

RWANDA

EMERGENCY UPDATE - BURUNDI REFUGEE INFLUX

10-16 June 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

KEY FIGURES* (as of 16 June)

32,418

Burundian refugees are in camps in Rwanda* (An undetermined number of urban refugees are yet to be registered)

Further breakdown of the above figure:

26,793

Refugees in Mahama Refugee Camp

5,237

Refugees in Bugesera Reception Center

67

Refugees in Nyanza Reception Center

321

Refugees in Nyagatare Transit Center

*statistics are according to the Government of Rwanda.

PRIORITIES

- Continue registration of urban refugees in Kigali;
- Construct dischargeable latrines to replace pit latrines;
- Pursue alternative sources of water to replace water trucking;
- Continue constructing semi-permanent, individual shelters at Mahama.

- In a joint effort by MIDIMAR, UNHCR and Plan International, birth registration has started for Burundian refugee babies born since the start of the influx on 31 March. To date, 87 infants have been born since the opening of Mahama camp.

Babies and their mothers received a distribution of clothing, plastic bathing tubs, soap, and pomade skin cream. The items were donated to Mahama camp by a large group of young adults from Kigali representing several government agencies, including the Ministry of Youth, the Ministry of Natural Resources, and the Office of Government Spokesperson.



- Registration of urban refugees has commenced in Kigali. An average of 1,000 Burundian asylum seekers presented themselves for the first morning at the central registration office at the Rwandan Red Cross premises. Around 500-600 persons have been registered on the first day while the rest have been given appointments to return following the coming days. UNHCR aims to register an average of 600-700 persons per day.

High-level visits

- The Ambassador of China visited Mahama refugee camp, accompanied by the UNHCR Representative, on 12 June. The 7-person Chinese delegation toured the camp, displaying special interest in the health clinic and the camp extension site.
- The Head of DFID Rwanda, the Deputy Head, visiting DFID Humanitarian Adviser, and the First Secretary at the British High Commission were accompanied by UNHCR's Deputy Representative on a visit to Mahama camp on 17 June. The purpose of the visit was to assess possible UK support to the Burundi Refugee Response Plan (RRP).



Delegations receiving a briefing in Mahama Camp on the site plan for the camp extension. **Pictured left:** Chinese Ambassador and UNHCR Representative **Pictured right:** DFID delegation and UNHCR Deputy Representative.
UNHCR/J. Drumtra

- The Rwandan Association of Students Searching for Sustainable Peace from the University of Rwanda visited Mahama camp. They donated clothes and condoms, and plan to return in the future to engage with Burundian students.

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

- The former Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity (the predecessor to the AU) has made claims that Burundi is at risk of descending into civil war.
- The African Union is calling for a postponement of Burundi's 15 July presidential election.
- Human Rights Watch has released a video on police using excessive force during demonstrations in Bujumbura.
- Many of the newly arrived refugees are members of the Movement of Solidarity and Democracy (MSD) political party. They are reporting on the challenges of leaving their homes to reach public transportation as Imbonerakure and police are monitoring the movement of people. Checkpoints exist at Kamenge, Bujumbura which is the stronghold of Imbonerakure. Some refugees reported other checkpoints as well.



Protection

Child protection (CP) & Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) Achievements and Impact

- Thus far UNHCR, UNICEF and Plan International have identified **1,152** unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) (369 separated children and 783 unaccompanied children). Out of the UASC identified so far, **262** have been reunified with their parents/customary caregivers or relatives.
- In Mahama, Rwanda Red Cross and ICRC, in coordination with UNHCR, have registered **772** unaccompanied children for restoring family links, including family tracing and reunification.
- UNHCR has conducted **1,057** Best Interest Assessments (BIAs) and 1 Best Interest Determination (BID) for UASC and other children at risk.
- Plan International has identified and assisted **28** other child protection cases so far.
- Thus far **30** SGBV cases (the majority being domestic violence and denial of resources) have been identified and assisted with response services by different actors through referral pathways established by UNHCR.
- UNHCR has received an education expert to assist with educational needs for the Burundian refugees.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- During the reporting week, **1,434** refugee patients were treated at Mahama camp health center and **895** were treated at Bugesera reception center by ARC and AHA, respectively, with the support of UNHCR.
- 20 mothers in Mahama gave birth this week, with 100% of deliveries taking place in the camp's health center.
- UNHCR and AHA, with the support of UNICEF and the Ministry of Health, are continuing to provide on-arrival vaccinations against measles and polio to children in both reception centres. In the first four days of the vaccination program, 880 children under 15-years-old were vaccinated against measles and 331 children under 5-years against Polio.
- Supported by the Ministry of Health, Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT) and Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) services are provided at Mahama camp. Free access to Anti-Retroviral Therapy (ART) for people living with HIV is also available, which is currently being accessed by 69 refugees. In addition, 4,895 male and 71 female condoms, donated by UNFPA, were distributed this week to prevent HIV/AIDS and STIs.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact (in Mahama camp)

- UNHCR received a hydro geologist, free of charge from the Dutch Government, to assist in finding alternative sources of water to replace water trucking in Mahama.
- 1,116 latrines: 24 persons/drop hole -- standard in an emergency is 50 persons/drop hole
- 761 showers: 35 persons/shower -- standard in an emergency is 70 persons/shower
- 12.8L of water per person per day -- standard in an emergency is 15L/person/day.

Thanks to our partners:



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