



Children at Nkamira Transit Centre awaiting transfer to Kigeme Camp, after fleeing from the November fighting in Eastern DRC © UNHCR/Y. Jallade

## UNHCR operational highlights

- From the transition response, with few refugees from The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the second influx has started since mid-November 2012.
- Since April 2012, **24,123** refugees from DRC were received in Rwanda.
- **In November, 292 new arrivals** were received at the Nkamira Transit Center after the Goma events. After relative calm in Goma, the vast majority of them returned.
- In December, **3,842 arrived at Nkamira Transit Center**.
- As of 31 December, the population of concern in Rwanda was **59,805 individuals**, of whom, **26,385 are males** and **33,420 are females**.
- More than **99%** of the population of concern in Rwanda are from the DRC.
- **The protracted caseload is comprised of 43,360 refugees and asylum seekers.** They reside in three camps across the country and in the urban area (Kigali): Gihembe hosting **14,009** refugees, Nyabiheke hosting **11,472** refugees and Kiziba hosting **15,931** refugees. **1,948** additional individuals live in the urban area (Kigali).
- **Return of Rwandan refugees:** since January 2012 to 31 December, a cumulative number of **10,778** individuals returned.
- **Third country resettlement:** for 2012, the submission target was 2,400 individuals while the capacity target was 1,200 individuals. As of 31 **December 2012, UNHCR Rwanda has referred 2,238 cases for resettlement. 704** individuals have departed to receiving countries.

## Refugees and asylum seekers in Rwanda (by country of origin)

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	TOTAL NUMBER	NEW ARRIVALS In November	NEW ARRIVALS In December
DRC	59,302	<b>292</b>	<b>3,842</b>
Burundi	360	0	0
Others countries**	27	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>59,689***</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>3,842</b>

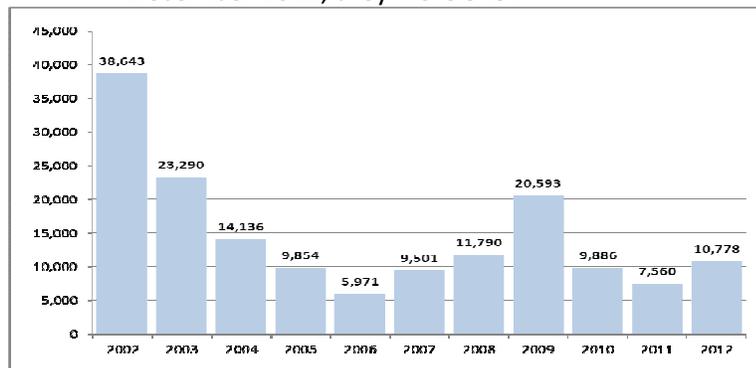
\* This figures do not include Rwandan spouses of refugees (27) and the children of refugees with a Rwandan spouse (89)

\*\*Others: Somalia, Chad, Angola, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda

\*\*\*The total number of refugees is from ProGres Database as of 31 December. In December **1,768** individuals were registered in the Database as new arrivals.

## Voluntary return of Rwandan refugees (as 31 December 2012)

- In November 2012, **550** Rwandan refugees returned to Rwanda.
- In December 2012, they were **549**.



## Working with partners

- **Main Government Counterparts:** UNHCR maintains good partnership with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR). The office also works closely with the Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration and district partners.
- **Implementing Partners :** Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA), Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), American Refugee Committee (ARC), The Association of Volunteers in International Service Foundation (AVSI) and recently Rwanda Youth Parliament (PAJER) and Les Compagnons Fontainiers Rwandais (COFORWA)
- **Operational Partners:** WFP, WHO, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, UNDP, UNFPA.

## Achievements

- In November, sufficient **NFI's for 2,000 individuals were pre-positioned** in Cyangugu and Nkamira. In December, additional 2,500 NFI's were pre-positioned.
- A **contingency planning** is developed between Government of Rwanda, One UN agencies and Implementing Partners so as to be ready to provide assistance to an influx of new refugees. All sectors are concerned.
- On 20, November joint 2 year program between the **Government of Rwanda and the ONE UN on sustainable return and reintegration of Rwandan returnees** was launched at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in presence of Minister of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs, Resident Coordinator, UNICEF and UNHCR Representative and members of the diplomatic and business community. A publication on this event has been shared internally and with external partners.
- A delegation from the **Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department of the European Commission (ECHO)** visited the new influx of refugees hosted in Kigeme camp on the 2 December. ECHO had also visited the protracted case-load during a monitoring mission in Kiziba camp.
- On 9 November 2012, the USA designated P2 group for **resettlement** processing to the USA. Following the designation, UNHCR Rwanda committed to submit 1,000 individuals to the USA from the group by December 2012. UNHCR Rwanda was able to meet this target and submitted 1, 028 individuals to USA.
- A **sensitization campaign on the return and reintegration program** was led by MIDIMAR in Ugandan camps from December 9 to 15 December, as agreed during the Tripartite Agreement between Government of Rwanda, Government of Uganda, and UNHCR.

- The **Persons with Disabilities Committee** was elected in Kigeme on 3 December (International Day of Persons with Disabilities). The **Children's Committee** was elected the same day.
- **The construction of 62 classrooms** was finalized in December 2012 in Kigeme Camp.
- All Kigeme refugees now live in **semi-durable shelters**.
- A health coordination meeting was held in November focusing on **reproductive health** to share experiences in Kigeme and in the old camps. Solutions were shared on how to improve family planning and antenatal care.
- To improve nutritional well-being of refugees and prevent morbidity and mortality among refugee children, pregnant, lactating women and other vulnerable refugees, a FIDA (Finnish Development Cooperation Organization) mission visited Kigeme camp on 27 December 2012. The aim of the visit was to follow up on the implementation of the nutrition program following FIDA's donation to Kigeme camp.
- The **UNHCR Rwanda Staff retreat** took place from 25-28 November in Kibuye. The constitution of Rwanda Staff Association (RWASA) was revised. Code of Conduct and terms of reference for the Respectful Workforce Advisor were part of the discussions.
- **Sports kits** donated by the International Olympic Comity and Samsung Company were distributed to young refugees within all camps. Hand-over ceremonies were organized in all the camps.
- From 2-14 November **Clowns without borders Ireland** toured the four refugee camps in Rwanda, offering shows and training for youth.
- A **media team** from the Japanese national TV channel (NHK) interviewed a young refugee girl living in Gihembe camp (29 -30 November). She was named after Ms Sadako Ogata, the former United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.
- Volunteers within UNHCR took part to the **International Volunteer Day** on 7 December 2012 to celebrate the contributions of volunteers to development at the local, national and international levels.

## Challenges

- Kigeme camp located in Southern Province does not have the capacity to host the new influx of refugees. The Government of Rwanda and UNHCR are working on a solution to host the new influx of refugees.
- The construction of 62 classrooms is now finalized in Kigeme. However, due to the increase of refugee students attending national school, there is a need for additional funds to cover salaries for 82 teachers.
- The return and reintegration program remains largely underfunded. The success of this initiative will depend on a collective ability to mobilize resources.

## UNHCR Presence

- **Branch Office** in Kigali, **5 Field Offices** in Kibuye, Byumba, Nyamagabe, Gisenyi and Cyangugu.