

Nyabiheke Camp, Rwanda

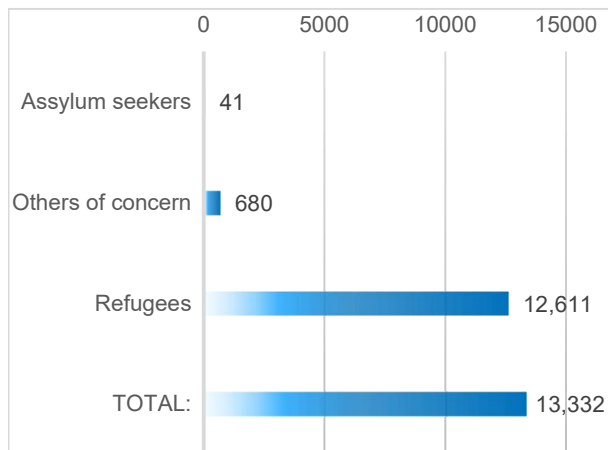
October 2022

13,332 refugees live in Nyabiheke refugee camp which is located in Gatsibo District in the Eastern Province of Rwanda.

The camp was established in **2005** mainly to reduce the overcrowding in Gihembe (North province) and Kiziba (Western province) camps.

79% of the camp's population is women and children below 18 years old.

POPULATION OF CONCERN



The main market street in Nyabiheke refugee camp

UNHCR FIELD OFFICE IN KABARORE COVERS NYABIHEKE REFUGEE CAMP

Staff:

- 28 National staff
- 6 International staff



Transformation of the waiting area outside the MINEMA office into a Police outpost in Nyabiheke camp.

Main Activities

Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- Nyabiheke Refugee Camp is managed by the Rwandan Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA) represented by Camp Manager, her Deputy and supported by immigration staff and the police. The camp is divided into eight quarters and each quarter consists of an average of four villages. In total, there are 29 villages.
- Each village elects eight Village Leaders, and each quarter elects eight Quarter Leaders. Among these leaders, the Executive Camp Committee is selected internally. Many religions are present in the camp, but majority of population are Christians (Adventists).
- UNHCR works with 11 implementing partners in Nyabiheke camp: Alight, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), Caritas, Food for the Hungry, Humanity and Inclusion (H&I), Inkomoko, PLAN International, Practical Action, Prison Fellowship Rwanda, Rwanda Red Cross and World Vision International (WVI).
- Nyabiheke refugee camp faces extreme environmental degradation due to its weather pattern and topographical nature. The absence of a well-planned drainage system, coupled with the frequent rains, has resulted in the creation of life-threatening gullies and ravines within and around the camp. Dealing with deforestation, caused by human activity, also poses a serious challenge. UNHCR, in partnership with MINEMA, has identified various areas to improve on in this regard including building drains and rehabilitating ravines within and around the camp.
- UNHCR in collaboration with partner Red Cross, has planted more than 30,000 forest and fruit trees since 2019. Despite this, challenges remain due to the type of soil and destruction by livestock reared in the camp.
- UNHCR Field Office Kabarore is part of the Gatsibo Joint Action Development Forum (JADF) which ties in many aspects of the Global Compact for Refugees to improve lives for both refugees and Rwandans. Together, UNHCR and Gatsibo district have implemented several projects including smart agriculture in Nyabicwamba marshland.

Protection

- UNHCR and partners in Nyabiheke camp provide a range of protection services to refugees and the Rwandan host community. These include individual case management; supporting survivors of violence, abuse and exploitation and preventing its occurrence; birth registration, issuance of birth certificates, ID documents and other civil status documents; supporting refugees' if they are detained; legal counselling and assistance/representation in the court if necessary; and psychosocial support.
- In order to ensure accountability to the refugee community in Nyabiheke, UNHCR and partners operate a range of complaint and feedback mechanisms including regular protection desk, individual counselling, hotlines, home visits, mass meetings and communication boxes.
- Through partnership with Humanity Inclusion (HI), UNHCR provides support to people with specific needs through the Community-Based Rehabilitation services for children with disabilities. Psychotherapy services are provided to individuals with anxiety, depression, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Activities of Healing Groups and Sharing Groups are also provided to elderly individuals or people with serious medical conditions and consists of emotional/social support. Currently, the registered number of people with specific needs is 2,324 representing 17% of Nyabiheke population.

Registration and documentation

- UNHCR maintains accurate data of refugees living in the camp through regular registration of individuals and groups. UNHCR is currently following up on the cases of 55 asylum seekers and in the meantime provides the individuals with a “Proof of Registration” that serves as an identification document and Machine-Readable Convention Travel Documents are issued upon request.
- A biometric capturing exercise was held in Nyabiheke camp from 22 to 26 August 2022 by MINEMA, DGIE, NIDA and UNHCR targeting the 16 years old and above. During the exercise, expired refugee IDs were collected, lost IDs recorded, and nationality assessment conducted. In total: 681 individuals’ biometric records captured; 238 individuals cleared by the nationality assessment panel; 473 unregistered individuals recorded for further follow up by Government; 304 expired IDs collected for renewal; 178 refugee IDs with incorrect biodata collected for correction and 51 lost refugee IDs recorded for replacement by NIDA.

Education

- Refugee children in Nyabiheke camp are integrated into the national education system. A primary school (satellite school of G.S Nyabicwamba) is based in the camp and follows the Rwandan Ministry of Education as well as hosts Rwandan children who live in the surrounding area. Other refugee pupils and secondary students attend national schools outside the camp ensuring 12 years of basic education.
- As of the end of the academic year 2021/2022 there were 729 children attending Early Childhood Development, 2,701 in primary school, and 1,886 pupils in Secondary school. 11 refugee pupils (five females, six males) with special education needs are also enrolled in the Umutara Deaf School (U.D.S) which is a specialized and boarding school.
- Challenges remain, however, in securing tertiary education for refugee youth. Only 27 refugees have scholarships (20 supported by DAFI; four by Kepler University and three by African Leadership University).
- UNHCR and partners also support, six schools neighbouring the camp with the briquettes in the school feeding programme implemented by WFP. Briquettes are used for cooking lunch and porridge for the selected schools where refugee students are enrolled.

Health

- One health centre is in operation in Nyabiheke camp run by UNHCR and Alight. The Rwandan Ministry of Health also supports the centre through providing medical equipment. The centre primarily provides primary health care services include laboratory test, dental care, sexual and reproductive health, HIV services, family planning services and post-natal care. An average of 2,500 individuals benefit from such services every month, including hundreds of members of the local host community. In addition, The prevention of mother-to-child HIV+ transmission program (PMTCT) has been successful with zero transmission among infants born from HIV+ mothers for the past three years.
- In support of secondary and tertiary health care interventions, UNHCR and Alight also facilitate medical referrals to the district hospital in Ngarama and to Kigali hospitals if additional care is needed.
- Routine vaccination of children under five including measles and other mandatory child vaccination as well as COVID-19 vaccination is provided by ALIGHT. Currently, 84.4% of the

eligible persons for vaccination have received three doses (18 years and above) of the COVID-19 vaccine as per Rwanda Biomedical centre (RBC). In August 2022, the COVID-19 testing at the health centre resulted in zero positive case.

Food Security and Nutrition

- WFP provides support to refugees through cash for food, which is transferred to refugees monthly via bank cards, and sometimes via cash agents in the camp in cases when bank cards have errors. This assistance is divided into two categories which depends on the family's social and financial status (full: 7,000 RWF and partial: 3,500 RWF per person per month) and is aimed to help the most vulnerable in the camp.
- Nutrition services including education on a balanced diet and infant and young children feeding practices, therapeutic feeding, supplementary feeding, and anaemia programs targeting children under five years and pregnant/lactating women are carried out by UNHCR and partners in the camp.

Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR provides safe drinking water to all refugees living in the camp. In total, there are 27 water points, 60 latrine blocks, 18 garbage collection blocks, 42 shower blocks, 14 washing stands and 75 handwashing facilities. On average, the camp's residents receive 16.3 litres of water per person per day. Nyabiheke camp's water is supplied by a borehole in the camp - the only camp in Rwanda that uses boreholes for fetching the water - and there are an additional three boreholes in the local host community.

Shelter and NFIs

- Nyabiheke refugee camp covers 35 Ha of land and has a total of 2,325 shelters. On average five people live in every shelter although some 221 families do not have their own home and are hosted by other families.
- UNHCR provides shelter assistance to all refugees living in Nyabiheke. Activities include construction, rehabilitation and upgrading of shelters, replacing plastic sheeting with corrugated iron sheets on roofs and maintenance of communal facilities.
- Within the camp UNHCR operates a 'Shelter Ownership' approach in order to promote refugee ownership of their homes. Under this initiative refugees are encouraged to participate in community meetings to discuss their housing needs and where necessary, UNHCR is able to supports with construction material and labour.
- In Nyabiheke Refugee Camp, refugees have access to clean energy for cooking, lighting, and power. To support clean cooking, Practical Action has contracted two local companies which provide subsidised improved cookstoves and pellets for refugees at a reduced price.
- Under the Renewable Energy for Refugees (RE4R) project phase one and other interventions, 1,195 solar home systems and 110 solar streetlights were installed by Practical Action and Alight in communal areas to make the camp safer after dark.
- In the camp, offices, water pumping stations, business centres, and areas of worship are also connected to the main national grid as the main source of electricity paid by UNHCR. Refugee businesses are also able to connect to the national grid.

Livelihood and economic inclusion

- Since April 2021, UNHCR, MINEMA and Gatsibo District partnered to support 228 refugees and 228 host community (in total 456 families) to develop agricultural project on 23 Ha land in Nyabicwamba marshland. So far, soybean and maize crops were planted in 2022, and the entire harvest was successfully sold on the market for 14.4 million RWF. The marshland project has included the construction of a horticultural building, a drying building, and an irrigation and drainage system to support optimal production in the marshland.
- To promote business and job creation in the camp, UNHCR has constructed two business centres within which 13 rooms have been allocated to 24 refugee business owners. In addition, the market constructed by UNHCR supports 64 refugee businesses. Currently, an additional business centre, to be used by 35 refugee business owners, is being constructed by Practical Action in Nyabiheke camp.
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) is an important part of supporting the next generation of refugees find meaningful employment. Over the last year, 222 refugee youth (102 female and 120 male) were supported to attend TVET schools by various partners taking courses in areas such as tailoring, hair dressing, culinary arts, plumbing and construction.

Durable Solutions

- Since 2016, UNHCR has been working with the USA resettlement program to resettle 23,750 Congolese refugees who live in a protracted situation including in Nyabiheke camp.
- Besides USA, refugees in Nyabiheke have continued to benefit from resettlement in several other countries. Since 2012 approximately 2,683 refugees from Nyabiheke have so far departed to different resettlement countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, United Kingdom and Sweden).
- For 2022, a submissions quota of 1,872 refugees has been allocated to Nyabiheke refugees (1.500 refugees for USA alone).
- Refugees in Nyabiheke camp primarily originate from Eastern DRC. Due to ongoing security concerns in their area of origin, UNHCR is neither promoting nor facilitating voluntary repatriation at the time being.
- Legal and policy provisions exist to facilitate the local integration of refugees throughout Rwanda, including in Nyabiheke camp. Despite this, requests to locally integrate are few and the majority occur due to marriage between refugees and Rwandan nationals. UNHCR remains available to support refugees pursue naturalisation through legal pathways.

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