



DRC NEW INFLUX TO RWANDA: UPDATE # 12

21 April 2023

Refugee children line up for their first day of school in Nkamira Transit Site © UNHCR

KEY STATISTICS

6,262 new asylum seekers arrived in Rwanda from DRC between November 2022 and 23 April 2023

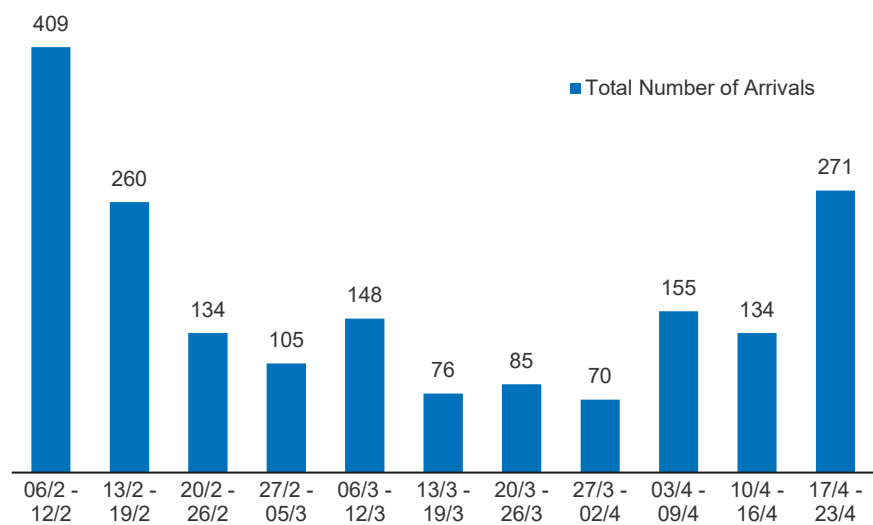
1,775 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama camp up until 12th January

4,487 asylum seekers accommodated at Nkamira Transit Site

56% of the new arrivals in Rwanda are children below 18

Most of the new arrivals originate from North Kivu (Masisi and Rutshuru)

Number of New Arrivals from DRC to Rwanda



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

OVERVIEW

The escalation in fighting within Eastern DRC is resulting in an increase of new asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. As of mid-April, over 5,995 individuals have arrived in Rwanda since mid-November 2022.

Between the end of November and beginning of January, new arrivals were initially received at Kijote Transit Centre before being transferred to Mahama refugee camp. Due to the increasing numbers, however, and the fact that Mahama Camp has reached capacity, on 12 January 2023, the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) informed UNHCR of the decision of the Government of Rwanda to host asylum seekers close to the border at a new site - Nkamira.

On 8 February, Kijote Transit Centre was emptied, and all new arrivals are now directly transferred to Nkamira Transit Site. Although the numbers of new arrivals decreased in late February and March, as of mid-April, UNHCR is once again observing an increase in the flow of new arrivals. Working alongside partners, UNHCR continues to build the capacity of Nkamira Transit Site and provide basic services to support the new arrivals.



Nkamira Site

Nkamira is located around 127 kilometres from Kigali, on the main high-way connecting Kigali-Rubavu and just five kilometres from Kijote Transit Centre and approximately 20km from the border. The site is a private property obtained by MINEMA covering **five hectares of land**. The same site was previously used in 2012-2013 as reception centre for Congolese refugees. The capacity of the site is **10,000 persons**.

Sector Response

MINEMA and UNHCR are co-leading the response at Nkamira alongside ADRA, World Vision, Save the Children, Plan International, Prison Fellowship, Red Cross, WFP, and UNICEF. Other UN agencies such as UNFPA and IOM have also supported with technical expertise and in-kind materials. Weekly coordination meetings are happening at the field level and three high-level coordination meetings have also taken place in Kigali.

Protection

UNHCR protection staff continued to be present providing fundamental protection and assistance, alongside partners in Nkamira and Mahama departure centre. Child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services are available through Plan International Rwanda (PIR) in Nkamira and Save the Children International (SCI) in Mahama, while legal assistance and community-based protection services, including assistance to people with specific needs, are provided by Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR). Due to resource and capacity limitations, comprehensive assistance for people living with disabilities, including provision of assistive devices have yet to be provided. GBV response services are provided to survivors who experienced GBV incidents during flight and during their asylum.

Best Interest Assessments are being carried out for 350 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk in both locations. Child protection activities are ongoing with 29 UASC placed in foster care arrangements, and tracing has been done for 17 UASC. PFR has also begun a road safety campaign targeted to parents of young children in Nkamira and assigned three community policing volunteers at various locations to support with keeping children off the roads.

Community-based protection mechanisms continue to be strengthened at Nkamira and Mahama. There is, however, a gap in provision of psychosocial counselling as well as a communal spaces for the population especially women at risk and children. UNHCR is working with partners to address the gap. Over the previous week, more than 2,894 children attended various activities at the child friendly space (CFS) in Nkamira and 132 adolescents participated in targeted programs such as karate, football, knitting, painting, modern and traditional dances. Awareness raising on child protection and GBV prevention reached 514 individuals. The Government of Rwanda (GoR) is leading the process of

recording the new arrivals and conducting nationality assessments. Formal registration of the population has yet to take place with discussions ongoing as to how to register the status of the new arrivals if the population decides to remain in Rwanda. So far, 30 new births have been recorded in Nkamira and 26 new-borns have been issued with a birth certificate.

Health

Primary health services for the new arrivals are provided at Nkamira and Mahama refugee camp in partnership with SCI. Over the previous week, a total of 609 consultations were conducted for asylum seekers hosted in Nkamira, including 139 (30.5%) for children under 5 years of age. 11 individuals were subsequently referred to a higher level of care for more investigation and treatment. The main cause of consultation remains respiratory tract infections. They represented 51.5% of the consultation. The deliveries of three new-born babies were also conducted.

Measles vaccination coverage among the new arrivals has now reached 98%. No new cases were identified during the previous week and there are currently no active cases among the new asylum seekers in Nkamira. This is a result of a measles vaccination campaign conducted by Rwanda Biomedical Center, the district health authorities of Kirehe and Save The Children. In Mahama refugee camp, 19,423 children have been vaccinated (both new arrivals and the existing refugee population).

Shelter

Asylum seekers at Nkamira are currently being accommodated in 35 hangars which have been constructed since the site's opening. Men, women, and children are currently assigned separate living areas. Separate accommodation for older persons and women at risk has also been allocated. Solar lamps have been procured and were distributed by UNHCR to the families during the previous week to provide a source of light in the hangars during the night. The construction of 2 education blocks consisting of 10 temporary classrooms is complete and in use. The education facility is envisioned to provide a learning space for the school going children in the centre.

Food and Nutrition

WFP through its cooperating partner ADRA continue to distribute nutritious morning porridge as well as two hot meals per day to all asylum seekers. The hot lunches and dinners include fresh vegetables, while rice and maize grain are alternated in the meals. Nutrition screening also continues for newly arrived children, as well as for identifying cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Save the Children International currently provides nutrition assistance to 25 children with MAM at the Nkamira transit site, and to 22 children with MAM and one child with SAM among the asylum seekers hosted at the Mahama refugee camp. Members from the refugee community have been identified to establish a complaints and feedback committee amongst the asylum seeker population at Nkamira. They will receive training from WFP in early May on how to receive and manage issues being brought forward.

Education

Following the training of refugee teachers, on 17 April, the roll out of the education in emergency curriculum began for children in Nkamira. In total, 1,490 school-aged children attended the first day of school. There are currently 10 classrooms in use at Nkamira Transit Site and as such, the schools are having to operate in two shifts. Despite this, classrooms are substantially overcrowded and lack basic infrastructure such as school benches. In addition, Early Childhood Development (ECD) activities continue to take place for children aged 3-6 years old in five tents during the morning. Together with World Vision, UNHCR is conducting daily monitoring of the teaching and learning activities.



Diane, 17, and her twin children Gabriella and Azriella, fled from Masisi, North Kivu, DRC to seek safety across the border in Rwanda. Diane, a teen mother, was also separated from her family en route.

“When militias attacked our village, everyone escaped for their own safety. I came with my children only. When I get assistance, I buy Irish potatoes and vegetables for my children. Even if we don't have all our basic needs, at least we are safe here. I hope to see my twins growing well.”

URGENT NEEDS



Supply and provision of non-food items, including mattresses and mats



Construction of additional communal kitchens (at least 4) and provision of LPG



Construction communal hangars, urgent need for plastic sheeting



Construction of latrines



School equipment

WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services for asylum seekers at Nkamira Site is ensured through the provision of a range of basic services and facilities. Currently 44 latrine stances remain, serving 99 persons per drop hole (over UNHCR's emergency standards of 50 persons per drop hole). The reconstruction of collapsed latrine block with 10 drop holes is in progress based on new design. Increasing the number of facilities and maintaining the existing WASH facilities at operational level is a priority for UNHCR to reach sanitation coverage thresholds.

Currently, there are 80 shower rooms serving 55 individuals per shower stance and 39 usable water taps, serving 112 individuals per water tap, at Nkamira. An average of 20.15 litres of potable water is provided per person per day, above the minimum emergency standards of 15 litres of water per person per day. Water trucking is also serving as a backup to cover any interruptions in water services and access to enough water. Regular disinfection at sanitation locations is conducted to maintain appropriate standards. The community is supported to keep good sanitation conditions through disseminating the hygiene promotion messages and regular

latrine emptying. UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision continue providing hygiene items at the site and have put emphasis on redesigning the sanitation infrastructure and increasing sanitation coverage.

Interagency Budget Needs

\$16.1 million is required to respond to the needs of the asylum seekers at Nkamira Transit Site and Mahama refugee camp over the next six months. The budget is calculated based on an estimate of 10,000 new arrivals and considers the needs of implementing NGO partners working with UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and FAO.

UNHCR has currently only received \$1.5 million from the USA to support the response. As a result, UN agencies are currently repurposing funds from the existing refugee response to support the new arrivals.

	UNHCR	UNICEF	WFP	FAO	Total
Protection	300,000	200,000			500,000
Health	655,000	500,000			1,155,000
Shelter	1,074,000				1,074,000
WASH	320,000	1,000,000			1,320,000
Food Security and Nutrition		500,000	8,777,208	220,000	9,497,208
Education	400,000	340,000			740,000
NFIs & Energy	375,000				375,000
Energy	350,000				350,000
Camp Management	44,000				44,000
Refugee Coordination	635,000	388,500			1,023,500
TOTAL	4,153,000	2,928,500	8,598,815	TBC	\$ 16,078,708