration of refugee children into existing systems and ensuring access to services will be pursued.

RRP Partners will also build the capacity of the available workforce to ensure the adoption of quality best interest procedures, with engagement of the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, the Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, and the National Child Development Agency.



Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

GBV Partners will advance the roll out and contextualization of the inter-agency minimum standards for GBV response and the RRP Partners' GBV Policy and its accompanying monitoring tool. Community-based protection mechanisms, referrals, and engagement of frontline workers will be further enhanced. Innovative prevention initiatives targeting women, men, girls, and boys will be prioritized to encourage the wider refugee community to take ownership of GBV prevention. In addition, mainstreaming GBV risk mitigation across Sectors will continue to be one of the key components of RRP activities in 2024 and 2025.

GBV-specialized services targeting survivors - including medical, legal, psychosocial, material, and livelihoods support - will be strengthened in close collaboration with other relevant sectors. Inter-agency standard operating procedures for GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response, as well as case management, will be updated, and strong referral pathways for quality, survivor-centred, and inclusive services will be implemented. Regular coordination among partners will be reinforced and

joint advocacy with the Government to ensure the integration of refugee women and girls into national systems will be conducted. Lastly, complaints, feedback, and reporting mechanisms such as GBV helplines, complaint boxes, protection desks, and an email address will be made accessible to all community members.



Education

To enhance the sustainable inclusion of refugees in the national education system, Education partners will continue to support the Ministry of Education to improve learning conditions and outcomes for all children in Rwanda. Partner interventions will also address the challenges faced by out of school children, especially girls, and children with special education needs. Investments to improve the quality of education through the expansion of school infrastructure, development of teachers' capacity, adoption of connected learning, and supply of teaching and learning materials will be a priority.

RRP Partners will collaboratively develop a road map on how to address the education needs of refugees during potential influxes, to ensure new arrivals can quickly access language training, curriculum orientation, catch-up classes, and educational resources. The ultimate goal is to facilitate their integration into the national education system.

Interventions will also equip school personnel with the knowledge and skills to identify and safely refer children and young people at risk and support those at risk of dropping out of school. Further activities to be prioritized include support to the national school feeding system in schools in refugee-hosting areas as well as supporting access to tertiary education, including universities, and technical and vocational education and training.



Food Security

Camp-based refugees will continue to be primarily dependent on cash transfers to ensure their food security. Given the current funding constraints, partners will work in consultation with the refugee community to develop additional targeting criteria, ensuring the most vulnerable refugees continue to receive food assistance.

Refugees living in urban settings do not ordinarily receive food assistance due to their higher degree of self-reliance and accessibility to the labour market. However, partners will provide the most vulnerable families with cash assistance for food and accommodation on a temporary and exceptional basis, if required. New arrivals in reception and transit centres will receive in-kind food support upon arrival

and until relocation.

Further emphasis will be given to supporting sustainable livelihoods to supplement the monthly humanitarian food assistance distribution and increase food security among refugees and host communities. Efforts to bolster sustainable food production systems and promote resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity will also advance the goal of zero hunger for all.

Public Health & Nutrition

Health and Nutrition programmes for refugees will focus on making existing services more efficient, accessible, and responsive. They will also focus on increasing preparedness for future health emergencies, in collaboration with national authorities. RRP partners will continue to deliver primary healthcare for refugees in camps, as well as facilitate referrals to hospitals, prioritizing life-saving interventions. To this end, health infrastructure across camps will be rehabilitated and maintained to meet Ministry of Health standards. Health information systems will also be enhanced, and the quality of data will be improved. Mental health and psychosocial support will be strengthened and made easily-available to communities, including survivors of gender-based violence. The procurement of essential medicines and medical supplies will be undertaken in accordance with standards and guidance provided by the Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority. Lastly, urban refugees will be supported to access CBHI, and partners will advocate for the scheme to be extended to camp-based refugees.

The nutrition response will prioritize the prevention, screening, detection, and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, to keep malnutrition rates in refugee camps low. Pregnant and lactating women will receive nutritional support, and awareness-raising on good nutritional practices will be an ongoing activity.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

Livelihoods and economic inclusion efforts in 2025 will focus on diversifying strategic partnerships, including with the private sector. At the same time closer coordination will be pursued to maximize synergies across all relevant partners. All interventions will be in line with the [UNHCR and MINEMA's joint strategy on Economic Inclusion of Refugees and Host Communities](#) in Rwanda 2021-2024, which aims to support refugees, asylum-seekers, and the host community to become self-reliant.

Increased evidence-based advocacy for the inclusion

of refugees in national systems and programmes will be carried out by partners. This will include joint market assessments and information-sharing on opportunities for refugee employment. Supporting the reduction of non-legal barriers to employment by changing perceptions of employers and the private sector about refugees' eligibility to work and turning inclusive policies into reality will also be a priority. Efforts will be made to emphasize livelihood activities in sectors such as technology and agriculture, identified in Rwanda's [Vision 2050](#) for their growth potential. Previous livelihood interventions, such as climate-smart agriculture in marshland areas, will be scaled up.

Settlement and Shelter/Housing

Shelter Partners will maintain shelter standards in refugee camps and transit centres through the rehabilitation and repair of ageing shelters, construction of new shelters and improvement of communal infrastructure. These interventions will enhance refugees' living environment, improve accessibility, protect individuals and families against and lead to improved well-being in the community.

RRP partners will provide liquefied petroleum gas cooking resources to refugee families in Mugombwa and Mahama camps, as well as transit centres. In Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme camps, refugee families and individuals will receive cash assistance for energy. Similarly, cash assistance for non-food items will be distributed on a periodic basis to help families and individuals meet their basic needs. Due to funding restrictions, such interventions will likely be delivered on a targeted basis to reach the most vulnerable. Partners will also promote solarization and scale up renewable energy access. In addition, investments will be made in reforestation programmes to rehabilitate ravines, prevent soil erosion, and mitigate the negative impact of climate change.

WASH

The approach to improving WASH conditions for refugee communities will be three-pronged: Partners will increase accessibility to safe facilities; ensure that facilities are operated effectively and efficiently by the refugee community and that the community is involved in safeguarding and cleaning them; and raise awareness around safe hygiene practices among the refugee population. Gender considerations and access for people with specific needs, as per international standards, will guide all efforts. Further, innovative practices, including solarization, will be pursued in the construction and maintenance of WASH facilities, where possible.

Coordination between partners and government agencies will seek to ensure refugee communities have uninterrupted water supplies and reduced water losses. Partners will also support provision of water to host communities who face similar challenges, to reduce risk of tensions. The overall objective of the Sector will be to mainstream refugee water supply into government services. Refugee committees and

individuals will be equipped to operate and maintain WASH facilities, as per the national [Community-Based Environmental Health Promotion Programme](#), which aims to empower communities to identify problems and devise solutions with autonomy and accountability. Lastly, partners will work to distribute soap to refugees and ensure adequate waste and garbage disposal.

Partnership and Cooperation

The refugee response in Rwanda is led and coordinated by MINEMA and UNHCR. In 2025, 31 RRP partners, including UN Agencies, NGOs, academia, and development actors, will continue to implement activities, in close collaboration with relevant ministries across Sectors. A quarterly refugee coordination meeting will continue to be organized at national level as a forum to share information, develop mechanisms to respond to challenges, and define the way forward for joint advocacy.

The RRP is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) and the National Strategic Transformation; the latter provides thematic guidance for accelerated transformation in the areas of economy, social protection, and governance, while emphasizing the sustainability of results and the advancement of development for all.

The response to refugee needs is gradually progressing from humanitarian activities to development interventions, with emphasis on sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion, reflecting a larger, global move towards a humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach. Rwanda's involvement in the GCR and pledges made at the GRF have built up the move in this direction, creating space for RRP Partners to explore partnerships with new and strategic stakeholders in support of refugees.





Financial Requirements



Total financial requirements

2024
\$78,302,432

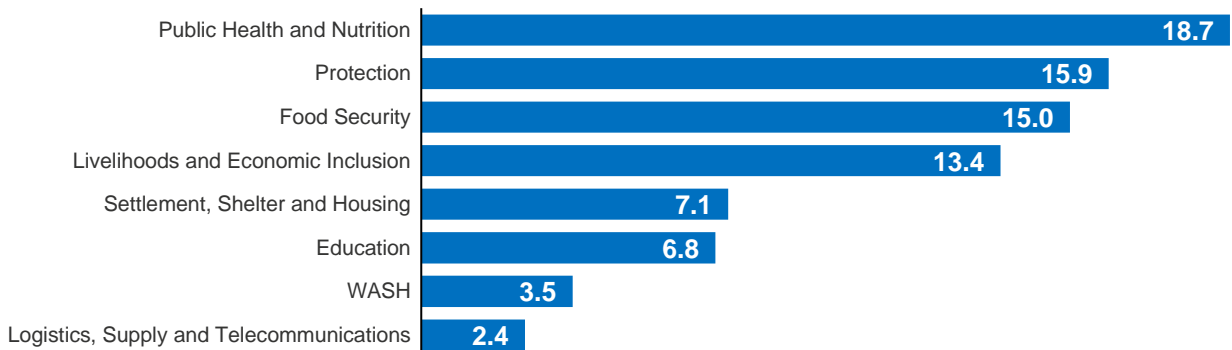
2025
\$82,800,886

2025 Budget by Partner Type

31 Partners Involved	7 UN Agencies	3 Development actors	13 International NGOs	5 National NGOs
	\$56,181,557	\$3,116,745	\$20,777,347	\$2,183,674
1 IFRC/ICRC	1 Academia	1 Private sector	 Faith-Based Organizations 4	 Refugee-Led Organizations
\$77,104	\$429,488	\$34,881	\$6,097,395	\$930,822


2025 Budget by Sector

In millions of US\$





 Total Protection Requirements \$15,917,283	
GBV \$1,443,129	Child Protection \$3,470,488

 Total Cash Assistance Modality* \$18,817,969		
Protection \$90,688	Food Security \$12,000,000	Livelihoods \$666,853
Public Health and Nutrition \$2,400,000		Settlement, shelter and housing \$3,660,428

2025 Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
United Nations	56,181,557
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	33,017,879
World Food Programme (WFP)	20,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	1,951,578
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	522,100
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	300,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	240,000
International Trade Centre (ITC)	150,000
International NGOs	20,777,437
Save the Children International (SCI)	6,661,128
World Relief	6,097,395
Give Directly	1,914,000
ALIGHT	1,710,000
Practical Action	885,600
Humanity & Inclusion (HI)	850,000
BRAC	800,000
World Vision International (WVI)	676,000
Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)	545,068
Plan International (PI)	500,000
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	90,000
Caritas	40,000
Care International	8,246



National NGOs	2,183,674
Impact Hope	1,202,852
Maison Shalom	701,324
RWANREC	117,919
Mondiant Initiative	111,579
Prison Fellowship Rwanda	30,000
Food For The Hungry	20,000
Academia	429,488
Kepler	429,488
Development actor	3,116,745
Inkomoko Business Development	1,750,000
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	1,366,745
Private Sector	34,881
Indego Africa (IA Indego Africa)	34,881
ICRC/IFRC	77,104
Rwanda Red Cross	77,104
Total	\$82,800,886

UGANDA



665,580
2025 refugee population to be assisted



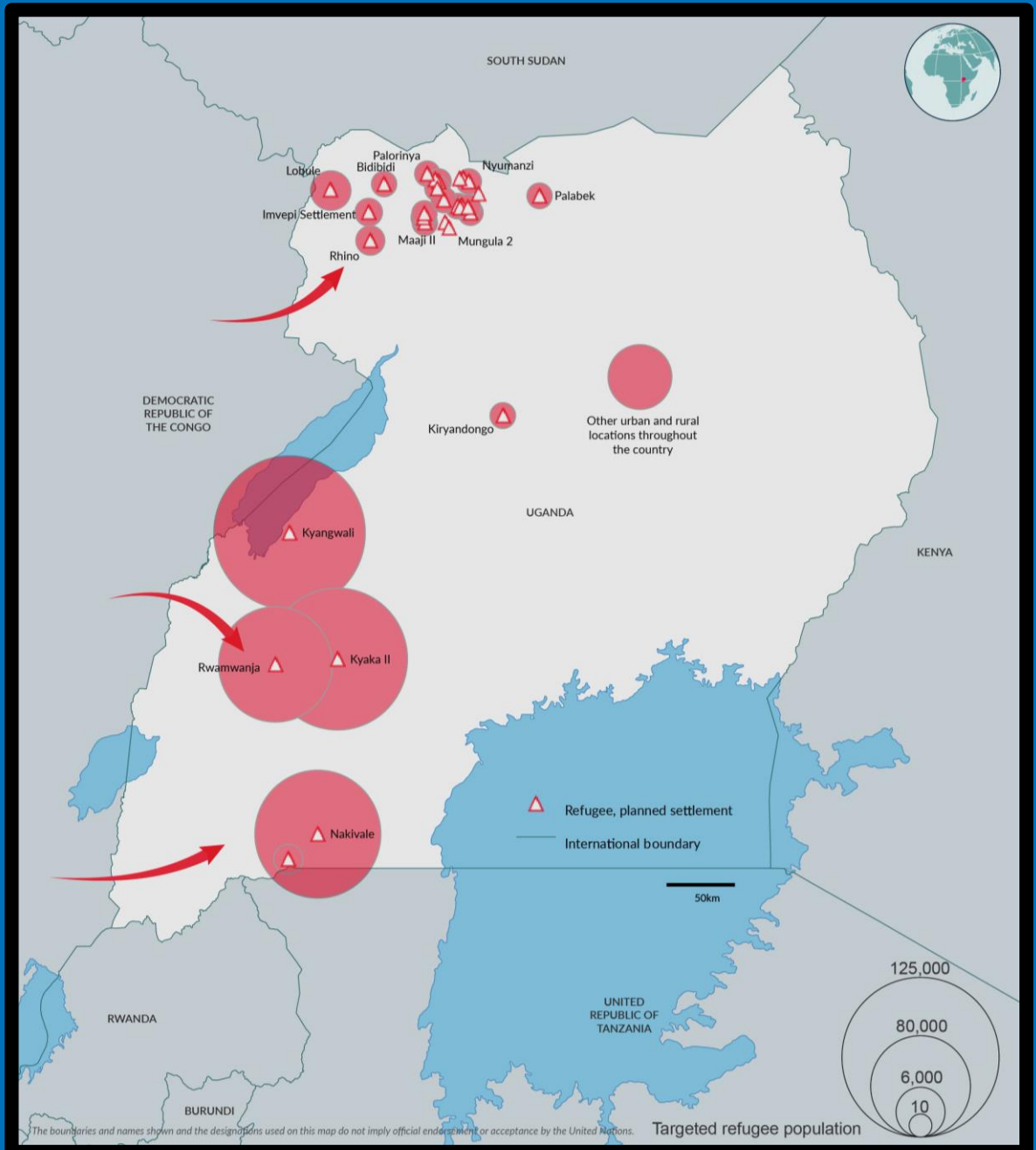
869,192
2025 host community members benefiting from assistance

381.6M

2025 total financial requirements of which 44.4 M for emergency



73
Partners involved





@ Dixon Odur/NRC Uganda

Current Situation

Situational Overview

This chapter of the DRC Regional RRP covering Uganda is an updated extract from the [Uganda Country Refugee Response Plan \(UCRRP\)](#), a joint plan between the Office of the Prime Minister, UNHCR, and international and national Partners covering the period of 2022-2025. Under the UCRRP, the response for refugees from the DRC, alongside other refugee populations hosted in the country, is articulated in a comprehensive and integrated manner

Uganda remains Africa's largest refugee-hosting country by population, with over 1.8 million refugees spread across 13 districts. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) form the second-largest refugee population, totaling 575,961 as of February 2025. Uganda continues to receive a steady influx of new arrivals, placing additional strain on an already underfunded refugee response.

In 2024, a total of 47,536 Congolese refugees crossed into Uganda - surpassing the annual planning figure of 40,000. Following the rapid deterioration of security in eastern DRC in December 2024, Uganda witnessed a sharp increase in new arrivals. As of end March 2025, over 35,000 Congolese had sought asylum – almost six times the number recorded in the same period in 2024 (5,976) and 2023 (7,524).

This emergency, compounded by an unprecedented funding crisis, has placed the humanitarian and protection response under extreme strain. Partners face difficult decisions about what - and whom - to prioritize, with profound consequences for both

refugees and host communities. Protection partners have been forced to suspend critical services, including gender-based violence (GBV) prevention and response, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS). In addition, peaceful coexistence projects have been deprioritized to focus scarce resources on ensuring dignified living conditions in overcrowded transit centres and mitigating disease outbreaks, including Ebola, Cholera, Measles and Mpox.

Other life-saving interventions, such as supplementary feeding programmes for malnourished children, have also been scaled back. In both 2024 and 2025, funding shortages led to significant cuts in food assistance. In 2025, further reductions will see rations for new arrivals drop below USD 8 per person per month, while households deemed most vulnerable will receive less than USD 5 per person per month.

The large and growing refugee population has also amplified economic, environmental, and development pressures on host communities. These strains risk undermining progress made by RRP partners and the Government of Uganda in fostering social cohesion and advancing a more integrated and sustainable refugee response. Continued instability in North Kivu and Ituri Provinces is expected to drive more Congolese refugees into Uganda, through both official and unofficial border crossings.

Despite these challenges, Uganda maintains one of the most progressive asylum regimes globally,

grounded in the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations. This legal framework ensures refugees' freedom of movement and right to work, own property, run businesses, and access education and healthcare. Refugees reside in settlements alongside host communities, where they are allocated plots of land for housing and cultivation, supporting long-term self-reliance and resilience. Asylum seekers from eastern DRC are granted refugee status on a prima facie basis. Poverty levels remain high among both refugees and host populations. While refugee households have access to land, agricultural productivity is low and frequently disrupted by drought and flooding. Faced with rising economic, social, and protection pressures, refugees are increasingly resorting to negative coping mechanisms, including reducing meals, accumulating debt, and child labor.

While partners continue to prioritize essential service delivery, there is an urgent need for greater involvement from development actors, as envisioned under the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), to support the transition from humanitarian to national systems.

Despite these challenges, Uganda has been globally recognized for its exemplary leadership in refugee management, including its role as co-convenor at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF). At the GRF, the Government of Uganda reaffirmed its commitment by making five pledges: transitioning services, taking action on climate change, strengthening resilience and self-reliance, localizing responses, and pursuing durable solutions. The Uganda refugee response strategy is fully aligned with the Government's GRF commitments and continues to serve as a model for integrated, rights-based refugee protection.

Country Risks and Needs

The ongoing tension between the growing demand for humanitarian assistance and limited available resources has reached a critical point. While some sectors saw modest funding improvements in 2024 compared to 2023, the severe cuts in 2025 have significantly reduced partner presence and forced further prioritization of already stretched resources. At the same time, an increasing number of refugees are having to bear the costs to meet their basic needs, such as food and shelter.

Violence against women remains widespread among refugees and host communities, requiring urgent and sustained attention from partners. A major concern is the underreporting of GBV incidents, often driven by fear of stigma, negative reactions from family and the community, perceptions of violence against women as a private matter, and lack of trust in reporting

mechanisms. Children are particularly vulnerable, facing increased risks of neglect, separation from caregivers, violence, exploitation, child labor, child marriage, and psychological distress. Contributing factors include reductions in food assistance and limited access to land for farming, which have heightened the exposure of women and girls to domestic and partner violence. Due to underfunding in 2024, there has been a 67% reduction in caseworkers to support women and girls across the response, and most collection points and transit centres currently lack dedicated staff in this area. Looking ahead to 2025, the number of people affected by sexual violence is expected to rise significantly, particularly among new arrivals fleeing eastern DRC, where conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence is rampant.

Across Uganda, host communities and refugees, particularly new arrivals, are facing increasing mental health needs. For new arrivals, the trauma of conflict in eastern DRC and the distress of displacement are likely contributing to an increased prevalence of mental health conditions, including post-traumatic stress, anxiety, and depression. However, for most refugee and host populations, the rising scale of mental health and psychosocial needs (MHPSS) has not been matched by adequate support or services. Vulnerable groups - such as older persons, persons with disabilities, and minority populations (including religious and ethnic minorities and sex workers) - are disproportionately affected. Many face barriers to accessing basic services, whether due to physical inaccessibility or stigma and discrimination. There is an urgent need to strengthen referral pathways, expand MHPSS support, and implement targeted mitigation measures to reduce the risk of exclusion, marginalization, and protection risks for these vulnerable groups.

The 2024 Food Security and Nutrition Assessment (FSNA) found that 61 per cent of refugees from the DRC were food insecure, down from 67 per cent in June 2023. Thirty-three per cent of refugee households had poor and borderline food consumption scores, and 44 per cent employed crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies, such as selling of productive assets, withdrawing children from school, begging, and engaging in illegal activities. The majority (60 per cent) of refugee households reduced meals eaten per day or limited portion sizes as a coping strategy for food shortage. The FSNA also found that 76 per cent of refugee households had debt to pay.

Access to essential services remains problematic. Challenges related to teacher availability and qualification, inadequate infrastructure, financial resource gaps affecting the national education

system, and restricted availability of scholarships are further compounded by the new arrivals. As of December 2024, education enrolment rates stood at 45 per cent in pre-primary, 88 per cent in primary, and 9 per cent in secondary. The capacity of primary healthcare institutions in Uganda is overstretched, with clinicians conducting, on average, 54 consultations a day. This pressure is expected to grow, with cuts in the health sector budget leading to a reduction in the number of healthcare professional working across the operation. The leading causes of death are malaria, maternal and perinatal morbidity, and respiratory tract infections. Lack of medicines, long waiting times, and failure to get referrals are listed as the main obstacles for refugees to access healthcare. For human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, poor knowledge and awareness about the conditions, serious stigma, and inadequate provision of preventative and treatment services hinder interventions.

Reduction in the availability and level of WASH services is attributed to the gap between the high rate

of arrivals from the DRC since 2022 and speed of infrastructure development in settlements. With further funding reductions, the water supply could drop below 10 liters per person per day, in settlements receiving new arrivals. The strained water and sanitation infrastructure, especially in these settlements, means that up to 736,000 refugees and host community members across the operation will have limited access to safe sanitation and hygiene facilities, increasing the risk of water-borne diseases such as cholera.

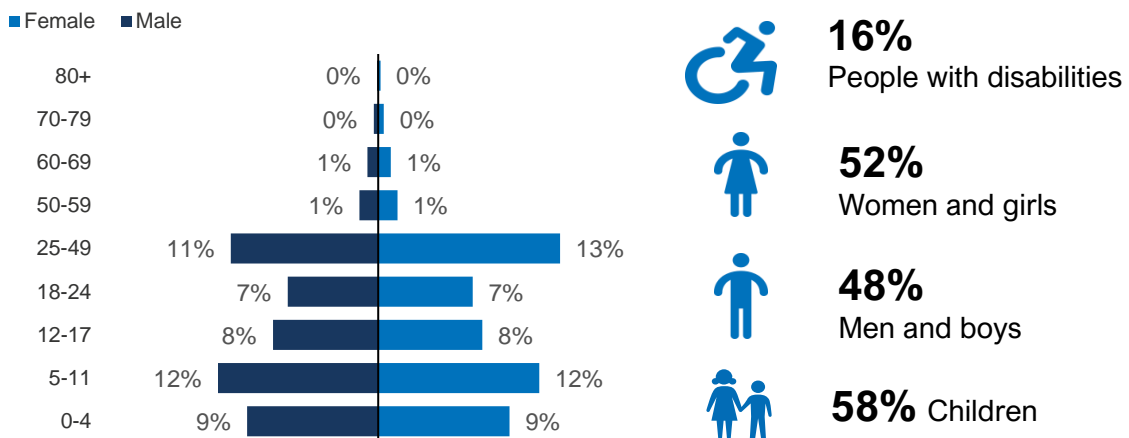
The lack of adequate electricity supply in camps is impacting partners' ability to operate health facilities, schools, water pumps, reception centres, and street lighting. Furthermore, increased environmental degradation is expected to exacerbate tensions, protection risks, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities, as well as compromise basic shelter. Major drivers of environmental degradation both within and around refugee settlements include the continuous influx of people and deforestation for fuelwood, construction materials, and farmland.



Country Response and Solutions Strategy

- ▶ In 2025 73 partners plan to assist 665,580 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC, of whom 52 per cent are women and girls, 48 per cent are men and boys, 57 per cent are children and 16 per cent are persons with disabilities. In addition partners will aim to support over 869,000 host community members.
- ▶ The 2022-2025 UCRRP promotes strategic priorities identified by the Government of Uganda and Partners, with interventions aligning to national policies and strategies to respond to evolving needs and complement and build upon international assistance programmes in the country. The plan focuses on humanitarian assistance to refugees and host communities and seeks to expand investments, partnerships, and delivery models geared towards longer-term development strategies. The UCRRP reinforces partnership and collaboration with local civil society organizations, refugee-led organizations and beneficiary communities as part of the localization agenda and to promote sustainability of interventions.
- ▶ There has been significant progress and commitment from RRP partners to use cash modalities in the response, where feasible, and harmonizing approaches. In January 2024, the Cash Working Group (CWG) launched its three-year strategy, the Harmonized Cash Approach (HCA), which positions cash as the preferred method for delivering humanitarian assistance across various sectors and aims to create an environment that promotes financial inclusion for refugees. The HCA is centred around three key pillars: improving access to and the quality of financial services for refugees; utilizing humanitarian cash assistance as a catalyst for financial inclusion and self-reliance; and harmonizing cash interventions to achieve greater efficiency.
- ▶ The response is anchored in national and regional multi-year protection frameworks, policies, laws, and standards that comprehensively address the legal and physical protection needs of refugees from the DRC. In line with the Regional RRP strategic objectives, RRP Partners in Uganda will prioritize interventions to achieve the following five objectives, which will drive the sectoral responses and are underpinned by the regional cross-cutting principles and priorities.

▶ 2025 Age and gender breakdown - refugee population to be assisted





Country Strategic Objectives

- ▶ **Uganda's asylum space is strengthened and unhindered; access to territory preserved; international protection standards are adhered to**

RRP Partners will continue to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to asylum, fair and accelerated asylum procedures as well as full enjoyment of their rights as set forth in international and domestic laws. Partners will continue to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to respond to emergencies, and support improvements in registration and the asylum system. Partners will continue to provide protection services while supporting the integration of protection services within national systems based on identification and referral of cases through protection monitoring, and will work with community-based structures to mitigate protection risks.

- ▶ **Life-saving humanitarian needs of refugees and asylum-seekers are met, with attention to any specific needs**

After the immediate needs of refugees and displaced families have been met, partners will continue to provide life-saving assistance on an ongoing basis. This includes access to protection, healthcare, shelter and more. In addition, special focus will be given to vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion to ensure equal access to protection services and assistance and decision-making opportunities.

- ▶ **All affected people¹¹ in refugee-hosting districts benefit from a healthy natural environment and improved social services, including health, education, water & sanitation, and social welfare, provided through national systems, where possible**

RRP Partners will continue to work to promote inclusive access to quality education and health through national systems; sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems; and inclusion of refugees into national development plans and national statistical systems. Partners will increase advocacy with development actors to bridge the humanitarian-development divide and further facilitate the transition

¹¹ The [UCRRP](#) refers to "People of Concern" in its Response Plan, a category which includes "refugees, returnees, stateless people, internally displaced people, and asylum-seekers"

from humanitarian response to stabilization, recovery, and development, in line with the Government's commitments to achieve the goals of the CRRF/GCR.

- ▶ **All affected people in refugee-hosting districts live peacefully with each other and progressively attain self-reliance in an environment conducive for livelihood opportunities**

Peaceful coexistence among communities as well as the provision of mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS) will remain a priority. The peaceful co-existence prevailing in the settlements and surrounding communities enables refugees and asylum-seekers to pursue livelihood and economic activities for the enhancement of their self-reliance. Partners will continue to strengthen the enabling environment for refugee economic inclusion through strengthening coordination structures at both settlement and national levels. Sustained advocacy for refugee access to economic resources such as arable land, formal employment opportunities and enterprise development will continue to be pursued.

- ▶ **Refugees and stateless persons access durable solutions, including voluntary return or third-country solutions**

Considering ongoing armed conflicts in the areas of the DRC from where Congolese refugees in Uganda originate, safe returns are not an option for this population at present¹². Advocacy for peace-building processes and negotiations will continue with the aim of creating an enabling environment for voluntary repatriation to the DRC. Partners will further advocate for resettlement and complementary pathways for refugees in need of family reunification in third countries, while international scholarships and labor mobility opportunities are promoted and facilitated for talented refugees.

The progressive refugee framework provides a conducive environment for refugees to become self-reliant. Partners will continue to promote self-reliance among refugees and inclusion in national systems where possible.

¹² [UNHCR Position on Returns](#) to North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri and Adjacent Areas in the Democratic Republic of Congo Affected by Ongoing Conflict and Violence— Update III, Nov 2022

Sectoral Responses

Protection

The overall protection objective is to ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers have access to a fair, efficient, and adaptable asylum system, as well as full enjoyment of the rights outlined in international and domestic laws.

Partners will continue to strengthen the capacity of national institutions to respond to emergencies and support improvements in registration and the asylum system. RRP partners will provide protection services, based on identification and referral of cases through protection monitoring, and will work with community-based structures to mitigate protection risks. Partners will work in close collaboration with community-based structures including the Refugee welfare committees (RWCs), sector specific structures like the Village health teams (VHTs), child protection committees (CPCs), Village education committees (VECs) and Refugee led organizations (RLOs), to identify protection needs and support referrals to service providers. Increased efforts will be directed at reinforcing comprehensive feedback and response mechanisms to ensure accountability to affected populations. In addition, special focus will be given to vulnerable groups at risk of exclusion to ensure equal access to protection services and assistance as well as decision-making opportunities.

Child Protection Sub-Sector

Child protection is a priority, given the large number of refugee and asylum-seeker children in Uganda (over 957,00 as of the end of 2024) and the disproportionate number of unaccompanied and separated children. During displacement, children are often at a heightened risk of violence, abuse, neglect, child marriage, teenage pregnancy, and child labour. To promote longer-term change and prevent violations of child rights, Child Protection partners will work to

enhance the role of community structures in protecting children, in line with the National Child Policy of Further, to address complex needs of refugee children, the Child Protection Partners will continue to apply a comprehensive approach. This approach will prioritize the provision of quality best interests procedure for children at risk; the placement of unaccompanied children into adequate alternative care through community-based fostering initiatives, in line with the National Framework for Alternative Care, under leadership of the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development; the promotion of children's access to psychosocial support and recreation; access to juvenile justice as per the national child justice strategy 2023/2024-2028/2029 and targeted programming focused on the specific needs of adolescent girls and boys. To foster sustainability and change, all programmes will integrate capacity-development activities for Partners, including UN and NGO personnel and community level workers. All activities as aligned to the child protection strategy are aimed at facilitating the inclusion of refugee and Ugandan children under national child protection systems.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

To reduce the occurrence of GBV, which disproportionately affects women and children, RRP partners will continue to engage in prevention activities aimed at addressing the root causes of violence, including longer-term attitude and behaviour changes. To see longer-term changes in attitudes towards gender norms and power relationships, the [SASA! Together Methodology](#), which focuses on domestic violence against women, is currently being rolled out in eight out of 13 refugee-hosting districts, and will be rolled out gradually to all the refugee settlements.



Provision of maternal health services at Rwamwanja Health facility, Uganda. @Medical Teams International

Protection's links to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges:

Durable Solutions:

- While durable solutions remain limited for refugees from DRC, Partners will work with the Government to implement their GRF pledges. To enhance resilience, RRP Partners will continue to work with the Government to enhance access to electronic Conventional Travel Documents and other civil documentation (birth certificates, ID cards) and advocate for resettlement, complementary pathways, and family reunification. Advocacy for peace-building processes and negotiations will continue with the aim of voluntary repatriation to the DRC.

Localization:

- Support the localization of protection services within national systems, including relevant Ministries, District Local Governments (DLG) and local actors.
- Collaborate with and invest in local refugee-led organizations, women's groups, and women-serving organizations. This will involve capacity building and supporting activities and initiatives established by these organizations.

GBV Partners will ensure that survivors of GBV have access to survivor-centred and timely case management services, as well as linking survivors to multisectoral support. The comprehensive referral

pathways in place at national and sub-national levels, ensuring timely access to GBV specialized services, will be enhanced and regularly updated, and inter-agency GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response standard operating procedures will be developed.

In line with the [2021-2025 National GBV Sector Working Group Strategy](#), GBV incidents will be reduced by integrating risk mitigation measures and

reviewing sectoral strategies and activities. Partners have developed comprehensive referral pathways at national and sub-national levels ensuring timely access to GBV-specialized services. In 2025, the sub-Sector will scale up training of frontline workers and enhance the integration of GBV response into existing national coordination platforms, in collaboration with the OPM, the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) and Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) for the urban caseload. The Sector will support refugee and women-led organizations and civil society actors to upscale their engagement in GBV prevention and response, as well as their contribution to the coordination structure.

Education

To ensure equitable access to quality education for over 243,000 school-aged children and younger people from the DRC in refugee-hosting areas, the Ministry of Education and Sports, in partnership with stakeholders developed the second Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities

(ERP II, 2024-2025). The UCRRP is aligned with the ERP II, and its main objective is to ensure the population in refugee-hosting districts benefits from improved access to social services, including education (36 per cent provided through national systems). RRP partners will continue to advocate for school coding to ensure that refugees can benefit from direct government support disbursed via a capitation payment model, that will cover teaching and learning material needs, school maintenance, administration and utility costs.

Partners will continue to provide safe, equitable, and inclusive quality education and training services to increase access and the retention of children, adolescents, and young people, particularly girls, within a progressively integrated (refugees and host communities) education system, in line with the aspirations of the ERP II.

To enhance government-led coordination, system strengthening, and monitoring and evaluation, Education Partners will advocate for supportive plans, strategies, and regulatory frameworks through community-level engagement. Partners will also ensure that the Sector benefits from the multisectoral coordination of services, strengthened evidence-driven planning and decision-making, and policy and regulatory advocacy.

Education's link to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges:

Integration/Transition and Localization:

- RRP partners will continue to ensure advocacy for coding of more schools so that more refugees can benefit from direct government support including capitation, to meet teaching and learning material needs, school maintenance, administration, and utility costs.
- The capacity of District Local Governments (DLGs) will be strengthened in line with the National Government's approach to delivering public services to the host community. Ongoing good practices will be considered, for example the hiring and the management of teachers some DLGs, with the expansion of this type of approach expected to be rolled out in more DLGs.

Food Security

Since mid-2023 the Food Security Sector has progressively shifted to needs-based targeting of all food and cash assistance distributed to refugees. The new model resulted from consultations, including with refugee and host communities, and drew extensively on vulnerability data of an individual profiling exercise

of all refugees in 2022-23. Due to limited funding, food rations are being further reduced in 2025 to prioritize those most in need: new arrivals will see their rations cut to 60%, vulnerable households will receive 40%, while moderately vulnerable households will receive 22%. Refugees considered self-reliant will continue to be transitioned off food assistance.

In 2025, partners will continue to assess the needs and causes of food insecurity across the different settlements through the food and nutrition security monitoring and evaluation systems, such as the FSNA and post-distribution monitoring, to inform and improve the targeting criteria for individual households based on needs and context. The choice of the assistance type (cash or in-kind) will continue to be based on feasibility and appropriateness, while taking into consideration the specific needs of groups such as women, girls, and people with disabilities.

Food security's link to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges:

Increasing sustainable agricultural productivity (Increasing resilience and self-reliance):

- The sector will continue to work closely with the Livelihood and Resilience sector, to support and scale up food production initiatives in the settlements such as group farming and seed multiplication to improve access to food by the refugee households.

Public Health & Nutrition

The Health and Nutrition Sector aims to ensure the provision of equitable, safe, quality, and sustainable health services for new arrivals, refugees, and host communities. Efforts are underway to integrate comprehensive primary healthcare for refugees into the national health system. A key focus will be on strengthening disease prevention, particularly for Ebola, Cholera, and Mpox, which have been confirmed in Uganda. Prevention efforts will include health promotion, engagement of Village Health Teams and Refugee Welfare Councils, and the provision of curative, palliative, and rehabilitative services, in line with the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan 2019-2024, which is currently under evaluation and revision.

The overall goal will be to have improved healthy and productive lives through reducing maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality, reducing morbidity and mortality associated with HIV and tuberculosis; reducing mortality and disability from communicable and non-communicable diseases; enhancing well-being through mental health and psychosocial support

services; and reducing mortality and the impact of undernutrition.

Health's link to the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) pledges:

Integration/Transition and Localization:

- RRP partners will continue to ensure advocacy for health centres to be integrated into government systems.
- The capacity of District Local Governments (DLGs) will be strengthened in line with the National Government's approach to delivering public services to the host community.



Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

In a context of high levels of poverty and unpredictable and relatively static humanitarian funding, the only way forward for most refugees is to seize economic opportunities and become self-sufficient. The sector will aim to ensure that refugees and host communities live peacefully, and progressively attain self-reliance in a conducive environment. Agriculture remains the dominant sector of employment for 40 per cent of refugees from the DRC, driven by the fact that the settlements are in rural areas. The sector will promote surplus agricultural production integrated into national value chains and facilitate employment linkages and enterprise development. The Sector priorities are aligned with Uganda's [Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan](#) and [National Development Plan III \(2020/21 – 2025/26\)](#).

Livelihood's link to the GRF pledges:

Increasing resilience and self-reliance:

- As part of the GRF, the Government has pledged to create a minimum of 300,000 viable economic opportunities for refugees and host communities by 2027. Partners will support by advocating for
- and facilitating access to sufficient farmland, as well as enhancing productivity to improve income sources, food security, and nutrition. In addition, they will support value-addition initiatives, promote access to better produce markets, provide market-driven skills training, encourage private sector investment activities, and facilitate apprenticeships and job placements.



Settlement and Shelter/Housing

The Settlement and Shelter/ Housing Sector will cover the Environment and Energy Sector and the provision of Non-Food Items (NFIs). It will ensure that refugees benefit from a healthy and resilient natural environment and improved social services provided through national systems. Achieving a healthy environment that also meets the community's needs for shelter, water, livelihoods, and settlement services requires an integrated, area-based approach to settlement planning that takes into consideration land-carrying capacity, the sustainability of natural resources, and community priorities. Before the relocation of new arrivals, land will be systematically planned and demarcated for appropriate uses following a master plan approach to settlement planning. Through awareness-raising, refugees and host communities will be mobilized to actively carry out tree-growing initiatives at household, institutional, and community levels. Recent assessments have highlighted that refugees often settle in hard-to-reach areas near fragile natural resources, causing overexploitation and ecosystem degradation. Therefore, a comprehensive physical planning approach is being discussed with relevant stakeholders and will be piloted to address shortcoming in land use planning within Uganda's refugee settlements.

Environment's link to the GRF pledges:

Taking actions on climate change:

- Efforts will continue to support the Government's GRF pledges to include refugees in climate change adaptation and mitigation action plans aimed at effectively reducing the carbon emissions from deforestation and enhancing access to safe, clean, and affordable energy in refugee-hosting districts by 2027.



WASH

WASH Partners will aim to improve access to equitable, sustainable, safe WASH services, including solarization of water systems to replace diesel-powered generators. Needs of the population and the environment will remain at the centre of all interventions. Innovative approaches will also be explored to help refugees and host communities achieve self-reliance. The specific needs of refugee groups, including people with disabilities and women and girls, will be addressed. The [Water and Environment Refugee Response Plan \(WESRRP\)](#) is currently being evaluated and updated. Partners will continue focusing on the incorporation of the delivery of WASH services into systems managed by government institutions, such as the Ministry of Water and Environment, Catchment Management Committees, Utilities authorities, and Local governments.

WASH service improvements are expected in households and institutions like schools and health facilities. Improvement in the coverage and quality of water supply and sanitation infrastructure is needed to meet minimum thresholds for WASH services¹³, taking into account the needs of new arrivals. In line with the objectives of the Energy and Environment

Sector, the use of renewable energy for pumping will be promoted. Community engagement in managing facilities and services will be strengthened to improve participation and ownership. Finally, opportunities to

engage with the private sector will be explored.

WASH's link to the GRF pledges:

Integration/Transition and Localization:

- The sector is focusing on the inclusion of WASH service delivery into government-mandated institutions to improve WASH services at households and institutions.
- The capacity of District Local Governments (DLGs) will be strengthened in line with the National Government's approach to delivering public services to the host community.

¹³ The target is to meet minimum thresholds of water supply at 15 litres per person per day and sanitation at a ratio of one latrine stance per 50 people



Partnership and Cooperation

The UCRRP promotes the strategic priorities identified by the Government of Uganda and Partners, with interventions aligned with national policies and strategies. It seeks to complement other frameworks and international assistance in the country. Uganda's refugee response is co-led by UNHCR and the Department of Refugees within the OPM.

The multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society refugee response is coordinated under the leadership of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework ([CRRF Steering Group](#)), the main policy and decision-making body for the implementation of the CRRF. The Steering Group (CRRF SG) is co-led by the OPM and the Ministry of Local Government in a national arrangement for the fulfilment of GCR commitments. Its membership includes government departments and agencies, local authorities, development and humanitarian donors, UN Agencies, NGOs, the private sector, and international financial actors. The CRRF SG also involves the participation of affected populations, with five Ugandan nationals and two refugees representing their communities.

The Refugee Engagement Forum and the District Engagement Forum in Kampala are quarterly events that bring together refugee leaders from all settlements and representatives of refugee-hosting districts ahead of the CRRF SG meetings to provide communities with a platform that amplifies their voices and ensure timely report of issues to the CRRF SG.

In the lead up to the December 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), 11 UN Agencies in Uganda came forward to renew and strengthen their commitments to the refugee response through the UN Common Pledge 2.0. While UNHCR works closely with the Resident Coordinator (RC) and Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in the implementation of this UNCT Common Pledge/commitments, the RC will continue to provide strategic leadership, with support of the RCO, for enhancing UN joint advocacy on refugee inclusion and for ensuring UN Agencies' accountability to their specific commitments which align with the Government's pledges at the GRF.





Financial Requirements

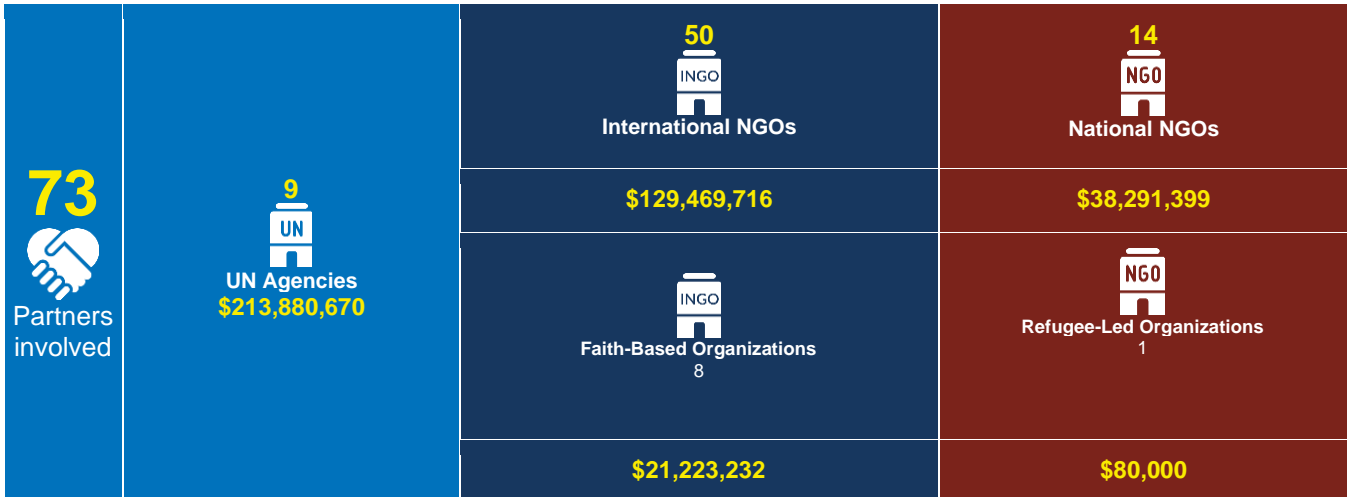
Total financial requirements

2024
\$355,093,420

2025
\$381,641,785
of which \$44.4 M for emergency

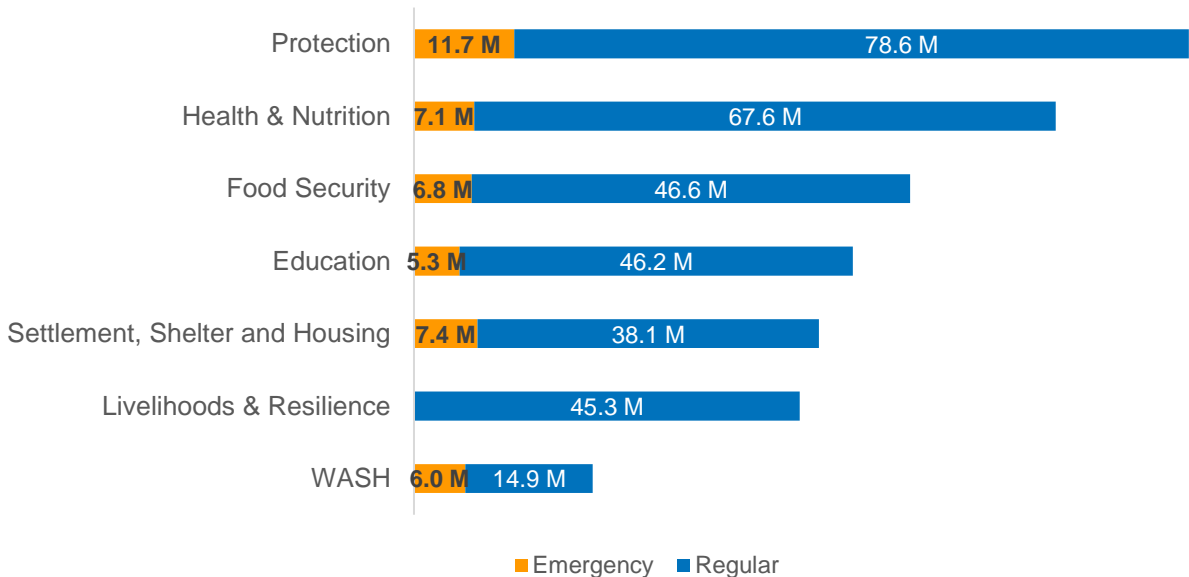


2025 Budget by Partner Type




2025 Budget by Sector

In Millions of US \$





 Total Protection Requirements \$90,393,516	
GBV \$13,509,893	Child Protection \$19,600,398

 Total Cash Assistance Modality* \$33,761,348		
Health and Nutrition \$5,187,226	Food Security \$27,939,745	Shelter and NFIs \$634,377

2025 Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$	Emergency Requirements In US\$
United Nations	213,880,670	26,394,191
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	120,186,546	10,660,542
World Food Programme (WFP)	45,835,659	3,289,577
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	11,500,000	2,500,000
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	8,000,000	
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	6,298,471	480,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	9,691,700	4,750,000
World Health Organization (WHO)	2,500,000	
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	7,548,294	4,284,072
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)	2,320,000	430,000
International NGOs	129,469,716	17,806,888
Save the Children International (SC)	17,700,000	
Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA)	14,621,239	
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	14,210,000	4,810,000
Mercy Corps (MC)	10,000,000	
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	9,700,000	2,300,000
Medical Teams International (MTI)	7,041,029	878,856
Alight (formerly American Refugee Committee) (Alight)	5,696,010	709,343
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	5,100,000	2,200,000
Finn Church Aid (FCA)	5,351,000	651,000
War Child Canada (WCC)	4,500,000	



Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI)	3,569,000	
Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)	2,600,000	
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	2,497,850	27,850
Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)	2,550,000	350,000
War Child Holland (WCH)	2,419,080	1,819,080
Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam)	2,847,500	1,047,500
Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)	1,394,260	
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	2,573,134	1,185,259
Malteser International (Malteser)	1,118,882	
World Vision International (WVI)	1,113,000	
Self Help Africa (SHA)	1,000,000	
Street Child (Street Child)	985,910	
Humanity & Inclusion (HI)	850,000	
Give Directly (Give Directly)	787,500	
Windle International Uganda (WIU)	771,281	
Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)	750,000	
Plan International	728,000	188,000
World Youth Organization (WYO)	500,000	
DanChurchAid (DCA)	500,000	
Church World Service (CWS)	500,000	500,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	1,500,000	1,050,000
Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER (SCA))	450,000	
Caritas Uganda (Caritas)	417,216	
Opportunity International UK (Opportunity International UK)	350,000	
International Aid Services (IAS)	330,000	
IsraAID (IsraAID)	330,000	
Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF)	300,000	
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	300,000	
Right to Play (RtP)	300,000	



Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)	262,000	
DAI Global LLC (DAI)	250,000	
Children on the Edge Africa (COTEA)	152,067	
ZOA International (ZOA)	107,326	
Child Voice International (ChildVoice)	72,000	
Alliance Forum for Development (AFOD)	90,000	
Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR)	90,000	90,000
Community Volunteer Initiative for Development (COVOID)	72,432	
HealthRight International (HRI)	52,000	
Hope Health Action East Africa	50,000	
HelpAge International (HelpAge)	20,000	
National NGOs	38,291,399	235,000
Baylor college of Medicine Children's Foundation-Uganda (BAYLOR)	18,126,777	
Tusitukire Wamu Group (TWG)	3,550,000	
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative	3,452,610	
Trust Synergy Foundation - Uganda (TSFU)	3,361,100	
Hunger Fighters Uganda (HFU)	2,654,827	
Refugee Law Project (RLP)	2,050,000	
African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD)	1,710,000	
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)	1,380,000	150,000
Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI)	1,146,869	
Soroti Rural Development Agency (SORUDA)	350,000	
Hopelink Action Foundation Uganda (HAF Uganda)	305,000	
Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS)	85,000	85,000
All For Integral Development	80,000	
Andre Foods International (AFI)	39,216	
Total	\$381,641,785	44,436,079

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



101,869
2025 refugee population to be assisted



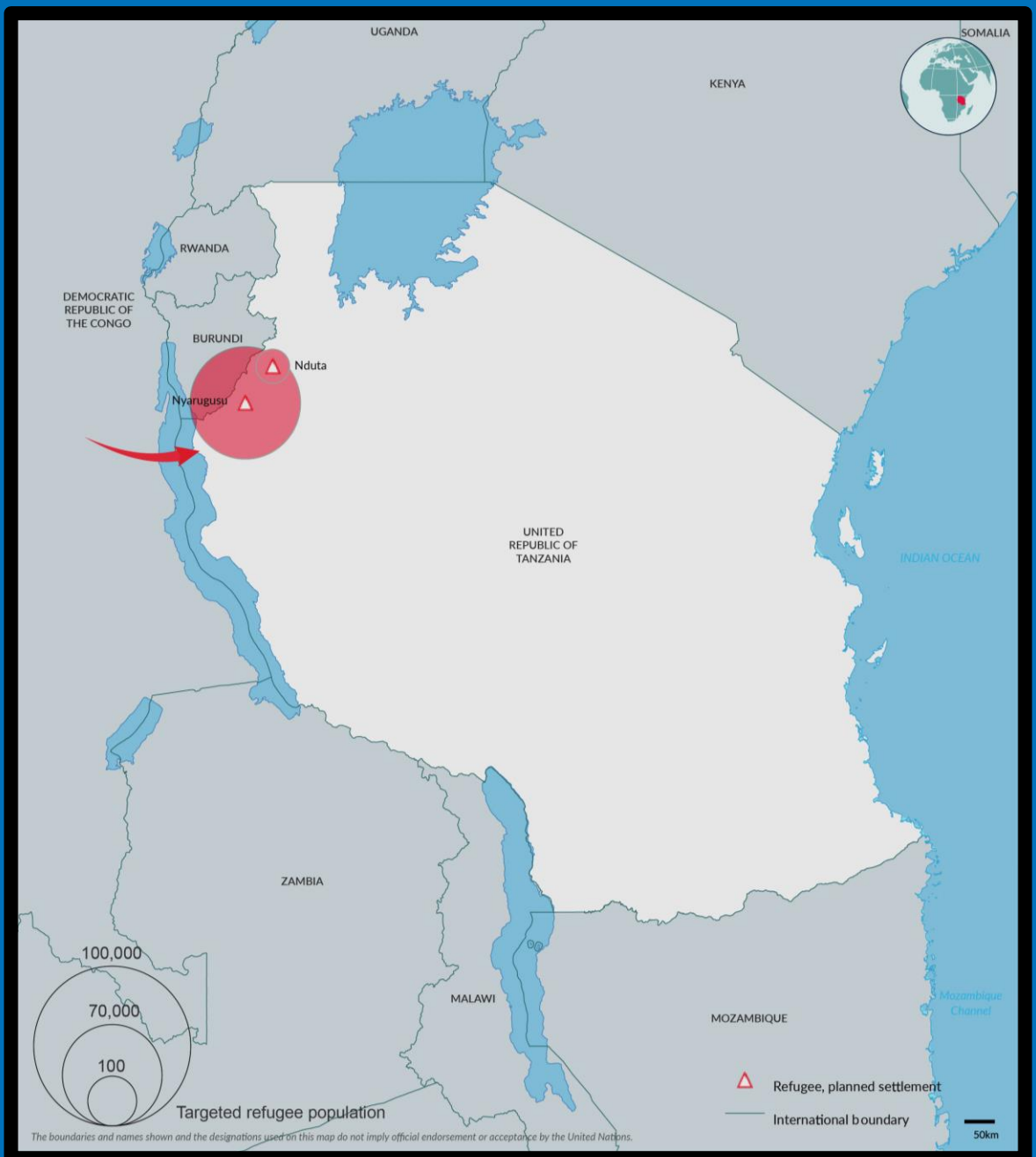
22,641
2025 host community members benefiting from assistance



100.4M
2025 total financial requirements



15
Partners involved





© UNHCR/Maimuna Mtengela

Current Situation

Situational Overview

As of the end of 2024, the United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania) hosted 85,546 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). With few exceptions, all are registered as residing in Nyarugusu Camp, located in the Kigoma Region of northwest Tanzania. Since its creation in 1996, the camp has received successive influxes of refugees from the DRC. Since March 2023, Tanzania received a marked increase in new arrivals from the DRC due to renewed violence and continued instability in the eastern areas of the DRC, mainly North Kivu and South Kivu. By the end of 2023, over 14,000 new arrivals from the DRC were received in Kigoma Region and provided protection and assistance. While in 2024 the rate of new arrivals slowed, with only 333 new arrivals received in Tanzania over

the course of 2024, the rate of new arrivals considerably increased following the unrest in eastern DRC since the beginning of 2025 with approximately 1,700 new arrivals recorded over the first three months of the year.

In Tanzania, refugee affairs are governed by two main legal instruments: the [1998 Refugees Act](#) and the [2003 Refugee Policy](#), both of which contain restrictive

sets of measures for refugees and asylum-seekers.

Constraints on access to territory and asylum procedures severely impact refugee populations. Since January 2017, border entry points have largely been either closed or made inaccessible to humanitarian partners. Furthermore, a strict encampment policy, coupled with limitations on livelihood and self-reliance opportunities, contributes to increased dependence on humanitarian assistance. This policy also limits access to national systems and public services, including education services. These restrictive measures also apply to all refugees (including Burundians) residing in Nduta and Nyarugusu camps.

Despite this context, the March 2022 High-Level Bilateral Meeting between UNHCR and the Government of Tanzania, as well as visits by the UNHCR High Commissioner in August 2022 and February 2023, have provided a platform for engagement and collaboration with the Government for the preservation of the asylum space. This has paved the way for granting access to territory for asylum-seekers from the DRC since 2023.

At the 2019 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the Government pledged to ensure access to territory, to establish a fair and efficient asylum procedures, to

provide quality education for refugees and to regularize access to labour markets¹⁴. These pledges were reconfirmed by the government at the 2023 GRF. RRP Partners will continue advocating for implementation of pledges made by the Government. Durable solutions remain beyond the reach of many, with few options for local integration and voluntary return, while third-country resettlement is likely to decrease substantially in 2025 due to the USA's decision to suspend its resettlement programme. In 2024, 6,359 Congolese refugees were submitted for resettlement, with 6,346 individuals from the DRC actually resettled, of whom 87 per cent went to the USA.

Country Risks and Needs

The reduction of food rations due to limited funding will continue in 2025, with refugees and asylum seekers residing in the Nyarugusu Camp receiving 82 per cent of dry food rations. Combined with limitations on livelihood opportunities and restrictions on freedom of movement due to the encampment policy, these cuts are likely to contribute to deteriorating nutrition conditions among the refugee population, as well as increased exposure to protection risks. The complex and challenging protection environment in the country combined with underfunding has greatly affected the provision of assistance. Against this backdrop, refugees, particularly children, women and youth, increasingly resort to harmful coping mechanisms, with growing prevalence of early/ forced marriages, various forms of abuses, arrest, and detention, exploitation and GBV. Children, who account for almost 58 per cent of the refugee population, have inadequate assistance and continue to face various protection risks, including violence and neglect. Poor-quality diets and vitamin and mineral deficiencies contribute to delayed childhood development, causing irreparable damage, which could lead to chronic health conditions in later life.

Refugees continue to face multiple protection risks resulting from a range of factors including overcrowded shelters, and a lack of domestic energy supply, with concerns of abuses while accessing cooking fuel (firewood). Government restrictions on shelter upgrades negatively impact the ability to provide support that is tailored to the needs of the community, especially for members who require specialized assistance.

Following the High-Level Bilateral Meeting between the Government and UNHCR in 2022, some improvements were observed related to livelihoods. An agreement was reached to facilitate the continuation of household-level kitchen gardening activities. In 2024, 3,650 individuals (2,691 women and 959 men) in the camps were supported with kitchen gardens. However, government policies and directives related to livelihoods remain restrictive. Refugees living in camps are still fully dependent on humanitarian support.

These concerns require immediate redress to ensure access to territory expedited adjudication processes; secured access to protection services; improved livelihood activities for refugees in camps; enhanced access to education, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and health and nutrition services; and enhanced coordination and collaboration between Protection Partners and government counterparts.



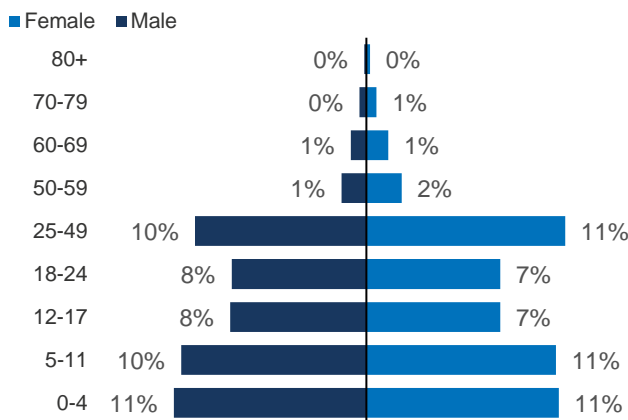
¹⁴ Refugees in Tanzania are educated using the curriculum of the country of asylum. 2024-2025 DRC Regional RRP



Country Response and Solutions Strategy

- ▶ In 2025, the 15 RRP partners in Tanzania plan to assist **101,869** refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC (52 per cent of whom are women and girls, 48 per cent are men and boys, 57 per cent are children, and 16 per cent who are people with disabilities). In addition, partners will aim to support **22,641** members of the host community during the year.
- ▶ RRP Partners are committed to continuing the provision of protection services and essential assistance to refugees and asylum seekers from the DRC. They will focus on targeted interventions that meet the refugees' and host communities' humanitarian and development needs. The Tanzania response plan is steered by four overarching objectives, which drive the respective sectoral responses, and is underpinned by the regional cross-cutting principles and priorities.

2025 Age and gender breakdown - refugee population to be assisted



16%
People with disabilities



51%
Women and girls



49% Men and boys



58% Children

Country Strategic Objectives

► Enable a protection environment in compliance with international standards

RRP Partners will continue to collaborate with authorities, strategic stakeholders, and refugee representatives to tackle protection concerns. Priorities include ensuring access to territory, expanding border monitoring, improving asylum procedures, supporting timely adjudication processes and guaranteeing freedom of movement as well as access to justice, GBV services, and child protection.

The response will prioritize strengthening the national legal aid capacity on asylum and statelessness issues, through the mobilization of human rights institutions and civil society organizations. To enhance protection and assistance outcomes, capacity-building and technical support will be provided to actors that strengthen the overall protection environment. Additionally, partners will adopt a community-based approach to build a comprehensive understanding of community needs and to facilitate more sustainable responses.

► Ensure enjoyment of fundamental rights and access to essential services

Both new arrivals and more protracted refugees from the DRC will receive timely, life-saving, and protection-sensitive humanitarian assistance and services, with a focus on achieving durable solutions. RRP Partners will work with different stakeholders to ensure basic needs are covered, including livelihood opportunities within camps, education, health,

nutrition, and WASH.

Partners will continue efforts to improve the quality of services being delivered in Nyarugusu camp, and will ensure that programmes meet international standards. Assistance will be delivered in partnership with line ministries and departments to promote local ownership, improve the quality of services, and advocate for the inclusion of asylum-seekers and refugees in national systems and public services.

Refugees were, through advocacy at UN Country Team-level, successfully included in the UN Common Country Analysis and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) across different outcome areas. Partners will continue to build on these efforts to ensure that asylum-seekers and refugees are included in development projects to strengthen national systems and public services.

► Promote self-reliance and social cohesion

While it remains unlikely that restrictions on refugee movement will be eased, partners will continue advocating with the Government to enhance refugee livelihood activities. Simultaneously, partners will continue with the design and implementation of sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion programming, including kitchen gardening and vocational and technical training. This will help increase and diversify households' dietary and nutritional intakes and equip households with the skills to establish their self-reliance and combat socioeconomic vulnerabilities.

Partners will continue to promote community-based protection networks and local leadership structures to strengthen social cohesion and promote peaceful coexistence. The UN implements the Kigoma Joint

Programme Phase Two, designed to extend development support to refugees, migrants, and host communities through an area and humanitarian-development-peace approach. This programme is implemented in collaboration with regional and district authorities, communities, and other stakeholders.

► Reach refugees with a wider range of durable solutions

As the situation in the DRC is not conducive for returns, partners will continue to support and advocate for resettlement, as well as complementary pathways for refugee admission to third countries. To support this, partners will continue to engage in judicious analyses of cases to inform advocacy on increasing resettlement quotas, in alignment with the principle of global responsibility-sharing presented by the Global Compact on Refugees.

Partners will also seek to engage the Government in reviewing its administrative and national policies that have created the perception that resettlement and voluntary repatriation are the main available solutions. This review aims to include local solutions, such as integration and naturalization, which have not received sufficient attention as possible solutions.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

Advocacy for access to territory, including increased access to border areas and to screening procedures, will continue. Partners will seek a verification exercise and correction of registration biodata to ensure access to assistance and social services. Protection partners will further advocate for the timely adjudication or provision of refugee status to ensure access to assistance and solutions, namely resettlement.

Further, partners will conduct awareness-raising sessions to help refugees understand their legal rights, duties, and options when facing legal issues. Partners will assist with dispute resolution, legal coaching, and legal representation for children. This will also comprise monitoring visits to prisons, police stations, and immigration offices. Access to legal proceedings, including the use of the Nyarugusu Virtual Court, will continue to be pursued. Partners will seek the inclusion of refugees in national and district development systems and to the lifting of restrictions on freedom of movement.

Given limited options for local integration and voluntary return, the most feasible durable solution will continue to be resettlement. The submission of

cases for resettlement consideration will continue. Complementary pathways will continue to be pursued to take advantage of expanded access to various programmes in third countries.

Child Protection Sub-Sector

Child protection interventions remain a high priority, given that nearly 58 per cent of refugees in Tanzania are under the age of 18. The child protection strategy will continue to focus on strengthening inclusive child protection systems, supporting children, families and communities to protect children, providing child protection services for children at risk, strengthening child-friendly protection, solutions, participation, communication, accountability, and child protection mainstreaming. This will include best interests procedures and specialized stand-alone integrated services that help to reach solutions that are in the child's best interest.

Community-based child protection structures will be strengthened to facilitate the timely identification and safe referral of at-risk children, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), in line with the standard operating procedures and referral pathways established by the child protection sub-sector. The best interest procedure will be strengthened to respond to the changing protection environment and growing needs. Partners will prioritize increasing access to civil documentation and birth registration in coordination with the Government of Tanzania Registration Insolvency and Trusteeship Agency, intensify verification and assessments to formalize alternative care arrangements and provide durable solutions for 3,500 UASC. Additionally, Protection Partners will strengthen community-based child protection structures and response mechanisms within the camps and host community, and integrate child-friendly approaches and mechanisms in services provision across all sectors.

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

GBV prevention, risk mitigation, and response remain a priority and will be implemented through a multi-sectoral approach and mainstreamed across sectors. Implementation will be guided by range of inter-agency guidelines national policies including the GBV standard operating procedures, UNHCR GBV Policy and UNHCR Tanzania GBV Strategy.

Prevention and risk mitigation activities will focus on the strategic and meaningful participation of community members and structures through mass information sessions, trainings, campaigns, and the implementation of social transformation programmes, such as engaging men and boys in accountability

practices ¹⁵. Economic empowerment activities focusing on skills-building and informal education sessions will be prioritized to promote recovery, resilience, and mitigate root causes.

Routine GBV risk assessments will be conducted, and mitigation and response measures will be jointly implemented with all sectors. Gender-based violence case and data management will be harmonized using inter-agency case management tools and a GBV information management system.

Education

Education partners will continue to focus on ensuring access to quality education and retention of refugee children, while striving to enrol out-of-school refugee children, with specific focus on girls. Shortage of infrastructure, including classrooms, laboratories, offices, latrines, and WASH facilities, remains a challenge. Overall education activities face quality constraints due to inadequate teaching and learning materials, low teacher incentives, inadequate capacity-building opportunities, and poor-quality assurance mechanisms. Semi-permanent classrooms are dilapidated and require renovation.

The issue of high school dropout rates, and shortages of qualified teachers caused by resettlement and inadequate remuneration remains an issue. Partners will seek to address these challenges through a range of interventions including community sensitization case management services in schools, positive discipline training, psychosocial support, the rehabilitation of school infrastructure, the provision of teaching and learning materials, capacity-building for teachers, and providing incentive payments. In parallel, RRP partners will continue to advocate for refugee inclusion in the national education system.

Food Security

Insufficient funding has led to a 20 per cent reduction in food rations, significantly affecting the refugee population living in camps. The food rations for refugees have been progressively decreasing, leading to a deterioration in food consumption patterns and an increase in poor and borderline consumption. This has severely affected the food security and nutrition of refugee communities, compelling them to resort to harmful coping mechanisms. Considering the limited livelihood opportunities within the camp and lack of market access, the primary focus of partners will be to advocate with donors for more funding to improve the

food basket.

Additionally, partners will maintain the supplementary nutrition programme for the most vulnerable populations, such as children under 5, pregnant and lactating women, and people with chronic illnesses, including mental health issues. Expansion of kitchen gardening programmes will be promoted to expand dietary diversity among refugees. Partners will also carry out multisectoral assessments and monitoring activities to continuously assess and analyse the food security situation of forcibly displaced and stateless populations.

Public Health & Nutrition

Comprehensive primary healthcare services are crucial and will be prioritized for refugees and host communities. Priority will be given to, improving the quality of healthcare services- including HIV and family planning services- and strengthening disease surveillance and control. Emphasis will be placed on upgrading the health infrastructure and improving referral care services, including outreach campaigns, which will include specialist visits and medical referrals to secondary and tertiary level care. Attention will also be given to reproductive and children's health. RRP Partners will support the provision of essential medicines and the delivery of a range of health services, including mental health and psychosocial support.

Malnutrition remains a significant public health concern, especially among newly arrived asylum-seekers. High-impact nutrition interventions will be prioritized, including prevention and management of acute malnutrition through a community-based approach, promoting and supporting infant and young child feeding practices, preventing micronutrient deficiency, and strengthening activities for behaviour change communication.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

RRP partners will continue to implement multiple livelihood interventions, such as the cultivation of kitchen gardens; promotion of sustainable agricultural practices; provision of life, technical, and vocational skills training; distribution of inputs for vegetable production for dietary diversification; installation of information and communication technologies for online learning; and promotion of small-scale commercial activities. Partners will ensure that the host community also benefits from activities to promote good agricultural practices and be provided

¹⁵ For example, initiatives such as Engaging Men Through Accountable Practice and Girl Shine.

with small-scale irrigation support.

Partners will continue promoting a comprehensive and integrated approach by facilitating the inclusion of refugees in national and district systems. This will further promote peaceful coexistence between refugee and host communities. Some initiatives will focus on climate-smart agricultural practices, enabling refugees to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, including floods and droughts. These practices involve the use of drought-resistant crop varieties, implementing mulching and crop rotation in kitchen gardens and sensitizing refugees to preparedness, response, and recovery. Moreover, refugees will be supported with Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) skills. Specifically, refugees will acquire knowledge and skills on soap making, tailoring, and carpentry.

Settlement and Shelter/Housing

The Shelter response will continue to be guided by a community-based approach, prioritizing the use of locally available materials. The shelter coordination forum will remain the platform to engage all actors, including the Government, host community, and partners, to ensure the shelter and non-food items (NFIs) response is in line with its established 2023-2025 shelter strategy and standard operating procedures.

Additional resources will be required for the procurement of essential and targeted NFIs.

Prioritization will be given to the distribution of soap, blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, buckets, solar lamps, clothes, and sanitary kits (wrappers, underwear, sanitary pads, buckets, and soap), particularly for new arrivals. While some partners will be engaged in the distribution of NFIs, Protection Partners will focus on identifying individuals with specific needs for targeted assistance.

WASH

Solar-hybrid water supply systems are predominantly used in the refugee camps, and WASH Partners will continue to improve water supply, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by implementing backup systems, ensuring regular and timely services through, for instance, the repair of generators, and replacing defective taps. Partners will also provide sufficient water collection and storage containers.

Sanitation coverage will be improved by constructing household latrines that are safe and accessible for new arrivals and people with specific needs, as well as replacing full latrines. The construction of

household latrines will follow a participatory approach, involving refugees and asylum-seekers in the construction and the provision of working tools, digging tools, and construction materials. Additional interventions encompass the construction of communal washing slabs, drainage systems, and garbage pits for solid waste management. Hygiene awareness initiatives will be undertaken to enhance hygiene knowledge and practices, so to prevent the transmission of WASH-related diseases. Maintenance of hand washing facilities and provision of hygiene supplies will be prioritized. Partners will ensure the adequate and sustainable distribution of soap and dignity kits for women of reproductive age.

Logistics, Supply and Telecommunications

Partners will strengthen logistics coordination and establish multipurpose storage spaces, such as warehouses for NFIs, food, and medical equipment. While RRP Partners directly procure organizational telecommunications services, one partner will be identified to handle warehouse management and vehicle maintenance, as well as to oversee all fuel, cargo and passenger transportation needs. These tasks go beyond the routine responsibilities managed by each partner within their fleet resources. Supervisory support will help to strengthen service delivery, and capacity-building will be conducted on identified essential logistical capacity gaps.



Partnership and Cooperation

The overall coordination of the refugee response in Tanzania is based on the Refugee Coordination Model with leadership provided by the Government through the Ministry of Home Affairs with UNHCR's support. UNHCR and the Ministry co-lead the Refugee Operations Working Group at national, regional, and field level.

The Inter-Agency and Inter-Sector Working Groups meet regularly to promote synergies and collaboration with other UN agencies and the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. These meetings facilitate joint advocacy and partnership among UN agencies to deliver support to refugee communities and support wider development initiatives for host communities, leading to successful initiatives through the UNSDCF at national level and the Kigoma Joint Programme at regional level.

Various sectors, working groups and sub-groups, will continue to support a coordinated response within the camps. This will help to prevent duplication of efforts and enhance the efficient use of resources.





Financial Requirements

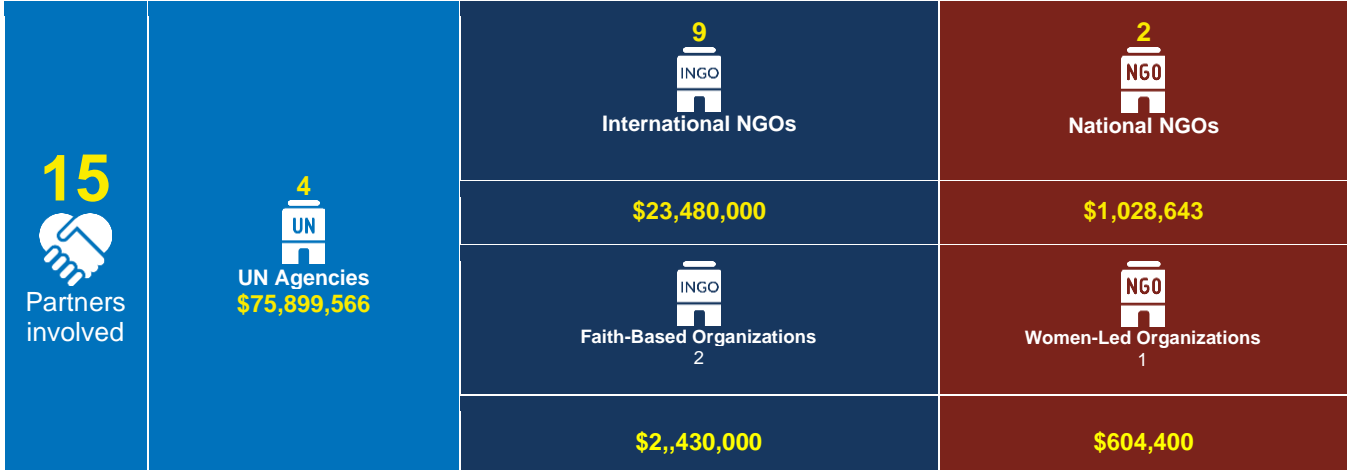


Total financial requirements

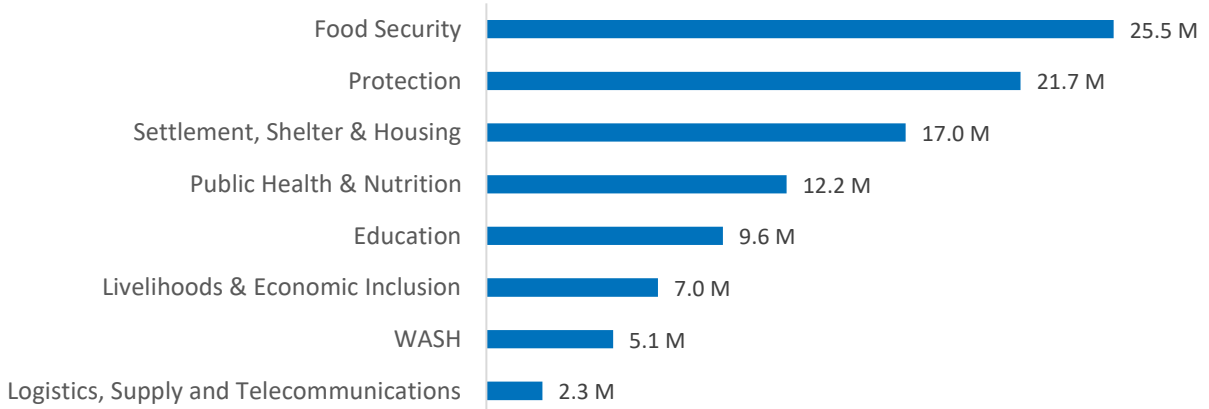
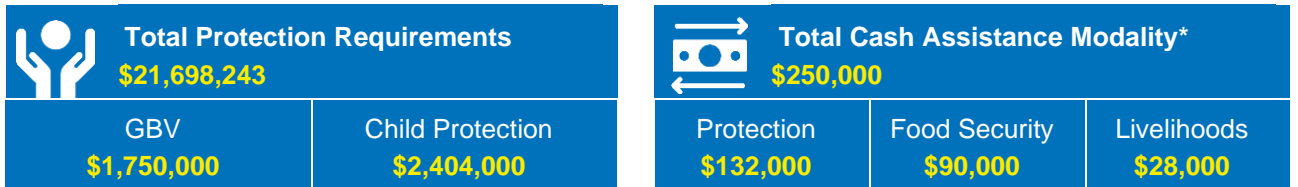
2024
\$94,132,855

2025
\$100,408,211

2025 Budget by Partner Type



2025 Budget by Sector






2025 Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
United Nations	75,899,567
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	47,734,069
World Food Programme (WFP)	26,816,598
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	900,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	448,900
International NGOs	23,480,000
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	11,200,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	3,750,000
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	1,800,000
World Vision International (WVI)	1,730,000
Medical Teams International (MTI)	1,350,000
Water Mission (WM)	1,300,000
Save the Children International (SCI)	950,000
Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS)	700,000
Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)	700,000
National NGOs	1,028,643
Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions (DIGNITY Kwanza)	604,400
Relief to Development Society (REDESO)	424,243
Total	\$100,408,211

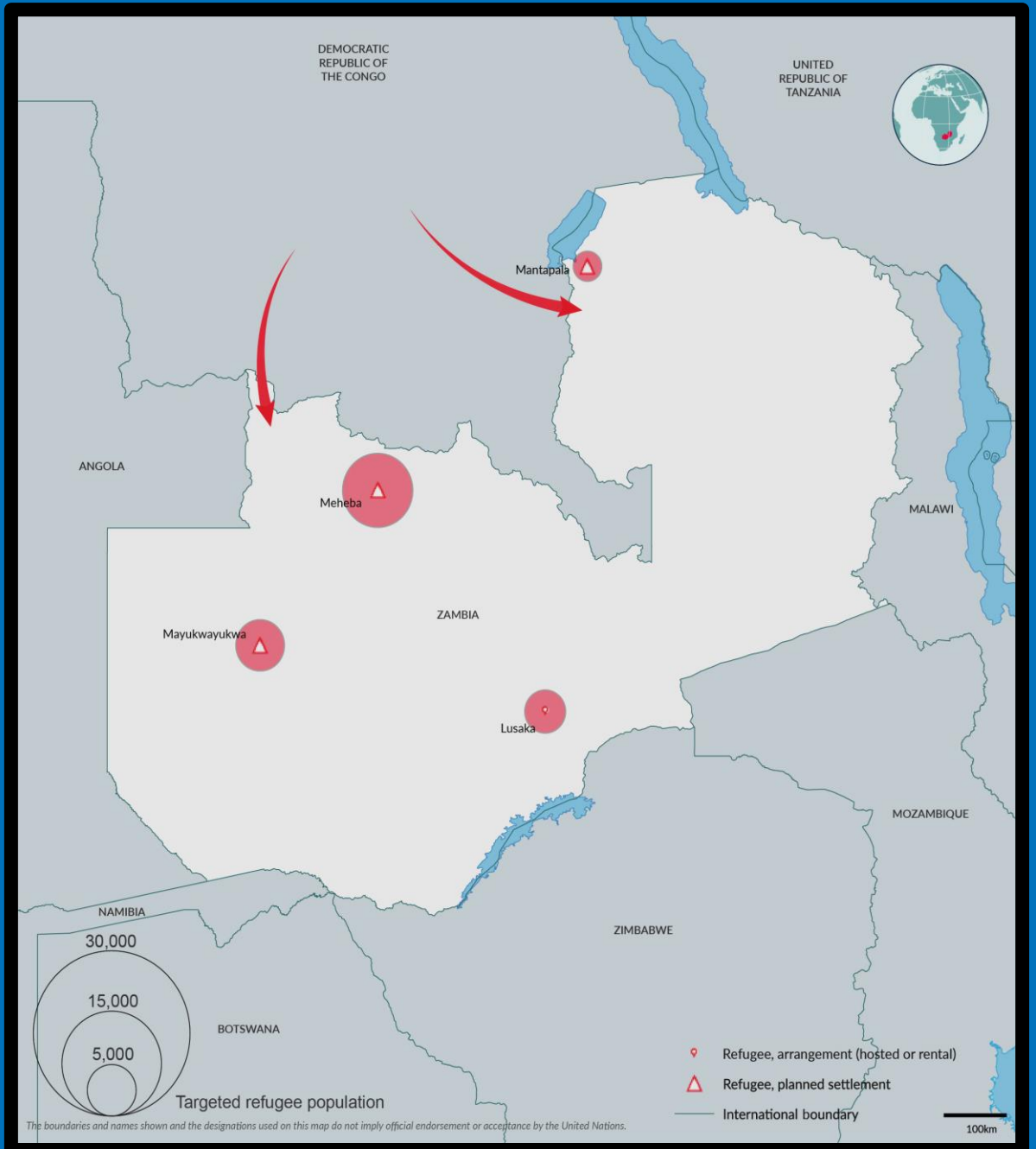
ZAMBIA

 **70,700**
2025 refugee population to be assisted

 **15,000**
2025 host community members benefiting from assistance

 **33.1M**
2025 total financial requirements

 **10**
Partners involved





A returnee mother and her children arrive at Pweto Transit Centre in Pweto DRC.
© Bruce Mulenga.

Current Situation

Situational Overview

As of the end of 2024 Zambia hosted 67,518 refugees and asylum-seekers from the Democratic Republic of Congo, an increase of over 6,000 individuals since the end of 2023. In 2023, the new arrivals primarily fled from Katanga province due to the persistent conflict in southeast DRC; however, in 2024 the majority are fleeing from South Kivu province down Lake Tanganyika to the Mpulungu landing site in Zambia's Luapula province. It is anticipated that Zambia will receive at least 10,000 additional refugees by the end of 2025, due to the escalation of hostilities in eastern DRC since the beginning of the year. These could comprise direct movements from DRC to Tanzania—either by land (should the conflict move south into Tanganyika Province) or via Lake Tanganyika— or onward movements from other neighbouring countries, including Burundi.

Zambia maintains an open-door policy, ensuring access to territory and asylum for refugees from the DRC. However, refugees continue to encounter a challenging protection environment due to Government reservations to the 1951 Refugee Convention articles related to rights to work, freedom

of movement, and access to tertiary education. These reservations significantly hinder the ability of refugees to achieve self-sufficiency and perpetuates their dependence on humanitarian assistance, particularly in light of Zambia's adoption of an encampment policy. Refugees caught working outside designated areas or lacking a valid mobility pass or permit may face arrest.

In January 2024 the Government launched its first National Refugee Policy and Implementation Plan and has received a 30 million Euro grant under the Window for Host Communities and Refugees (WHR) of the International Development Association at the World Bank for 2025-2027.

The new National Refugee Policy contains provisions aimed at enhancing the protection environment for refugees, addressing legal impediments related to freedom of movement (encampment policy), access to economic opportunities, self-reliance, socio-economic inclusion, and achievement of solutions. The Policy's Implementation Plan sets out the various pieces of legislation that require comprehensive reform to facilitate implementation of the Policy. The approved Zambia Refugee and Host Communities Project funded by the World Bank will support this effort.

Approximately 77 per cent of refugees from the DRC reside in settlements in remote districts, characterized by poor social infrastructure and reception/transit facilities and a limited presence of development actors, impacting access to protection and other services. Given the high rates of poverty (78 per cent) among Zambian nationals in rural areas, where most of the refugee settlements are located, the capacity of the host communities to absorb refugees into public services and national systems remains very limited. Nevertheless, the rural communities around the border entry points display great hospitality and solidarity by sharing food, WASH facilities, and natural resources with asylum-seekers before they continue onward to designated border areas or reception centres.

The Government made ten inclusion pledges at the 2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF), including enhanced local integration and documentation, empowering refugees through diversified livelihoods, digitized civil registration for refugees, inclusion in the Farmer Input Support Programme, comprehensive inclusion in education, social inclusion through sports, access to electricity and sustainable energy, inclusion in national statistics, alternatives to immigration detention, and extension of existing processes for inclusion of refugees in the national health insurance scheme (NHIMA). Notably, some self-sponsored refugees and older people already benefit from NHIMA.

Schools established by NGOs at the inception of Mantapala settlement are officially gazetted and recognized by the Government, enabling them to receive benefits like other rural schools. Refugees engage in sports activities, forming teams alongside nationals and participating in competitions, which promotes peaceful co-existence between and among refugees and host communities. Despite these positive strides, partners must continue to intensify advocacy to unlock local integration, facilitate issuance of documentation, and ensure inclusion of refugees in national plans, policies and systems.

A total of 345 individuals from Mantapala and Mayukwayukwa refugees settlements as well as Lusaka were assisted to voluntarily repatriate to the DRC in 2024 and early 2025. UNHCR is working with the government to facilitate the return of 172 individuals who have expressed a willingness to return by the end of 2025. Given the deteriorating security situation in the DRC, particularly eastern regions, opportunities for VolRep are likely to be extremely limited in 2025. Resettlement and complementary pathways, such as international scholarships, employment opportunities, and private sponsorship programmes, will continue being supported as a solution for a limited number of individuals. As of the end of 2024, 1,124 refugees from the DRC have departed for resettlement to third

countries.

Country Risks and Needs

While refugees enjoy access to territory and asylum, the lack of freedom of movement, delays in issuing civil documentation, and lack of standards in refugee status determination procedures remain significant challenges for refugees and asylum-seekers. The National Refugee Policy presents an opportunity for institution-building, with a focus on decentralized registration, enhanced RSD standards, and reduced delays in issuance of documents.

GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), harassment, and child protection issues continue to be key concerns for refugees from the DRC in Zambia. Participatory assessments reveal that women and girls are particularly vulnerable to SEA due to high levels of poverty, existing power imbalances, and language barriers. Moreover, assessments indicate that barriers to accessing GBV services include fear of stigma, lack of knowledge about available services, limited legal support, and distance to the health facilities. In addition, inadequate alternative care arrangements for children at risk persist due to lack of support for foster families offering guardianship. Refugee children and young refugees lack recreational facilities, which places them in vulnerable situations that increases the risk of abuse and exploitation. This undermines their ability to enjoy their rights. Youth-friendly spaces that exist in refugee settlements lack the requisite equipment and materials required to run effective programmes that promote protection, peacebuilding, skill acquisition, and access to opportunities.

Further, refugees highlight barriers to community participation due to educational background, age, gender, diversity, cultural norms, and language. While refugees generally confirmed their ability to voice protection concerns, it was observed that women had a lesser voice and power in decision-making processes. Refugees recommend enhanced community participation and greater accountability to affected people. Regular consultations with community leaders should be extended to the general population, accounting for age, gender, and diversity.

Moreover, quality of services such as education, health, and nutrition remain problematic. Provision of quality education continues to face obstacles, including high pupil-to-teacher ratios, inadequate infrastructure, limited teaching and learning material, and an insufficient power supply for access to information and communication technology.

Healthcare and health infrastructure are limited, leading to frequent referrals to distant secondary- and tertiary-level health facilities, which is costly. Regarding reproductive health services, there is a need for Comprehensive Emergency Obstetrics and

New-born Care to avert delay of complicated deliveries.

The nutrition situation in Zambia remains a significant concern. A standardized expanded nutrition survey conducted in December 2021 revealed that the global acute malnutrition rate stood at approximately five per cent across all three refugee settlements, comparable to the medium level of wasting (5-10 per cent), according to the World Health Organization (WHO) classification. Apart from Mayukwayukwa Settlement, which recorded a stunting rate of 17 per cent, both Meheba and Mantapala settlements presented very high levels of chronic malnutrition, with stunting rates of 33 per cent and 53 per cent, respectively, well beyond the WHO-classified critical level of 30 per cent. All three settlements displayed a high prevalence of anaemia among children under five years, ranging from 40 to 74 per cent, indicating a widespread and severe micronutrient deficiency.

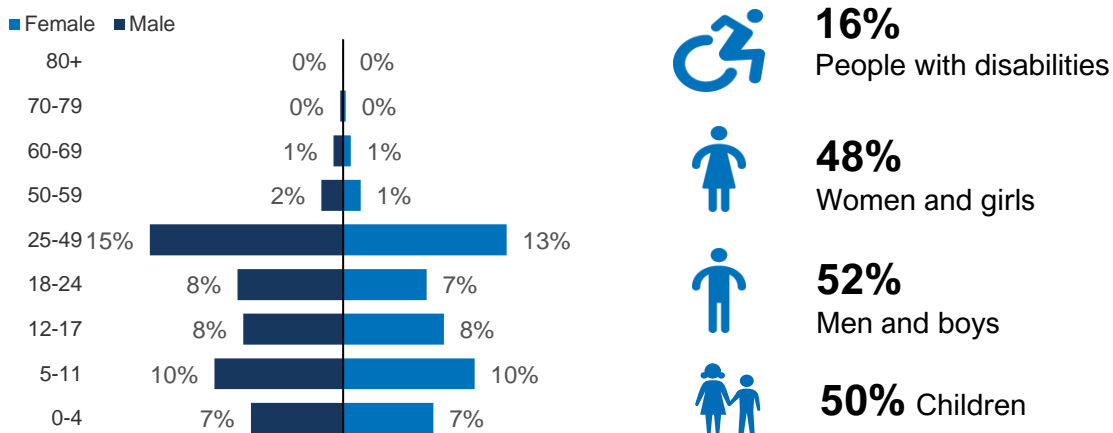
In 2024, the nutrition situation was exacerbated by the national drought emergency that has moved all families living in settlements into Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) 3 (Crisis), while more than 50,000 individuals living in refugee-hosting areas are likely to move into IPC 4 (Emergency) during 2025. In response, UNHCR is co-leading the national Protection Cluster with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services (MCDSS), strengthening both community-led protection structures and referral pathways into the formal social protection system. The most vulnerable forcibly displaced persons, not yet included in the government social assistance cash response, will receive multi-purpose cash assistance for basic needs through mobile money to enhance household food security and mitigate protection risks.



Country Response and Solutions Strategy

- ▶ In 2025, 10 RRP Partners in Zambia plan to assist **82,468** refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC of whom 48 per cent are women and girls, 52 per cent are men and boys, 51 per cent are children and 16 per cent are people with disabilities. Partners will also aim to support 110,000 host community members.
- ▶ The response and solutions strategy for 2024-2025 will continue to focus on targeted support to the most vulnerable refugees, while pursuing self-reliance and solutions for the remaining population. The response plan is steered by four overarching objectives, which drive the respective sectoral responses, and is underpinned by the regional cross-cutting principles and priorities.

2025 Age and gender breakdown - refugee population to be assisted



Country Strategic Objectives

- ▶ **Enhance the overall protection environment**

RRP Partners will prioritize advocacy and support for the Refugee Policy Implementation Plan. This marks a significant step towards enhancing the protection and solutions environment for refugees from the DRC. It aims to alleviate restrictions on refugees, representing a substantial move towards meaningful inclusion of refugees into national systems. Additionally, Partners, now with financial support from the World Bank, will participate in reviewing other pertinent policies and legislation (such as the Immigration Act), to ensure alignment with refugee-related legislation.

While access to territory and asylum are favourable, partners will continue to engage with the Government to safeguard refugees' unhindered access to fair and efficient asylum procedures and documentation. This aims to establish a solid foundation for access to economic opportunities, self-reliance, enhanced socioeconomic inclusion and achievement of solutions. Critical to this is the enhancement of asylum capacity by providing technical support to the Government for the revision and harmonization of asylum legislation, coupled with institution-building.

- ▶ **Improve access to essential services through multi-sector assistance**

Partners will continue to maintain minimum standards

essential for service delivery and strengthen access to health, education, and protection services, including child protection and prevention and response to GBV. Collaboration will be strengthened with government line ministries and local authorities to facilitate inclusion of refugees in existing national systems and programmes, as well as local area plans and initiatives, along with the host communities.

RRP Partners have strengthened targeting methodologies for food and cash assistance to ensure that the most vulnerable refugees are able to meet their basic needs, particularly in the context of the current drought. However, to decrease dependency on humanitarian assistance, refugees are being encouraged to join and form cooperatives which will help ensure the most vulnerable are supported to access assistance, while also promoting peaceful co-existence.

RRP partners will continue to include both refugees and vulnerable host community members in their fundraising and assistance programmes and advocate for inclusion of refugees in development programmes and interventions that mainly target host communities. Emphasis will be placed on linkages with the development sector, especially in areas like energy that can have a cross-cutting and transformative effect on both host and refugee communities.

► Promote self-reliance and livelihoods opportunities

In light of the challenging socioeconomic circumstances, RRP Partners will strive to enhance the livelihoods of refugees, foster economic inclusion, and cultivate self-reliance for those capable of achieving it. This vision is in line with the 8th National Development Plan and the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). To accomplish this, RRP partners will be urged to collaborate with non-traditional partners, such as academia, which has the potential to provide research, assessment, and analytical support. Additionally, partnerships with the private sector will be actively pursued as an instrumental approach to offering skills transfers to refugees, adding value to production, creating markets for both refugee and local products, promoting income generation opportunities, and fostering access to decent work.

Further, partners will provide support to facilitate the operationalization and implementation of the Government's Modernization of Refugee Settlements and Host Community Areas agenda with the aim of enhancing protection, providing solutions, fostering social cohesion, and promoting peaceful coexistence among refugees, former refugees, and host communities.

► Support durable solutions for refugees and asylum-seekers

In addition to promoting local integration, RRP partners will continue supporting refugees from the DRC through voluntary return and resettlement opportunities. Despite the challenging situation in the DRC, RRP Partners are expected to support 172 individuals to voluntarily return by the end of 2025. Although it was initially expected that a similar number of people would be resettled to third countries in 2025 as in 2024, the suspension of the US resettlement programme will likely lead to a reduction from the 1,124 refugees who were resettled in 2024.

Sectoral Responses

Protection

Zambia recently achieved a milestone with the approval of the first-ever Refugee Policy, launched in January 2024, aimed at improving the overall protection environment to address asylum issues and refugee needs. Some of the major protection concerns that refugees and asylum seekers face in Zambia are the result of restrictions in existing legislation and administrative procedures, including reservations made to the 1951 Convention which affect freedom of movement, access to education, employment, documentation, and barriers to local integration.

The operationalization of this Policy will define most of the interventions that Protection Partners will undertake to ensure that refugees are able to enjoy their rights and freedoms. In addition, the review of complementary legislation, such as the Citizenship Act, the Department of National Registration, Passports and Citizenship Policy, will be a priority. Additionally, partners will advocate for the repeal of the 2017 Refugee Act to amend and align it with the new Policy. Regular protection monitoring and capacity-building support to refugee leaders and other community structures will be enhanced, ensuring that humanitarian assistance is planned and delivered in a safe, accountable, and participatory manner.

In the context of the drought in Zambia, the impacts of which are projected to last until October 2025, UNHCR will continue to coordinate with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Social Services to co-lead the Protection Sector. Protection partners will implement emergency projects to ensure that community-based protection is strengthened and expand targeted cash provision to mitigate declining food security and the resulting detrimental impact of this on protection.



Child Protection Sub-Sector

Partners will build upon the best practices and lessons learned from a recent joint programme on Children on the Move. This is to guarantee the protection of refugee children from the DRC and to ensure that the rights of children in conflict with the law as defined in [the Children's Code Act 12 of 2022](#) are respected. This will entail reducing the risk of prolonged arrest for children, promoting child-friendly spaces, and expanding the use of diversion interventions that reduce the likelihood of reoffending.

Child Protection Partners will prioritize capacity-building on the recently enacted Children's Code to ensure that child protection best interests procedure is conducted in accordance with international standards. Similarly, efforts will continue to strengthen the alignment of the best interests procedure in refugee settlements. This will be through advocacy to influence further change in legislation, facilitated by the recently approved National Refugee Policy.

A Memorandum of Understanding is being developed with the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services to reaffirm the Ministry's statutory mandate in the delivery of social protection services, including child protection and GBV services. Finally, provided funding is available, partners will refurbish youth-friendly spaces and support engagement with young people in activities related to their diverse needs.



Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

Partners prioritize GBV interventions based on the findings from the inter-agency GBV and gender and participatory assessments conducted countrywide in 2023. There will be particular emphasis on engaging men and boys in GBV prevention, ensuring effective female participation in activities and decision-making, utilizing refugee-led women organizations, and strengthening multisectoral response services to gender-based violence survivors. To mitigate risks of GBV, safe disclosure and referral of GBV survivors will be strengthened, and the empowerment of women and girls will be promoted, including through collaboration with the Livelihoods Sector.

Partners will continue to build on achievements of the recently concluded Gender Equality and Women's Participation Initiative which aimed to address perceptions of sexual exploitation and abuse in Mantapala refugee settlement. This will entail working closely with legal clinics that have legal and paralegal desks for support to survivors of GBV. Furthermore, partners will work closely with all sectors to mainstream risk mitigation and ensure accountability and proactive mitigation of GBV risks.



Education

Partners will ensure the integration of refugee education in the national system, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 4, the Global Compact on Refugees, and the 2030 Refugee Education Strategy. The provision of refugee education is aligned with Zambia's national education system, which is organized at various levels, from early childhood education to primary, secondary, and tertiary levels. RRP partners will facilitate the enrolment of new arrivals in existing government schools in refugee settlements.

To meet in the growing educational needs in terms of required number of teachers, classrooms, and learning materials, partners will continue to liaise with the Government to fulfil its commitment to include refugees in the national education system, as pledged at the 2019 GRF, including construction and establishment of additional classrooms, allocation of additional teachers, and provision of learning materials in refugee settlement schools.

Efforts will be made to organize refugee volunteer teachers to provide language support for students with language challenges across schools and, additionally, to supplement in other areas where the Government is facing challenges. Refugee children will be provided with material and financial support to ensure enrolment in the right grade for their age. Furthermore, the settlement schools will ensure, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and RRP Partners, that safeguarding and reporting mechanisms for protection from SEA are in place.



Food Security

Challenges related to the mobility of refugees have hindered refugee inclusion in the government-supported Farmer Input Support Programme. Limited access to livelihood opportunities, inadequate support and funds, as well as scarcity of opportunities for vocational skills training for young people and school leavers, coupled with a deficient road network, adversely affect trade in settlements. This ultimately hampers prospects for self-reliance among refugees. Therefore, it is crucial to prioritize the development of cooperatives and market aggregation in the settlements, especially through collaborative efforts with the local population.

The promotion of multi-year funded programmes and increased funding for dual enterprises, focusing on food security and income generation among households, will be pivotal in supporting sustainable self-reliance. Strengthening linkages with markets, financial inclusion, and out-grower schemes will ensure access to functional networks.

Advocacy for administrative policy adjustments to include refugees in economic activities and national social safety nets, along with engaging the private sector, will contribute to enhancing food security and sustainable livelihoods. While advancing these inclusion priorities, input and capacity development, including training on climate-resilient livelihood practices, will be provided to refugees.

Public Health & Nutrition

Partners will support the Ministry of Health to deliver health services in refugee locations. Refugees will continue to have access to essential curative, preventive and promotive services, including mental health and psychosocial support, at primary healthcare facilities within the settlements, and urban areas. Healthcare provision will include specific clinics, such as GBV survivor services, child health, reproductive health, anti-retroviral treatment clinics, and specialized mobile sessions, particularly in Mayukwayukwa settlement. A referral mechanism will be supported for chronic illness and emergency cases needing secondary or tertiary care.

Infectious disease outbreak prevention, preparedness, and response plans (including in response to ongoing outbreaks of cholera) will be formulated through a multi-disciplinary and sectoral approach, following the Incident Management System under the Zambia National Public Health Institute. RRP Partners will supplement government efforts in nutrition and therapeutic and supplementary feeding programmes where the Government is facing challenges by equipping health infrastructure, supplementing essential medicines and medical supplies, and facilitating referral and access to secondary and tertiary healthcare.

Livelihoods & Economic Inclusion

The Livelihoods and Economic Inclusion Sector response will focus on supporting productive activities in the agriculture and non-agriculture sectors, as well as the inclusion in the national systems and programmes. Agriculture is the main source of income for many refugees and asylum-seekers residing in settlements. As such, support will be provided to enhance access to agricultural inputs, technical training services, and markets. Non-agricultural support will focus on artisan skills training, market linkages, entrepreneurial support, and financial inclusion.

Refugees will have access to business grants and will be linked to financial service providers to enable them to access loans and other financial products that are vital for building their resilience. Host community members will also receive support in both agriculture

and non-agriculture activities to strengthen social cohesion. The private sector will be engaged at multiple levels as a market for producers, a provider for skills training, job placement and business development, and potentially, as an employer.

Shelter partners will prioritize support to vulnerable refugees to construct shelters, while other refugees will be encouraged to construct their own housing, mirroring the shelters constructed by the surrounding local communities using readily-available local materials. Nevertheless, guided by the ongoing government settlement planning under the Modernisation of Refugee Settlements and Host Community Areas (MORSHCA) scheme and the recommendations from Rapid Environmental Assessments, refugee settlements will undergo long-term improvements and modernization to ensure that settlement and shelter standards are met and monitored, aligning with local standards, policies, and norms.

Settlement and Shelter/Housing

Collaboration with the Government and development actors has been initiated, and advocacy efforts to attract more private and public partners will continue. Equally, feasibility studies and market surveys are underway to facilitate the monetization of non-food items (NFIs), leaving only a small and sustainable emergency stock for distribution during an emergency. Cash assistance will be used for the provision of NFIs to new arrivals.

In accordance with the 2019 GRF pledge made by the Government, a joint project is underway to support the electrification of the public facilities in Meheba settlement. Sustainable energy supply is being explored in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements to strengthen the resilience of the settlements, allow residents to undertake income-generating activities, and prevent scourges, such as GBV, which can be exacerbated by a lack of lighting in the settlements.

WASH

Significant efforts and investments have been dedicated to WASH over the recent years, benefitting all populations. This has greatly contributed to the enhancement of WASH standards. As of the outset of 2023, the number of litres of water available per person per day was above 20 litres, while over 90 per cent of the settlement population had access to sanitation facilities. By the end of 2024 water availability had increased to 24 litres per person per day, although sanitation coverage had fallen back to 85 per cent. RRP partners will focus on maintaining and improving these standards, ensuring that sufficient WASH services are available to support new



arrivals alongside protracted refugee populations.

Further, there will be strong emphasis on community-centred WASH approaches and harmonization with the local context, consistent with the WASH strategy and the broader inclusion agenda. The Government will play a leading role in the delivery of WASH services in settlements, with RRP Partners complementing government efforts.

Basic Needs

The Basic Needs Sector is implementing a multipurpose cash assistance programme for refugees in the settlements and Lusaka urban areas. The programme's objective is to enhance access to basic assistance, and to facilitate beneficiary access to other services, such as the Farmer Input Support Program, as well as the NHIMA. The inter-agency response will continue collaborating on targeting approaches to ensure that support reaches the most vulnerable individuals.

Targeting methodologies for multipurpose cash assistance applies an age, gender, diversity approach based on a consultation with different groups in the refugee community. Negotiations are underway with the Ministry of Community Development to synchronize this multipurpose cash support programme with the Government's social transfer programme. The Basic Needs response is looking into

expanding this programme as protracted refugees endure dire situations due to insufficient assistance to meet basic needs.

Logistics, Supply and Telecommunications

Following market assessments and feasibility studies UNHCR transitioned to the monetization of NFIs in 2024, following the closure of warehouses in refugee settlements at the end of 2022. However, due to funding cuts implementation has been affected in 2025. In-kind assistance continues to be prioritized in hard-to-reach areas. This leaves only one warehouse in Lusaka, which will maintain a small emergency stock of NFIs even after transitioning to monetization

Partnership and Cooperation

In accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR coordinates and mobilizes partners to support the Government of Zambia, through the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees (COR), in providing protection and assistance to refugees. Monthly inter-agency meetings are conducted in all locations where refugees reside, co-chaired by the COR and UNHCR. UNHCR also co-leads the Protection Sector with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Internal Security under the coordination of the Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit within the Office of the Vice President and leads the Humanitarian Working Group under the UNSDCF. Donors are included in RRP consultations, joint assessments, and monitoring activities.

In line with the inclusion agenda, collaboration will be enhanced with government ministries. This will include entering into Memoranda of Understanding with the Government and development partners and local actors and enhancing joint workplans under Letters of Understanding between UN agencies to foster inclusion of refugees into national plans, systems, and policies. An inter-ministerial committee is in place, composed of major line ministries such as health, education, home affairs, community development and social services, water, and energy. The committee is chaired by the Resettlement Department under the Office of the Vice President, to spearhead implementation of the MORSHCA, aimed at improving social conditions in the refugee settlements.

To ensure meaningful participation from refugees in the response, Partners will strengthen engagement with refugee-led organizations, refugee leadership structures, and women organizations and provide structured capacity-building to women-led-refugee organizations to enhance skills in programme management, in collaboration with RRP Partners and government institutions.





Financial Requirements



Total financial requirements

2024
\$32,172,125

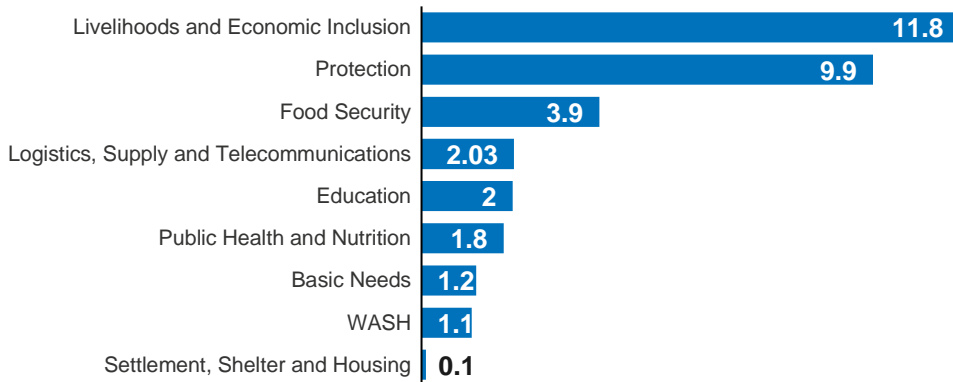
2025
\$33,067,620

2025 Budget by Partner Type

<p>10</p> <p>Partners involved</p>	<p>3</p> <p>UN Agencies \$26,747,078</p>	<p>5</p> <p>International NGOs</p>	<p>2</p> <p>National NGOs</p>
		<p>\$6,223,000</p>	<p>\$97,542</p>
		<p>1</p> <p>Faith-Based Organizations</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Faith-Based Organizations</p>
		<p>\$5,500,000</p>	<p>\$62,542</p>

2025 Budget by Sector

In millions of US\$



<p>Total Protection Requirements \$9,965,324</p>	
<p>GBV \$602,437</p>	<p>Child Protection \$647,437</p>

<p>Total Cash Assistance Modality* \$5,018,402</p>		
<p>Protection \$500,000</p>	<p>Food Security \$3,599,952</p>	<p>Livelihoods \$918,450</p>



2025 Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
United Nations	26,747,078
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	21,525,971
World Food Programme (WFP)	5,186,107
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	35,000
International NGOs	6,223,000
CARITAS Czech Republic (CARITAS)	4,000,000
World Vision International (WVI)	1,500,000
Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE)	391,000
Action Africa Help (AAH)	240,000
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI)	92,000
National NGOs	97,542
CARITAS Zambia (CZ)	62,542
Lifeline/Childline Zambia (LLCZ)	35,000
Total	\$33,067,620



ANNEXES





Annex 1: Regional Budget by Partner

Partner	Requirements in US\$
United Nations	525,339,452
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	303,585,970
World Food Programme (WFP)	134,071,989
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	12,000,000
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	14,988,000
United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)	12,488,000
United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF)	25,286,990
United Nations International Organization for Migration (IOM)	17,013,800
World Health Organization (WHO)	4,175,000
UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN WOMEN)	4,300,000
Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)	100,000
International Trade Centre (ITC)	150,000
International NGOs	199,621,589
Save the Children International (SC)	25,826,128
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	16,010,000
Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (H&IJRA)	14,621,239
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	14,700,000
Mercy Corps (MC)	10,000,000
Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS)	9,312,340
Medical Teams International (MTI)	8,391,029
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)	9,790,000
World Vision International (WVI)	7,106,000
ALIGHT (Alight)	7,406,010



International Rescue Committee (IRC)	11,667,850
World Relief	7,214,419
Action Against Hunger (ACF)	5,100,000
Finn Church Aid (FCA)	5,351,000
CARITAS (CARITAS)	4,457,216
War Child Canada (WCC)	4,500,000
Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI)	3,569,000
Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)	3,400,000
Give Directly (Give Directly)	2,701,500
Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (Care)	2,949,246
War Child Holland (WCH)	2,419,080
We World	1,812,532
Oxford Committee for Famine Relief (Oxfam)	2,847,500
Humanity & Inclusion (H&I)	1,700,000
Lutheran World Federation (LWF)	2,573,134
Water Mission (WM)	1,300,000
Malteser International (Malteser)	1,118,882
Plan International (PI)	1,228,000
Self Help Africa (SHA)	1,000,000
Street Child (Street Child)	985,910
Practical Action (PRACTICAL ACTION)	885,600
Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)	807,068
Windle International Uganda (WIU)	771,281
Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)	750,000
DanChurchAid (DCA)	500,000
World Youth Organization (WYO)	500,000
Church World Service (CWS)	500,000
Swiss Church Aid (HEKS/EPER (SCA))	450,000



Opportunity International UK (Opportunity International UK)	350,000
International Aid Services (IAS)	330,000
IsraAID (IsraAID)	330,000
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	300,000
Raising Gabdho Foundation (RGF)	300,000
Right to Play (RtP)	300,000
DAI Global LLC (DAI)	250,000
Action Africa Help (AAH)	240,000
Children on the Edge Africa (COTEA)	152,067
RET (RET)	125,000
ZOA International (ZOA)	107,326
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative (REPSSI)	92,000
Alliance Forum for Development (AFOD)	90,000
Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR)	90,000
Community Volunteer Initiative for Development (COVOID)	72,432
Child Voice International (ChildVoice)	72,000
Hope Health Action East Africa (HHA)	52,000
HealthRight International (HRI)	50,000
Help A Child (HaC)	40,800
African Initiatives for Relief and Development (AIRD)	36,000
HelpAge International (HelpAge)	20,000
National NGO	42,895,674
Baylor college of Medicine Children's Foundation-Uganda (BAYLOR)	18,126,777
Regional Psychosocial Support Initiative	3,452,610
Tusitukire Wamu Group (TWG)	3,550,000
Trust Synergy Foundation - Uganda (TSFU)	3,361,100
Hunger Fighters Uganda (HFU)	2,654,827
Refugee Law Project (RLP)	2,050,000

African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD)	1,710,000
Transcultural Psychosocial Organization (TPO)	1,380,000
Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI)	1,146,869
Impact Hope (Impact Hope)	1,202,852
Conseil Pour l'Education et le Développement (COPED)	682,115
Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions (DIGNITY Kwanza)	604,400
Maison Shalom (MAISON SHALOM)	701,324
Relief to Development Society (REDESO)	424,243
Soroti Rural Development Agency (SORUDA)	350,000
Hopelink Action Foundation Uganda (HAF Uganda)	305,000
Igreja Evangélica dos Irmãos em Angola (IEIA)	187,300
Ajuda de Desenvolvimento de Povo para Povo (ADPP)	200,000
RWANREC	117,919
Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services (HADS)	85,000
Monidant Initiative (Monidant Initiative)	111,579
Social action for Development (S.A.D)	75,000
CARITAS Burundi (CB)	150,000
CARITAS Zambia (CZ)	62,542
All for Integral Development (AfID)	80,000
Andre Foods International (AFI)	39,216
Lifeline/Childline Zambia (LLCZ)	35,000
Prison Fellowship Rwanda (Prison Fellowship Rwanda)	30,000
Food For The Hungry	20,000
Development actors	4,185,913
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	1,366,745
Inkomoko Business Development	1,750,000
Medecins D'Afrique (MDA)	1,032,787
Indego Africa	34,881




Association des Professionnels en Protection de l'Enfance (APPE)	1,500
Academia	429,488
KEPLER (Kepler)	429,488
IFRC/ICRC	777,104
Rwanda Red Cross (Rwanda Red Cross)	77,104
Tanzanian Red Crescent Society	700,000
Total	\$773,249,219





Annex 2: Country and Regional Targets

Sector		Indicator	Angola 2025	Burundi 2025	ROC 2025	Rwanda 2025	Uganda 2025	Tanzania 2025	Zambia 2025	Total Target 2025
	Protection	Number of refugees and asylum-seekers registered on individual basis	10,187	107,644	30,794	82,566	579,461	88,047	120,765	1,019,464
		Number of refugees and asylum-seekers receiving legal assistance	175	750	30,794	1,550	30,000	1,000	50	34,704
		Number of refugees who voluntarily returned in safety and dignity to their country of origin	200	1,200	750	1,000	0	0	600	3,750
		Number of refugees submitted for resettlement	30	5,000	18	5,000		4,500	2,000	21,696
	Child Protection	Number of refugee children whose birth is registered by civil authorities	2,174	4,500	513	2,650	0	3,400	3,954	13,190
		Number of refugee children at high risk, including unaccompanied and separated children, with best interests procedure undertaken	100	1,500	66	550	4,000	200	706	6,705
		Number of individuals trained on child rights and child protection prevention and response, including mainstreaming	45	150	236	750	4,000	200	650	6,031
GBV	Number of GBV survivors who received specialized case management services (psychosocial support, case management and	60	941	20	9 000	3 000	500	602	14,123	




		referral).								
		Number of individuals reached through GBV awareness raising activities	650	27,465	11,000	100	50,000	10,000	120,765	219,980
		Number of trained participants (Partners workforce and government authorities) who increased their GBV knowledge and skills on prevention and response	200	715	200	90	1,500	200	100	3,005
	Education	Number of people benefitted from education programming (early childhood, primary, secondary, tertiary, technical & vocational, and non-formal education)	2,200	30,000	5,145	32,000	122,700	32,000	20,250	260,407



Sector		Indicator	Angola 2025	Burundi 2025	ROC 2025	Rwanda 2025	Uganda 2025	Tanzania 2025	Zambia 2025	Total Target 2025
	Food security	Number of persons receiving food assistance (in-kind or cash assistance)	7,180	60,000	29,944	43,286	524,212	100,077	10,200	774,899
	Health & Nutrition	Number of consultations provided for health care services	27,000	60,000	2,640	217,000	800,000	179,648	116,300	1,402,588
		Number of children 0- 59 months with acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM) admitted for treatment	120	540	23	350	10,000	1,837	200	13,070
		Number of children aged 9 months to 5 years who have received a measles containing vaccine	2,550	4,800	528	1,200	23,500	5,953	19,702	58,233
	Livelihoods & economic Inclusion	Number of people who benefitted from livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions (cash grants, inputs/ tools/ equipment, small business development, self/ employment opportunities, training and capacity-building)	450	20,000	300	3,662	52,496	750	15,000	92,568
	Settlement & Shelter & Housing	Number of people who received shelter and housing assistance	900	5,000	3,978	7,692	46,300	7,525	50	71,445
		Number of individuals receiving assistance to cover energy supply (including for cooking purposes)	200	1,500	5,104	43,286	135,000	30,000	0	215,090
		Number of people who received non-food items (in kind and cash assistance)	7,000	11,275	6,600	81,740	46,300	100,077	20,200	273,192
		Number of women and girls receiving sanitary material (cash or in-kind)	3,000	23,853	16,533	34,364	14,850	40,357	6,000	399,364
		Average litres of	20	25	20	20	20	32	23	23



	Water, Sanitation & Hygiene	potable water available per person per day								
		Number of people supported with access to water and sanitation services	6,000	24,000	28,351	81,740	600,059	101,647	115,934	957,731

