

Rwanda

April 2023

1,470 newly arrived Congolese children enrolled in educational activities in Nkamira. The roll-out of Education in Emergency curriculum seeks to support school-aged children to catch-up with their learning.

Due to ongoing instability in Eastern DRC, people continue to cross the border to Rwanda. Since November 2022, **UNHCR has recorded 6,490 asylum seekers.**

The Mahama II Health Centre has been licensed to operate as a medicalization health centre by the Rwandan Ministry of Health and has begun to perform minor surgeries, C-sections, and other advanced health procedures.

KEY STATISTICS

125,595 individuals are registered with UNHCR in Rwanda as of 30 April 2023. Mainly including people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (61.30%) and Burundi (38.12%). About 6,490 new asylum seekers are awaiting status determination.

91% of refugees in Rwanda live in refugee camps

2,941 refugees have departed for resettlement & **26** departed through complementary pathways in 2023

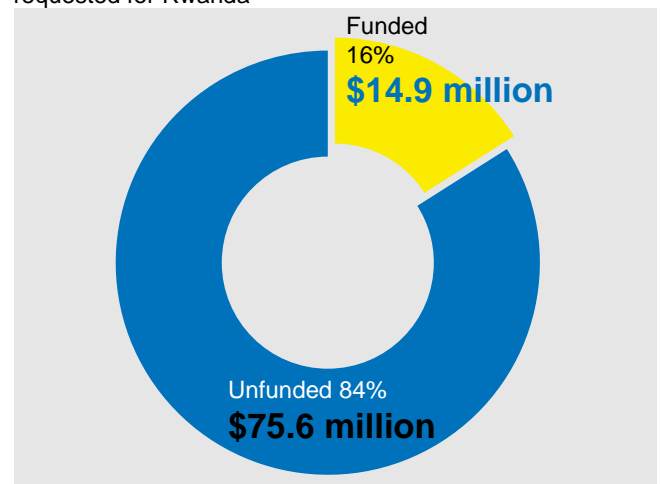


Refugee women collect water from one of the main taps stands in Kiziba refugee camp

FUNDING (AS OF 27 APRIL)

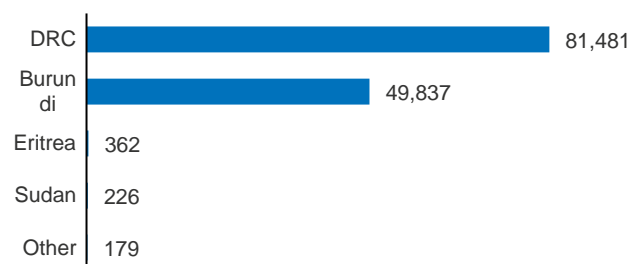
USD 90.5 million

requested for Rwanda



CURRENT POPULATION OF CONCERN

Countries of Origin



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

Operational Context & Partners

The Government of Rwanda (GoR), through Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), leads the refugee response in Rwanda in coordination with UNHCR. In addition, a range of UN Agencies, NGOs, operational and development partners participate in sector working groups at both country and district levels. In 2023, UNHCR works directly with seven NGO partners in implementing key activities to assist both the refugee population and Rwandan host communities. To further strengthen the implementation of the Global Compact on Refugees, UNHCR maintains close collaboration with key government institutions and ministries.

Achievements



PROTECTION

- Due to fighting in North-Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), since November 2022, asylum seekers from the DRC began fleeing to Rwanda's western province. As of the end of April 2023, 6,490 Congolese individuals had fled to Rwanda. 1,775 of the asylum seekers are being accommodated in Mahama refugee camp and 4,715 asylum seekers are hosted in Nkamira Site. UNHCR continues to work with the Government of Rwanda and partners to provide food and non-food related items to all new asylum seekers and coordinate the emergency response.
- UNHCR continued to support urban refugees and asylum seekers in Rwanda through various protection channels, where 78 individuals received protection services and counselling in the month of April. Through protection helplines in urban areas, UNHCR received approximately 132 inquiries from individuals who requested assistance. Most of the concerns raised were related to medical assistance and Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI).
- UNHCR works with psychosocial partner, Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to identify and manage refugee mental health conditions across all camps in Rwanda. UNHCR and HI work with mental health professionals (psychiatric nurses or psychiatrists) to address complex refugee mental health conditions, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression. In April, 312 refugees (143 male and 169 female) received integrated home-based occupational therapy psychosocial support services through individual sessions as part of mental health and psychosocial services offered in Mahama refugee camp.
- UNHCR and child protection partners in camps are committed to ensure that children, adolescents, and youth are protected from harm and that their rights are upheld. During April, 19 child protection cases were documented and supported in five camps and two urban locations (Huye and Kigali). 22 child protection-related cases were closed once the protection needs of children were met, bringing the remaining total of child protection cases to 290 cases of children at risk that continue to receive support. As part of refugee protection case management, Best Interest Procedures (BIP), which includes child protection case management, as well as Best Interest Determination (BID), continue to be conducted for children at risk. In April, 39 BIPs were conducted for refugee children in Rwanda.
- Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) require specialized support services, including accommodation, family-based care, counselling, and assistance in accessing health, education, and other services (socialisation/recreation, vocational training, mental health services, family reunification,

access to legal services, and case management), at a minimum. In April, as part of efforts to support UASC in refugee camps, a total of 531 UASC received regular monitoring.

- Gender based violence (GBV) incidents among refugee populations continued to be reported. In April, UNHCR responded to four new GBV cases in Nyabiheke refugee camp. UNHCR and partners continue to provide multi-sectoral support to affected individuals. Moreover, in an effort to prevent GBV incidents and enhance GBV awareness, UNHCR and partners continued to provide community empowering programs in Nyabieheke, including inhouse training for GBV community mobilisers on GBV general knowledge and their role and responsibilities, as well as interactive learning opportunities around GBV with debates between “Champion of Change” (adolescent boys) and BLOOM “Choose a Future” (adolescent girls) on gender equality promotion.



Eveline Mukamana, refugee from the Kiziba refugee camp, who owns her own boutique business.



EDUCATION

- In Rwanda, refugee children are included within the national education system and can enroll at schools nearby the refugee camps. As of April, the average school attendance from refugee camps across Rwanda, in Early Childhood Development (ECD) programs, primary and secondary education, were 92%, 94% and 92% respectively. In the current academic year 2022/2023, a total of 42,184 refugees were enrolled in schools and higher learning institutions across the country.
- UNHCR continued to collaborate with 15 refugee hosting schools to improve quality education. In particular, through a connected learning programme where a total of 14,500 refugee and host primary school students have continued to use digital devices to access digital education resources. The digital resources enable refugee pupils to better understand concepts especially in science subjects. In this regard, over 770 teachers have also been trained at digital literacy and have been able to use digital

devices and platforms to prepare lesson plans, deliver lessons, and assess the performance of students.

- The education in emergency (EiE) programme was launched on 17th April in Nkamira Transit Site and has already engaged 1,490 students attending the first day of the school from early childhood education to primary and secondary education. EiE offers school age children an opportunity to access education in a condensed curriculum that can be completed in half (or even less) of the number of years normally required for that level. Through this program, children will be able to catch-up with the education they may have missed and bridge their knowledge to transfer to the next level. The school in Nkamira currently operates in two shifts with a total of 56 education facilitators. Similar education activities have also been introduced for the new influx asylum-seekers from DRC hosted at the Mahama departure center.
- Children with disabilities face difficulties in learning and accessing quality specialized education, making them vulnerable to stigma, discrimination and in instances, segregation. These difficulties are exacerbated for children living in refugee camps. To combat this, UNHCR continues to work with partners to make specialized learning accessible to refugee children with disabilities. From Mugombwa and Kigeme refugee camp, for example, 29 children with different disabilities were enrolled and studied in different specialized schools in Rwanda. Similarly, UNHCR has supported 20 children with severe disabilities from Mahama camp to enroll in specialized schools while 43 children with disabilities were enrolled in ECD, and 173 children with disabilities were also enrolled in local primary and secondary schools.



HEALTH

- The Mahama II Health Centre has been licensed to operate as a medicalization health centre by the Rwandan Ministry of Health. The centre will now be able to offer and perform minor surgeries, c-sections and blood transfusion, and other comprehensive emergence obstetric care within the camp rather than having to refer patients to hospitals. Since its opening, the centre has supported seven c-section births, as well as the utilisation of a zipline drone to deliver blood for transfusions.
- UNHCR is managing eight camp-based health care facilities across refugee camps in Rwanda in cooperation with Save the Children and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) at the ETM. These include four health centres (two in Mahama, one in Kiziba, one in Nyabiheke) and four health posts (one in Mugombwa, Kigeme, Nkamira and Gashora). Health centres in camps offer broad health care services, including laboratory tests and vaccinations, while health posts offer primary health care services. In addition, some services including the provision of TB and HIV medications are provided through district government health centres.
- UNHCR supports access to health care services for all refugees in Rwanda. In April, 24,591 primary consultations were conducted in all camp-based health facilities, averaging 50 consultations per day per clinician. The local Rwandan host community also have access to these health facilities. The health centres in camps also supported the delivery of 293 new-born babies with 99.8% of the births attended by skilled health workers. UNHCR also continued to refer refugees in need of emergency, life-saving care to district level hospitals. In total, 638 health cases were referred for secondary and tertiary level care and management in April.

- Access to contraception is a priority within the refugee response and UNHCR continues to work with health partners in camps to provide access to contraceptive services to reduce the risk of teenage or adolescent pregnancies, and the likelihood of maternal, new-born and child deaths. During March, UNHCR through the health partners supported 7,640 women of reproductive age to access family planning service and modern contraceptives. Currently, the contraceptive prevalence rate for refugee women in camps is recorded as 27.87%. UNHCR continues to work with partners to advocate for additional sensitization on sexual reproductive health.
- As part of ongoing efforts to enhance health care support to refugees, UNHCR and UNICEF conducted a six-month program where 27 Community Health Workers were recruited and trained to support the Kijote and Nkamira Transit Sites. 23 of them have been trained on Maternal, Neonatal and Child Health (MNCH) including danger signs, which will enable them to early detect cases in need of emergency interventions in relation to refugee pregnant women, neonatology, and childhood illness.



FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

- Eligible refugees in all camps receive cash assistance for food from the World Food Program (WFP). As of the end of April 2023, 94 percent of the total refugees living in the camps are under targeted food assistance. As per agreed targeting criteria, 87 percent of refugees in Rwanda are classified as Highly Vulnerable and receive full (100%) food assistance, while 6 percent of refugees are currently classified as Moderately Vulnerable and receive 50 percent of the value of full food assistance. And 7 percent of refugees are classified as Least Vulnerable and do not receive any cash for food assistance.
- To support the nutrition of refugees and prevent malnutrition, UNHCR and partners conduct regular nutrition screenings and provide support for vulnerable refugees especially infants, children under the age of six, mothers and refugees with chronic diseases. As of the end of April, UNHCR and partners identified 17 Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and 81 Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) cases and admitted these cases to targeted therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs for treatments in their respective refugee hosting sites. These new cases have resulted in the increase of the total SAM cases currently being monitored to 55 and the total MAM cases to 222. Additionally, UNHCR, through the respective health partners in refugee camps enrolled 294 and 283 pregnant and lactating women respectively in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) to support with balanced macronutrient intake for healthier pregnancy and optimal perinatal outcomes. UNHCR partners also assisted 6,131 children between 6-23 months with BSFP.



WATER AND SANITATION

- UNHCR, in partnership with World Vision, provides water to refugees living in all refugee camps, reception, and transit centres across Rwanda, as well as the newly established Nkamira Site through connections to the national water network where possible. In April 2023, water supply averaged 21.9 litres per person per day throughout the refugee camps in Rwanda. Camps such as Nyabiheke and Kigeme continue to provide less than 17 litres of water supply, which is below the minimum water supply of 20 litres per person per day. Additionally, sanitation coverage, for example insufficient shower rooms and latrines in certain camps, have been observed to be low. UNHCR continues to work with partners to seek support for the construction and maintenance of additional sanitation facilities.

- To curb the impact of poor hygiene related diseases and stave off COVID-19 in all refugee camps and transit locations, UNHCR through WASH partners provided a total of 2,263 litres of liquid soap, for handwashing and other cleaning practices in April. Furthermore, 2,020 cubic meters of sludge from latrines' septic tanks and 602 m³ of garbage was collected from refugee camps and disposed of to the respective waste dumpsites, to keep refugee camps clean.
- In Nkamira Transit Site, UNHCR ensured the provision of basic WASH services for 4,715 asylum seekers. The access to clean water was maintained above the minimum standards (at 19.9 litres per person per day). Asylum seekers also continue to access sanitation facilities at latrines and shower stances with 106 persons per designated latrine drop hole, as well as 58 persons per shower stance.



SHELTER AND NFIS

- In April, UNHCR distributed cash assistance to refugees across all refugee camps to help them buy non-food items. This multipurpose cash assistance is distributed to refugees by UNHCR on a quarterly basis. UNHCR provides the cash equivalent for core relief items such as mattresses, blankets, plastic sheets, containers for water, cooking utensils and hygiene kits which helps refugees to meet their immediate basic needs and to rebuild their lives in dignity.
- In April, a total 12 shelters were rehabilitated across all the camps including, 11 in Mugombwa and one in Kigeme camp, bringing the total number shelters rehabilitated across the camps since the beginning of the year to 76 shelters. In addition, UNHCR also transformed the roofing for nine shelters in Kiziba camp, from old iron sheets to new iron sheet roofing, bringing the total number of refugee shelters rehabilitated through roofing works this year to 61.
- Additionally in April, the construction of one terrace was also completed to protect shelters in high-risk areas in Mugombwa camp. This brings the total construction in 2023 to 27 terraces. In addition, a block of four offices were constructed for the purpose of conducting resettlement activities within the Nyabiheke camp.
- In response to the influx of asylum seekers from DRC, UNHCR completed the construction of kitchen facilities to support the preparation of meals at Nkamira Transit Site. In addition, UNHCR continues to construct communal hangars at Nkamira to accommodate the growing population, in total 39 hangars have been completed and the construction of five additional hangars is ongoing.



ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- After the ban of the use of firewood in 2018, UNHCR provided 14,953 refugees in Mahama with gas-powered stoves for clean cooking. Since then, UNHCR has continued to provide gas for clean cooking / energy in kind for refugees in Mugombwa and Mahama refugee camps in the form of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG). LPG cookers emit 50 times fewer pollutants than cooking stoves fuelled by biomass such as mud stoves, making them the ideal cooking energy for refugees in camps. In April 2023, approximately 14,925 cylinders of gas equalling 89,550 Kgs were distributed to refugees in Mahama camp.

In 2018, UNHCR introduced a cash assistance programme to ensure refugees receive monthly cash payments that enable them to have the financial resources to purchase gas for cooking and other energy needs in Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme camps. In April 2023, UNHCR Rwanda supported refugees with cash for energy in the camps, while all refugees in the ETM centre also received cash assistance. This programme also contributes to improving environmental sustainability by reducing the need for firewood.

- In April, with the support of World Vision International, 75 bamboo trees were planted at the Akagera River buffer zone in Mahama camp to protect the river from soil erosion effects. Furthermore, 200 agroforestry and fruit trees were planted at GS Paysanat (secondary school in Mahama).



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

- UNHCR alongside livelihood partners provides refugees with a variety of entrepreneurship trainings to support self-reliance. In April in Mahama camp 991 refugees received loans from *Umutanguha* microfinance institution, while 213 youth were enrolled in different technical and vocational training courses including operation of heavy machinery, multimedia and trade sponsored by Maison Shalom. Moreover, Indigo Africa continued to provide entrepreneurship trainings and mentorship to women artisans as well as providing orders and connecting them to local and international market, while 229 beneficiaries (158 Refugees and 71 Rwandese) completed and graduated under UNHCR - Caritas Rwanda's project in commerce, agriculture, and livestock activities and 25 graduated from Maison shalom on leather making skills.
- Agriculture is one of the main sectors through which refugee self-reliance can be achieved. UNHCR Rwanda is currently running three projects to develop refugee and Rwandan livelihoods and self-reliance through the Misizi (covering Mugombwa camp), Nyabicwamba (covering Nyabiheke Refugee Camp), and Mushishito (covering Kigeme Refugee Camp) marshlands. In Kabarore, crop season B 2022-2023 has begun in the Nyabicwamba marshland. 469 farmers (234 refugees and 235 host communities) received agriculture inputs and seeds from UNHCR, including soyabeans seeds, organic manure, and chemical fertilizers) to support their agricultural endeavors.
- To promote business and job creation in the Nyabiheke camp, UNHCR has constructed two business centres within with 13 rooms allocated to 24 refugee business owners. In addition, the market constructed by UNHCR within the Nyabiheke camp continues to support 64 refugee businesses. Currently, an additional business centre to be used by 35 refugee business owners is being constructed by Practical Action within camp. All businesses are connected to national electricity grid.
- At the ETM, UNHCR, in coordination with World Vision International, supported 292 individuals (239 refugees and 53 members of the host community) with vocational training, 127 refugees with ICT/Computer training, 39 refugees and 19 members of the host community with hairdressing, and 73 refugees and 34 members of the host community with tailoring.



DURABLE SOLUTIONS

- For the year 2023, UNHCR Rwanda has received resettlement quota for 5,803 individuals to USA, Norway, Canada, France, and Finland. By the end of April 2023, 1,850 individuals have been submitted to resettlement countries, including USA, Norway, Canada, and France. In addition, so far in 2023, 2,941 refugees have departed to USA, Norway, Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, Australia, and New Zealand through resettlement and 26 refugees departed through complementary pathways largely as part of quotas provided in previous years.
- In April, France conducted a selection mission for Burundian and Congolese refugees, as well as refugees from the Emergency Transit Centre. By the conclusion of the mission, 122 refugees were interviewed for resettlement to France. Also in April, the Resettlement Support Centre (RSC) Africa began conducting Cultural Orientation session from 20th April - 15 May for Kigali (including ETM cases), Kirehe, Kabarore and Karongi, to empower refugees with information that will contribute to their adjustment post resettlement.



MISSIONS, DELEGATIONS AND EVENTS

- In April, UNHCR successfully hosted a field mission for Denmark Office in Rwanda visit to the Nyabiheke refugee camp and Nyabicwamba Marshland to see the impact of their funding for the marshland and discuss with refugees their journey to self-reliance.
- A Norwegian People's Aid delegation mission also took place in April, as part of awareness raising and enhancing advocacy for resettlement opportunities for refugees in Rwanda.
- UNHCR also facilitated a visit for members from the Belgium Embassy to the Nkamira Transit Site, as part of awareness raising efforts for the plight of Congolese refugees fleeing to Rwanda and the refugee response by Government of Rwanda, UNHCR and partners.

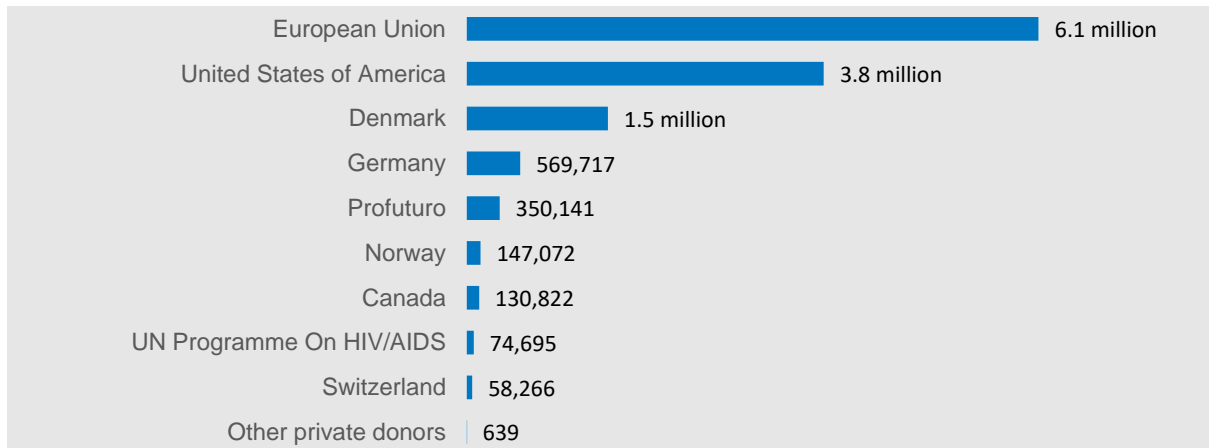


Diane (17) is an unaccompanied child and teen mother to twins Gabriella and Azriella at the Nkamira Transit Site.

Financial Information

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to the Rwanda operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes regionally and globally with broadly earmarked and unearmarked funds.

EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS to UNHCR Rwanda in 2023 | USD



BROADLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of broadly earmarked contributions which contribute to the response in Rwanda and the region

United States of America 7.2 million | Canada 3.9 million | Finland 3.1 million | Private donors Australia 2.1 million

UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of unearmarked contributions.

Sweden 69 million | Norway 63.1 million | Denmark 35.6 million | Netherlands 34.1 million | Germany 23.1 million | Switzerland 18.9 million | Belgium 11.9 million | Ireland 11.9 million

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