

## RWANDA

### UNHCR UPDATE ON BURUNDI SITUATION

30 April 2017

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- Since being opened by UNHCR and the Government of Rwanda just two years ago (22 April 2015), Mahama is today a model settlement that sets the standard for other camps in the country. Various projects have been developed to improve living conditions inside and around the camp. Mahama continues to grow in order to accommodate new arrivals who are fleeing from Burundi into Rwanda every day. **Read More:** <http://www.unhcr.org/rw/>



*Collaboration between Government of Rwanda and UN Refugee Agency has turned Mahama refugee settlement into a model town two years since opening.*

- The month of April in Rwanda marked the 23<sup>rd</sup> Commemoration of the 1994 Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi. UNHCR held a ceremony in commemoration and in remembrance of eleven UNHCR employees who were killed during the atrocities.

#### UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

##### Protection

- 605 new arrivals** were received in April, which is a slight increase from March. The average number of new arrivals in April was 20 individuals per day.
- Despite the fact that Government of Tanzania has revoked prima facie recognition of Burundians, this has so far not resulted in an increase of Burundians fleeing to Rwanda.

##### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR in Rwanda has a new protection email address ([barizahano@unhcr.org](mailto:barizahano@unhcr.org)) targeted to refugees to voice any concerns or inquires, which will be directed to the protection unit.

#### KEY FIGURES

**85,177**

Burundian refugees biometrically registered in Rwanda

**605**

Burundian new arrivals were received in Rwanda in the month of April

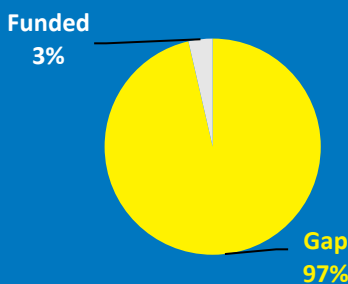
**1,965**

Burundian unaccompanied and separated children registered

#### FUNDING

**USD 83.1 M**

Requested for the comprehensive needs for the 2017 interagency Burundi refugee response in Rwanda



#### PRIORITIES

- Continue to fundraise to ensure food rations are not cut for refugees in the month of June;
- Continue the construction of semi-permanent shelters in Mahama camp.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There is a total of 177 child protection and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) cases among Burundian refugees since 2017.
- UNHCR and local partner, Legal Aid Forum (LAF), have observed a high number of legal cases being closed for lack of evidence in SGBV cases. LAF is sensitizing refugees on how to preserve evidence and LAF's lawyers are assisting local courts to ensure that SGBV survivors' cases are duly compiled, that evidence is well recorded, preserved and presented in court, and that survivors are properly counselled.

## Food Security and Nutrition

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- WFP has received enough funding to ensure full food assistance (in-kind and cash) will be provided for all refugees in May. However, a possible drastic cut in food rations is foreseen in the month of June (40%) and onwards, if no further contributions are received from donors. UNHCR is working on a contingency plan in case WFP does not manage to secure additional funding.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

- To date, a total of 4,940 semi-permanent shelters have been constructed in Mahama camp, which currently houses 34,654 Burundian refugees. An additional 343 shelters are in the final stages of construction.
- Rehabilitation work was carried out to repair 40 communal plastic hangars, 15 semi-permanent shelters through community participation and 0.77km access road constructed manually.

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 18,654 refugees continue to live in 121 communal plastic shelters in the camp. Despite continued advocacy, 30 hectares of land has still not been provided to complete the construction of all semi-permanent shelters.

## Working in partnership

- UNHCR, sister UN agencies and partners are grateful for the generous contributions of donors in support of the Burundian refugees in 2015-2016. Partners involved in the 2016 Regional Refugee Response Plan for the Burundi Situation in Rwanda include: Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), African Humanitarian Action (AHA), American Refugee Council (ARC), CARE, CONCERN, FAO, Fondation Saint Dominique Savio (FSDS), Global Humanitarian and Development Fund (GHDF), Handicap International, IOM, Legal Aid Forum (LAF), OXFAM, PLAN International, Save the Children International, UN Women, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO.
- Under the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), UNHCR co-leads and coordinates with the Ministry of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs (MIDIMAR) the interagency response to the Burundi refugee emergency in Rwanda. The RCM is intended to provide an inclusive platform for planning and coordinating refugee response in order to ensure that refugees and other persons of concern receive the protection and assistance they require through the collective efforts and capacities of all partners involved.

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Daily Statistics: <http://data2.unhcr.org/burundi> UNHCR Rwanda: [www.unhcr.org/rw](http://www.unhcr.org/rw) Twitter: @RefugeesRwanda