

I. Highlights

- As of September 16, 2022, Rwsa site recorded **16,725 Congolese refugees** returning from Uganda (**4,824 families**) transported by UNHCR from Kitagoma, an increase of 22% in 48 hours.
- Authorities arranged for searches of luggage and people when they boarded at Kitagoma, as well as upon arrival at Rwsa site. Based on UNHCR's plea, the Territorial Administrator sent a senior officer, notably a colonel, to Kitagoma to ensure the effectiveness of this security measure.
- **Material and logistical support** (two motorcycles, three computers and a printer) was provided by UNHCR to staff of the Bwisha chiefdom to enable them to be more effective in the administration and management of the site, which has a capacity of 20,000 people and could be quickly exceeded due to continuous arrival of people from Uganda.
- A 72-hours cross-border mission was carried out by UNHCR in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) staff in Uganda to establish a close **working relationship with UNHCR colleagues in Uganda, but also to discuss with refugees** and Ugandan authorities to understand the full scope of the return of Congolese refugees from Uganda to DRC. The members of DRC mission took advantage of their presence on Ugandan territory to visit the various transit centers in Nyakabande. They also visited the border through which Congolese refugees from Uganda pass to enter DRC, notably the border at Kitagoma, to ensure that adequate arrangements are in place to receive these refugees once in DRC.



II. Response

1. At the border

- UNHCR has built **three community sheds with three latrines and shower blocks** that can accommodate returnees for 24 hours at the Kitagoma border while authorities, including the National Refugee Commission (NRC), register them before transferring them to the Rwsa site.
- UNHCR continues to strengthen its presence and that of its partners for greater efficiency in managing the arrival of these Congolese refugees from Uganda. As of September 16, 2022, **42**

[partner staff and 9 UNHCR staff](#) are on the ground in Kitagoma and Rutshuru, which is three times the number that were in Rwaswa before the start of this new emergency on September 2, 2022.

- To reduce waiting time in Kitagoma, UNHCR plans to increase number of trucks carrying Congolese refugees returning from Uganda from three to four in the coming days.
- The shortcomings observed during the cross-border mission, carried out between the two UNHCR offices in Kitagoma/Busanza, are being addressed through corrective measures and the most important of which are:
 - [The urgent construction of two additional sheds to accommodate the increasing number of refugees arriving at the border](#); as well as two additional latrines for sanitation and hygiene promotion to avoid a cholera outbreak.
 - [The provision of emergency NFI kits in Kitagoma](#) (blankets, mats, dignity kits, mosquito nets, soap, jerry cans, etc.)
 - [Three solar streetlights were installed near the Kitagoma transit sheds](#) benefiting both the host community and the returning refugees from Uganda

2. At the site of Rwaswa, at the level of Kiwanja/Rutshuru, North Kivu Province, DRC

UNHCR continues to work with local authorities, partners and community-based organizations to address the needs of people in Rwaswa site.

UNHCR is providing the following responses in the site:

- [Continued construction of emergency shelters](#) by AIDES, a UNHCR partner. Between September 12 and 16, [300 new shelters were built](#), for a total of [1,160 emergency shelters](#), [24 latrines and shower blocks](#), and [24 collective kitchens completed](#).
- [Construction of 4 new police booths](#) (at the four entry/exit points of the site) (at the four entry/exit points of the site), [3 new temporary shelters for people with special needs](#), [6 new community shelters](#) in Rugabo and Institut Rutshuru, as well as [500 new emergency shelters](#) in Rutshuru to house the families of displaced people living in the schools and preventing the resumption of classes
- [Installation of 47 solar streetlamps](#) in the Rwaswa site.
- [Strengthening material and logistical capacities](#) of the staff of the Bwisha chiefdom (which administers the Rwaswa site and the collective centers in Rutshuru) within the framework of the [Camp Coordination Camp Management \(CCCM\)](#), by providing them with two motorcycles, three laptops and a printer.
- [Facilitation of community participation of Rwaswa site residents \(including refugees returning from Uganda\)](#) by the chiefdom through the organization of elections of members of three sectoral committees, namely the hygiene committee, the education committee and the community monitoring committee composed of a total of 20 people including 9 women.
- The NGO MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières) set up a mobile clinic at the entrance of Rwaswa site, which received 223 patients and made 8 referrals on the first day and provided outpatient care to population of the site, including returning refugees from Uganda.
- The NGO YME Grands Lacs has begun construction of [40 additional latrines and shower blocks in the Rwaswa site](#).
- WFP continues to [distribute food](#) in Rwaswa site.
- UNFPA plans to start monitoring GBV cases in Rwaswa.

III. Gaps

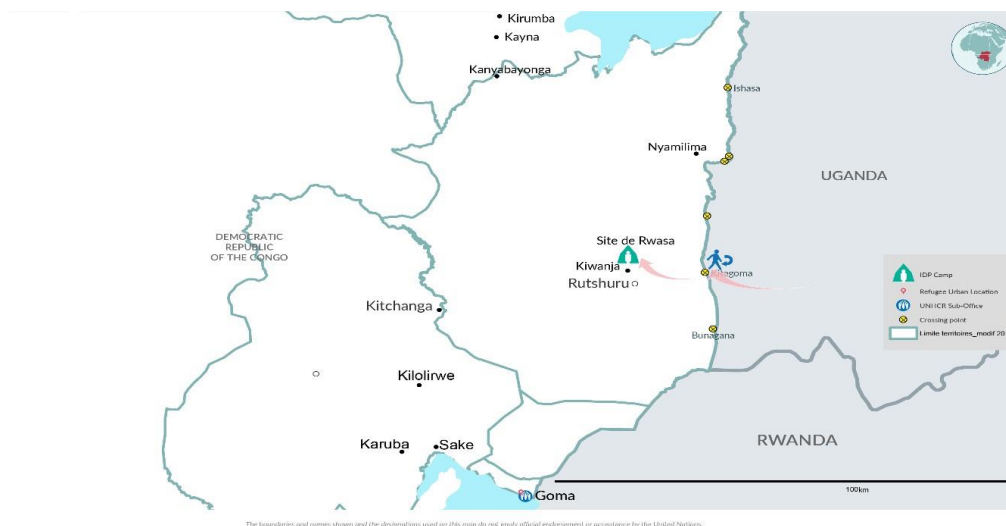
- The slowdown of construction works at Rwsa site due to rains.
- The absence of hot meals due to the lack of financial resources.
- The lack of schooling for the site's children (64% of the site's population).
- The disruption of water supply at the site due to lag time between the end of project led by AVUDS (United Volunteers for Development and Health) and the resumption of the supply by Solidarités Internationales.
- The deterioration of the road between Kitagoma and Rwsa does not facilitate the transportation of returnees who arrive late at night at the Rwsa site.
- The inaccessibility of firewood and land for fields by internally displaced people (IDPs) continues to fuel latent tensions between IDPs and host communities.
- The occupation of schools, churches, and other community centers by IDPs remains a concern.
- The lack of assistance to IDPs on the Rutshuru-Kibumba and Bweza, Ntamugenga, Rubare axes is a concern.
- The overcrowding of the Rwsa site will create additional needs.

As of 30 August, the UNHCR has received only 33 per cent of the funding required to provide the necessary assistance to displaced and vulnerable people in DRC.

IV. Coordination

- UNHCR in DRC is collaborating with UNHCR in Uganda and is working in coordination with local and traditional administrative authorities, civil society, including many partners including OCHA WFP, UNICEF, UNFPA, UPEDECO, AVUDS, AVSI, AIDES, INTERSOS, MSF, Congolese Red Cross and others, to ensure a holistic and complementary response.

Map of Rutshuru territory - showing Rwsa site and the border between the DRC and Uganda



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