

# Rwanda

June 2024

In June, **137 Rwandan refugees** returned home. So far in 2024, UNHCR has facilitated the repatriation of **395 Rwandan refugees** and supported their reintegration into their communities of origin through cash assistance.

On 13 June, **113 refugees and asylum seekers** were evacuated from Libya to the ETM in Rwanda. This marked the 18th evacuation flight since 2019 and the second in 2024.

Over **167 asylum seekers** were relocated from Kigali to Mahama refugee camp in June. UNHCR has noted an increase in asylum seekers from countries such as Sudan and Burundi who are unable to support themselves in urban areas.

## KEY STATISTICS

**134,272** refugees and asylum seekers are in Rwanda as of 30 June 2024. Mainly including people from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (61%) and Burundi (38%).

**141** asylum seekers from DRC arrived in Rwanda in June 2024.

**2,905** refugees were submitted for resettlement so far in 2024

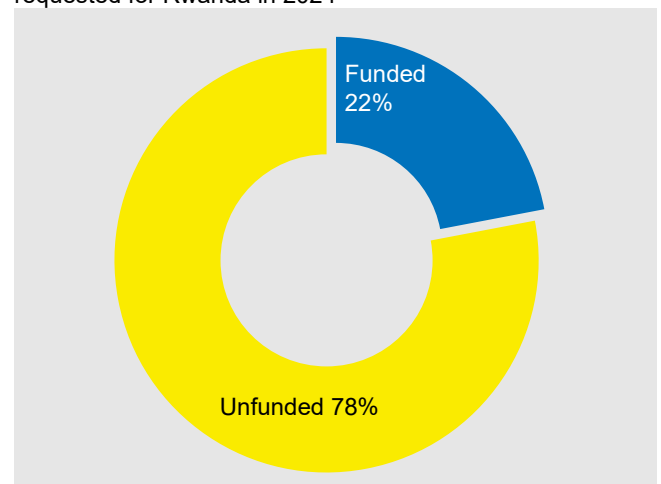


UNHCR celebrates World Refugee Day in Mugombwa refugee camp on 20 June alongside refugees, MINEMA and the international community.

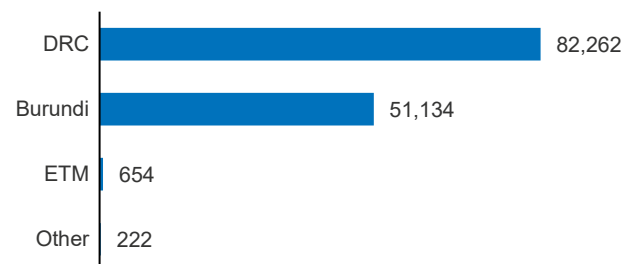
## FUNDING NEEDS

**USD 91.7 million**

requested for Rwanda in 2024



## CURRENT POPULATION



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

## Operational Context & Partners

The Government of Rwanda (GoR), through the 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 2024, UNHCR works directly with eight 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, ministries, operational partners, and the private sector working with refugees in Rwanda.



### PROTECTION

- UNHCR works closely with the Government of Rwanda, specifically Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration, to issue refugee ID cards to refugees over 16 years old. Currently the Refugee ID coverage stands at 86 percent.
- UNHCR works in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) to provide legal counselling and assistance. In June, 64 criminal cases and civil cases were assisted before the courts. In addition, 60 asylum seekers from Sudan, Burundi, Afghanistan, and other nationalities were provided counselling about asylum procedures and supported to submit their asylum application to the Rwandan Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE).
- During the month of June, UNHCR in Rwanda observed an increased number of asylum seekers from Sudan who initially sought refuge in Uganda or South Sudan. Due to their situation as onward movers, UNHCR is discussing with the Government of Rwanda their asylum applications.
- In June, UNHCR collaborated with Spirit of Peace and Solidarity (SPS), a refugee-led organization in Rwanda, to provide accommodation for asylum seekers from Burundi, Sudan, and other nationalities who approached UNHCR for support but lacked housing in Kigali. The lack of accommodation for asylum seekers is a growing problem in Rwanda. SPS has agreed to provide temporary housing for these individuals until they can be relocated to refugee camps. Over 167 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama refugee camp in June.
- In June, 141 new asylum seekers fled from DRC to Rwanda and were initially accommodated at Nkamira Transit centre. As of the end of the month, Nkamira hosted 5,161 individuals.
- Following approval from the Government of Rwanda, UNHCR commenced the official registration of asylum seekers at Nkamira transit centre in May. Over 4,670 individuals were registered and provided with Proof of Registration documents by the end of June.
- 34 percent of the refugee population were born in Rwanda. The birth registration rate among persons of concern born in Rwanda irrespective of age stands at 96%, for children below 5 years of age the coverage stands at 99%. UNHCR continues to work with the Government of Rwanda and associated ministries to improve the birth registration rates as refugees are included within the national Civil Registration and Vital Statistics system. In June, UNHCR assisted in the processing of 200 birth certificates for refugees in partnership with Prison Fellowship Rwanda.
- To continue to fulfil its mandate, UNHCR has established various channels to facilitate communication with refugees such as help lines, SMS, WhatsApp, email, face-to-face counselling, and community meetings. In June, 175 displaced persons made inquiries in Kigali and Nyamata with 30 percent of requests concerning health care and community-based health insurance (CBHI) enrolment.
- UNHCR in Rwanda provides urgent financial assistance to refugees living in urban areas in exceptional cases to help them meet their basic needs such as paying rent and buying food. In 2024, this assistance

is directly provided by Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) as part of UNHCR's partnership agreement with them. During the month, 25 Burundian refugee families and one Ethiopian asylum seeker were provided with such financial assistance to help them buy food. These families were also provided with transportation from Kigali to Mahama refugee camp as they were not able to sustain a living in the urban environment.

- In Rwanda, UNHCR partners with Humanity and Inclusion (HI) to support people with specific needs. In June, a range of mental health and psychosocial support services continued to be provided to refugees with specific needs across all camp locations. In addition, 656 people with disabilities received services such as distribution of non-food items, support to get assistive devices, financial assistance, and referrals to Kabgayi eye hospital for specialized medical services.
- On 19 June, UNHCR organized the child protection and GBV sub-sector working group in collaboration with MIGEPROF in Kigali. The meeting was attended by UN agencies and a range of partners working in the sector across refugee settings in Rwanda.
- In June, 511 best interest procedures for child protection cases were conducted by UNHCR and partners. This included assessments to determine the best course of action in supporting unaccompanied and separated children.
- UNHCR partners with Save the Children and Plan International in Rwanda to run activities for refugee children in camps. In June, 1,672 children in Mahama refugee camp participated in activities at the child-friendly space, 1,222 youth and adolescents engaged in the youth-friendly space, and 431 children attended the community library. These activities provided psychosocial support, learning opportunities, and play.
- In June, UNHCR delivered a public lecture to over 200 law students at the University of Kigali in line with celebrations for World Refugee Day.
- On 13 June, UNHCR received 113 asylum seekers evacuated from Libya to the ETM in Rwanda. This marked the 18th evacuation flight since 2019 and the second in 2024. The asylum seekers came from a diverse range of countries, including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Côte d'Ivoire. Following their arrival at the ETM, the asylum seekers received orientation sessions and briefings about the services available at the ETM including legal assistance, psychosocial support, child protection case management and prevention and response to GBV.



## EDUCATION

- For the 2023/24 academic year, the gross enrolment rate for refugee students currently stands at 89 percent.
- In 2024, four refugee students have been awarded scholarships through the UNIV'R scholarship programme which offers scholarships to higher education institutions in France. The students are expected to travel to France in August to commence their studies in September. UNHCR is support them with visa applications and other related logistics.
- In collaboration with ALIGHT, World Vision, MINEMA and the National Women Council from Kirehe district, UNHCR participated in a campaign about prevention of GBV at the school near Mahama refugee camp with the objective of raising awareness among youth.
- As the end of the academic year approached in June, UNHCR and World Vision conducted meetings with school head teachers in Mahama refugee camp to discuss the upcoming examination period and plans for catch-up classes to be held during the school holidays. Additionally, due to the increase in minority nationalities of refugees and asylum seekers in Mahama refugee camp, UNHCR held a

meeting with parents to provide an overview of the Rwandan education system. An introductory programme for newly arrived refugee children from these nationalities is planned for July to facilitate their integration into the national education system for the new academic year starting in September.

- In collaboration with Impact Hope, 10 youth from Mahama refugee camp were identified to start a 6-month vocational training programme on plumbing.



## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- UNHCR is managing eight camp-based health care facilities in Rwanda in cooperation with Save the Children (SCI) and Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA) at the ETM. The health centres and posts offer a broad range of primary health care services, including laboratory tests and vaccinations. In addition, some services including the provision of TB and HIV medications are provided in cooperation with district government health centres. In June, 19,362 primary health care consultations took place at the camp-based facilities making the ratio 31 consultations per day, per clinician. The local Rwandan host community also have access to these health facilities free of charge.
- Due to funding challenges, UNHCR is currently only able to support the referrals of refugees to secondary and tertiary healthcare in emergency or lifesaving cases. Other refugees in need of elective healthcare including routine or minor surgeries are having to be put on a waiting list. In June, 432 cases were referred to hospitals for further treatment.
- At the ETM clinic, 734 primary health consultations were conducted in June, averaging 26 patients per clinician per day. Additionally, 33 refugees were referred to hospitals for further treatment. UNHCR, in partnership with AHA, conducted medical screenings for refugees and asylum seekers who arrived at the ETM in June, referring those in need of additional medical support to the appropriate services.
- 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. In June 13 severely acute malnutrition and 41 moderately acute malnutrition refugee children were newly admitted into nutrition programmes for treatment. By the end of the month, 44 SAM and 135 MAM children were still admitted in the therapeutic and supplementary feeding programs respectively in all the camps. In addition, 443 pregnant and lactating women were newly enrolled in blanket and supplementary feeding programmes during the month.
- In June, UNHCR through SCI participated with the Ministry of Health in the Maternal and Child Health week campaign in all refugee hosting locations. During this campaign, SCI provided preventative services including screening 14,249 children for malnutrition, vaccinating 9,861 children against Measles and Rubella and providing deworming for 15,186 refugees.
- In June, seven health staff employed by Save the Children working at health centres in refugee camps participated in a training organized by Rwanda Biomedical Center (RBC) in collaboration with WHO and UNFPA on responding to GBV.



## FOOD SECURITY

- In support of the World Food Programme (WFP) cash assistance for food programme in refugee camps across Rwanda, UNHCR provides lists of refugees in the highly vulnerable and moderately vulnerable categories who are eligible to receive assistance. In total, 90 percent of refugees are

classified as highly vulnerable, while 5 percent of refugees are moderately vulnerable. As part of the cash transfers for food assistance distributed by WFP refugees in the highly vulnerable category receive 8,500 RWF a month while moderately vulnerable receive 4,250 RWF. In addition, asylum seekers in Nkamira Transit Centre receive two meals a day from WFP.

- In support of school feeding programmes, UNHCR provides briquettes to Early Childhood Development (nursery) centres in refugee camps. For primary and secondary schools, the Government has the responsibility for school feeding and WFP also supports by contributing 90 percent of the cost of refugee school feeding directly to the Government of Rwanda.
- In June, UNHCR continued to provide three hot meals a day to refugees and asylum seekers accommodated at the ETM in Rwanda.



### WATER AND SANITATION

- UNHCR, in partnership with World Vision, provides water to refugees living in all refugee camps, reception, and transit centres across Rwanda. In June, water supply averaged 21 litres per person per day throughout the refugee camps in Rwanda. Despite this, water supply remains a challenge in Nyabiheke and Kigeme.
- In June, UNHCR in partnership with World Vision, distributed 2,565 litres of liquid soap for handwashing and other cleaning practices to stave off diarrheal diseases in all sites. Throughout the month, UNHCR also worked to remove sludge from septic tanks across the camps and dispose of garbage.
- In Nkamira transit centre, UNHCR ensured the provision of basic WASH services to 6,660 asylum seekers with access to average of 21.0 litres of clean water person per day, 47 persons per latrine drop hole and 48 persons per shower stance.
- The reconstruction of seven latrine and shower blocks in Mahama camp by UNHCR and World Vision is in progress with 90 percent of construction completed.



### SHELTER AND NFIS

- During June 2024, UNHCR rehabilitated a total of 45 shelters across the camps, this includes: 24 shelters in Mugombwa camp, 14 shelters in Mahama camp, 4 shelters in Kigeme camp and 3 shelters in Kiziba camp. This brings the total number of shelters rehabilitated across the camps this year to 568 shelters.
- In June, UNHCR constructed 22 shelters in Nyabiheke, Kigeme and Kiziba camps bringing the total number of new semi-permanent shelters constructed for the year to 56 shelters.
- Construction work is ongoing to improve various communal infrastructures across refugee camps in Rwanda. This includes building a new UNHCR office block and waiting area, as well as rehabilitating the MINEMA office and police post in Kigeme camp. Additionally, the partner office block, which was destroyed by a fire, and the MINEMA office and storage containers in Nyabiheke camp are being rehabilitated. In June, construction of the community centre in Mahama camp and the one-stop centre and police post in Mugombwa camp was completed.
- In June, UNHCR distributed the monthly cash assistance of \$50 per person to refugees and asylum seekers at the ETM in Rwanda. UNHCR, in partnership with Equity Bank, also supported refugees

and asylum seekers who were evacuated in the flights in March 2024 to open bank accounts so that they can receive cash assistance in future months.

- In Mahama refugee camp, UNHCR distributed 54 kitchen sets, 111 sleeping mats, 111 blankets, 31 mosquito nets, clothing and soap to newly arrived asylum seekers.
- Non-food items were distributed at the ETM to refugees and asylum seekers who were evacuated from Libya to Rwanda in June. This included kitchen sets, towels, mattresses, mosquito nets, soap, baby diapers, sanitary pads, other hygiene items and gas cylinders.



### ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- UNHCR provides gas for clean cooking / energy in kind for refugees in Mahama and Mugombwa 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. In total, over 80,000 kg (72,840 in Mahama and 11,952 in Mugombwa) of LPG was distributed in June across both camps.
- UNHCR distributes cash assistance for energy to refugees in Kiziba, Nyabiheke and Kigeme refugee camps to ensure refugees have the financial resources to purchase gas for cooking and other energy needs. This cash assistance is currently on hold due to a lack of funds.



### LIVELIHOODS AND SELF RELIANCE

- Agriculture plays a pivotal role in fostering refugee self-reliance in Rwanda. Currently, UNHCR is overseeing three projects aimed at enhancing livelihoods and self-reliance for both refugees and Rwandan host communities through the Misizi project (covering Mugombwa camp), Nyabicwamba project (covering Nyabiheke Refugee Camp), and Mushishito project (covering Kigeme Refugee Camp) marshlands. In June, the general assembly for the cooperative in Nyabicwamba marshland was held, with 273 farmers in attendance. Key points of discussion included strategies for organizing irrigation to protect the soybean crop, as the dry season had started earlier than expected.
- In Mahama refugee camp, in partnership with Caritas Rwanda, UNHCR provided a refresher training on entrepreneurship and business management to 944 refugees and Rwandans who are part of the *Pathways to Economic Inclusion and Self-Reliance* programme. In addition, 190 businesses who had previously received cash start-up grants through this programme received monitoring visits and support by Caritas.
- In Mugombwa refugee camp, refugee businesses started operating in the new business centre constructed by Practical Action. 42 different refugee entrepreneurs are running their businesses in the space.
- In June, 468 refugees and asylum seekers and 38 members of the host community benefitted in various vocational and skills training activities such as hairdressing, driving lessons, language classes, tailoring and ICT/computer literacy.
- On 18 and 19 June, UNHCR and AFDB held a public-private dialogue in Kigali to discuss the regional programme on *Enhancing the Investment Climate for the economic empowerment of Refugees, Returnees and Host/Return Community Women in the East, Horn of Africa, and the Great Lakes Region*.
- On 20 June, the Finscope 2024 survey was launched in Rwanda detailing levels of financial inclusion among the population in Rwanda. One of the key findings is that most refugees are excluded from

financial inclusion in terms of saving and borrowing. A full thematic report on refugee financial inclusion will be published in October 2024.

- From 12 to 14 June 12th and 19 to 21 June, refugees business owners from Kigeme and Mugombwa refugee camps attended open day events organized by the districts in Huye and Nyamagabe, respectively, where they exhibited their various livelihood activities and had the opportunity to sell their products.



#### **DURABLE SOLUTIONS**

- In 2024, UNHCR Rwanda received submission resettlement quota of 7,037 individuals. By the end of June 2024, 2,905 refugees are submitted to resettlement countries. 3,088 refugees have departed for resettlement and 50 refugees departed through complementary pathways.
- In June, various resettlement missions completed interviews of refugees for resettlement in Rwanda, this includes: Denmark where they interviewed 200 refugees, Norway where they interviewed 200 refugees, USCIS where 500 refugees were assessed, Finland where 199 refugees were assessed, 37 of whom are from ETM.
- So far in 2024, UNHCR has supported 95 Burundian refugees to repatriate home from Rwanda. This brings the total to 30,877 Burundian refugees who have returned home from Rwanda since 2020. An additional 200 Burundian refugees have expressed their intention to repatriate over the coming months.
- In June, UNHCR supported the return of 137 Rwandan refugees and provided cash assistance to assist their reintegration. In total, UNHCR has supported 395 Rwandan refugees to return home in 2024.



#### **MISSIONS, DELEGATIONS AND EVENTS**

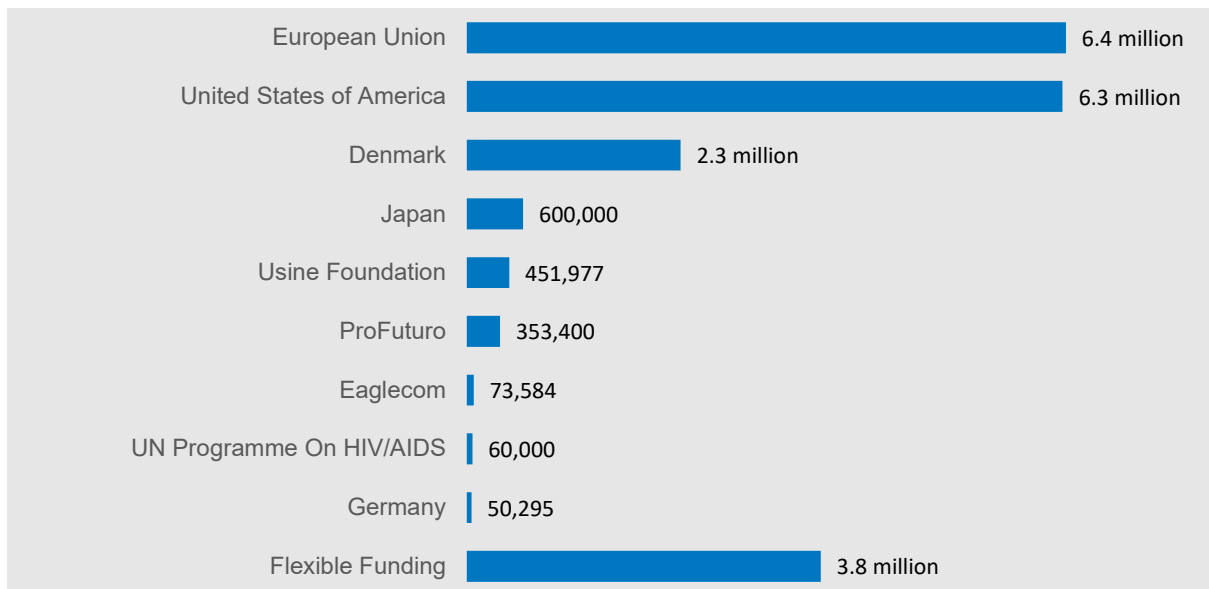
- On 5 June, UNHCR collaborated with the head coach of the Bayern Football Acadamey in Rwanda to providing football training to 20 refugee trainers in Nyabiheke camp. In addition to theoretical sessions on how to structure a training session, the refugees got the opportunity to engage in practical football coaching. During the visit refugees highlighted challenges such as lack of equipment (nets, shoes, jerseys, shorts, cones) and deteriorated state of the football pitch as a barrier to engaging additional refugee youth in football.
- On 6 June 2024, UNHCR facilitated a joint site visit composed of AFDB, Water Sanitation Corporation (WASAC) and technical experts to Mahama water treatment plant. The main purpose of the mission was to technically assess the status and operation of Mahama water treatment plant and pipe network for the WASAC Team to understand the system setup, its functionality and to explore areas of improving the system's efficiency.
- Between 12 and 14 June, UNHCR hosted a delegation from ProFuturo in Rwanda to observe the impact of their funding on the connected learning education programme. During the visit the delegation met with Rwanda Basic Education Board, MINEMA and visited Mahama refugee camp where they engaged with teachers and authorities at the school near the camp.
- On 14 June, UNHCR held a national level steering committee on the operations at the ETM in Rwanda in collaboration with MINEMA and the EU delegation in Rwanda. The meeting was attended by all partners operating at the ETM and discussions focused on providing updates about services provided as well as tackling challenges faced.
- On 20 June, UNHCR organized World Refugee Day celebrations across refugee camps in Rwanda with the main national event held in Mugombwa refugee camp under the theme of 'solidarity with

refugees'. In addition, an event was also organized at Gikondo community centre in Kigali on 21 June through close collaboration between UNHCR, PFR and refugee-led organizations. The RLO network organized a panel discussion on the role of RLOs (Refugee Led Organizations) in enhancing solidarity among refugees and between refugee and host communities.

## 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 2024 | USD



### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS | USD

Special thanks to the major donors of other softly earmarked and unearmarked contributions.

#### SOFTLY EARMARKED

Finland 6.6 million | Australia for UNHCR 3.9 million | UNO-Flüchtlingshilfe 3.2 million | Norway 2.8 million

#### UNEARMARKED

Sweden 90.6 million | Norway 58.9 million | Netherlands (Kingdom of) 36.3 million | Denmark 35.6 million | France 33.4 million | España con ACNUR 31.2 million | United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 28.5 million | Switzerland 19.2 million | Japan for UNHCR 18.1 million | Republic of Korea 17.9 million | Private donors in the Republic of Korea 14.6 million | Belgium 14.2 million | Ireland 13.6 million | Australia 10.7 million

### CONTACTS

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