

RWANDA

REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

January-December 2024





At a Glance

Rwanda Planned Response

January-December 2024



130,246

Projected population



11,972

refugee Assisted community members



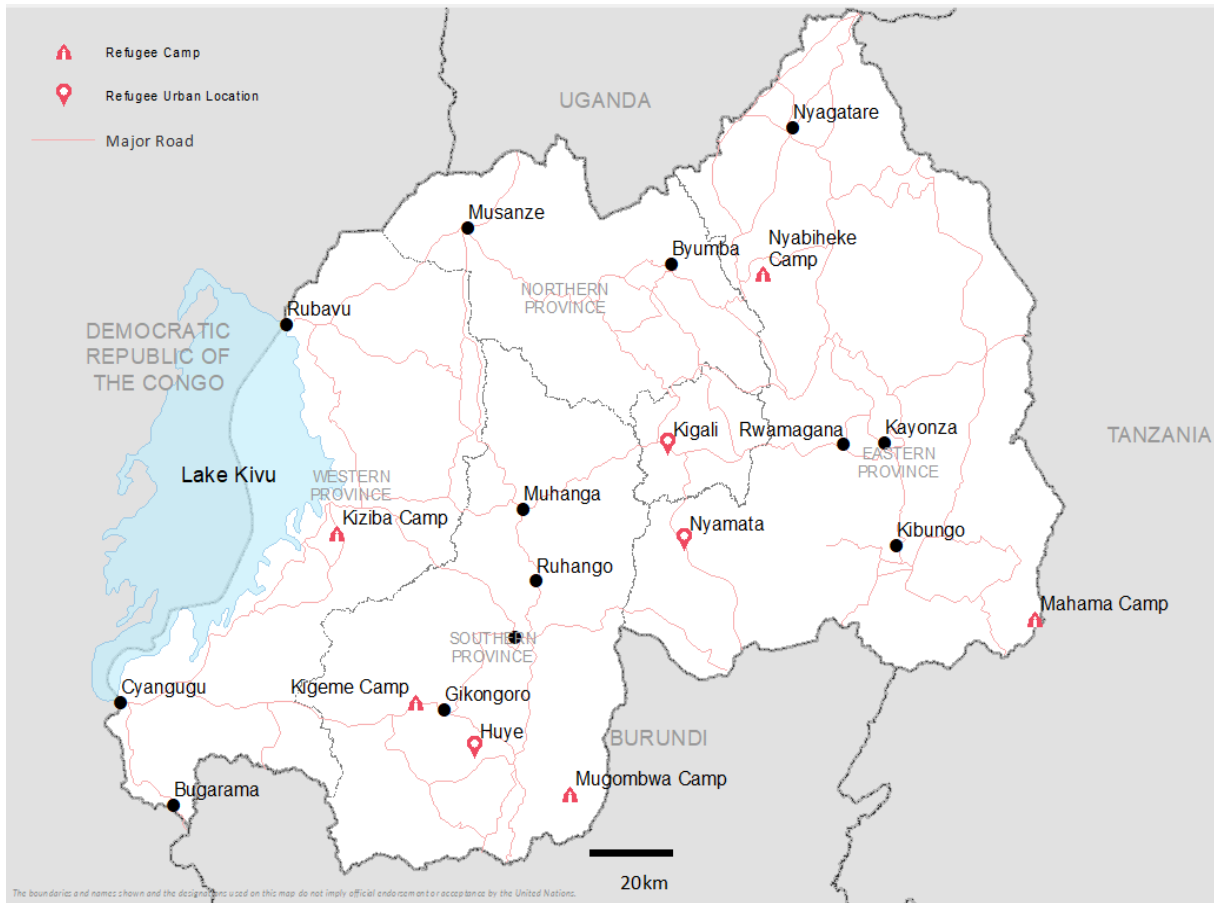
165 M

host-Total requirements



31

financial Partners involved



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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Executive Summary

Rwanda has been welcoming refugees for almost three decades. Refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) account for 62 per cent of the population and those who arrived in the nineties have now spent most of their lives outside of their home country. In late 2022 and 2023, Rwanda recorded over 13,000 asylum-seekers fleeing the continuous insecurity situation in Eastern DRC, and this influx may continue in 2024. For the Burundian refugee population, although over 30,000 have returned home since August 2020, there has been limited interest in return among the remaining population. In 2024, UNHCR will expand the programming on facilitated returns to country of origin. Since 2019, Rwanda has also hosted refugees and asylum-seekers evacuated from Libya through the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM). By temporarily accommodating some of the most vulnerable refugee populations who have faced trauma, detention and violence, Rwanda has showcased its willingness to continuously provide solutions for a variety of refugee situations and crises.

The policy and legal frameworks in Rwanda continue to facilitate the inclusion of refugees within national systems in line with the Global Compact on Refugees. From health to education and civil registration, refugees are granted the same level of access to services as Rwandan citizens.¹ In recent years this has been facilitated through the issuance of refugee ID cards by the Government and built on by pledges made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF). At the 2023 GRF, the Government of Rwanda added a pledge on the inclusion of all refugees within the National Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) scheme to 17 previous pledges in the areas of health, education, livelihoods, documentation, energy, statelessness, and the environment.²

The refugee response in Rwanda has increasingly concentrated on providing solutions for the protracted refugee situation as well as maintaining access to protection and improving living conditions for refugee and asylum-seeker populations across the country. This focus will continue in 2024.

A key priority throughout the coming years will be to expand support to refugees to improve their socio-economic inclusion and graduate some refugees out of poverty by sustainably increasing their self-reliance. Over time this is expected to decrease dependence on humanitarian assistance. This approach is closely aligned with that of the Government's [National Transformation Strategy \(NST1\)](#) and the UN sustainable development agenda. The Government through the Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA)'s recent efforts to support the 'graduation approach' are reflected in the 2024 Rwanda Refugee Response Plan (RRP). Social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities will be encouraged through self-reliance and resilience programmes, with a focus on youth and women-led initiatives and empowerment. Partners will also increase support and advocacy for refugee-led organizations in Rwanda.

Most refugees – 90 per cent – in Rwanda live in five refugee camps (Kiziba, Nyabiheke, Mahama, Kigeme and Mugombwa). The camps hosting Congolese refugees have accommodated them for an average of ten years, and some for over twenty years. As a result, much of the infrastructure is deteriorating and refugee homes and communal facilities such as toilet blocks, community centres, offices and health centres need maintenance and upgrading to make them more accessible and inclusive.

In addition, although refugees have access to national health and education systems, on a day-to-day basis, most refugee families rely on schools and health clinics located in or near the camps. Ensuring the quality of services and educational programmes will continue to be a priority through supporting the Government of Rwanda, its relevant ministries, and local districts to further the inclusion of refugees in 2024.

¹ Refugees in Rwanda were included in the 2022 Rwanda Population and Housing Census. Data can be viewed here [Socio-Economic Status of Refugees in Rwanda | National Institute of Statistics Rwanda](#)

² Link to GRF pledges

The delivery of support through cash assistance to help refugees meet food and basic needs has been a priority of refugee response partners in recent years. Since 2021, WFP and UNHCR have worked collaboratively to assess and understand vulnerabilities and currently food assistance is targeted based on need. Further targeting of assistance will happen in 2024 such as support for energy and non-food items to make sure resources are utilized more efficiently to support the most vulnerable refugees. Two-way communication will remain critical to promote accountability to refugees and asylum-seekers and ensure they are aware of changes in assistance as well as reducing dependency on aid and have the ability to share complaints and receive feedback.

A holistic approach, in support of refugees and their local hosting communities, will be taken by partners in 2024. Rwandans living in areas close to refugee camps will also be supported through programmes to develop infrastructure and services in the wider community and prevent creating parallel systems for refugees. Rwandan host communities will increasingly access services available in refugee camps. Efforts to mitigate environmental degradation in displacement settings and promote environmental sustainability of programmes and resilience to climate-related and other risks will also be strengthened. These efforts will also be designed to support the local Rwandan host community and reinforce social cohesion.

Overall, the Rwanda 2024 RRP has been developed in coordination with 31 partners, including UN Agencies, international, regional, national and local NGOs, academia and development actors. The Plan has also been approved by the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) as part of their overall coordination of the refugee response in Rwanda. In addition, as part of the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), donors and embassies based in Kigali are regularly consulted and briefed about progress towards the RRP's aims and objectives.

In 2024, the Rwanda RRP requires US \$165 million for partners to be able to implement protection (including child protection and gender-based violence), education, food security, public health and nutrition, livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion, shelter and settlement/housing, water, health and sanitation (WASH) and logistics and operational support programmes. By the end of 2024, it is estimated that the population targeted by the RRP in Rwanda will remain relatively similar to that of 2023, with 161,666 people including 130,246 refugees, 638 asylum-seekers, 2,500 Rwandan returnees, 9,500 stateless, 11,972 people in host communities, and 6,810 others of concern.³

In 2024, an estimated 6,000 refugees are expected to depart for resettlement to third countries. Partners will also increasingly look to support legal pathways to integration for refugees who are eligible under the Rwandan nationality law. Partners will also support the return of Rwandan returnees from abroad. Overall, partners working on the refugee response will continue to provide services and implement programmes to ensure the well-being and inclusion of refugees while they stay in Rwanda.

³ 'Others of Concern' are largely children born to one refugee and one Rwandan parent who live in refugee camps and partners continue to assist through their programmes.

Current situation

Situation overview

As of December 2023, Rwanda hosted 144,418 forcibly displaced and stateless people primarily originating from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Burundi comprising of 83,332 (61.91 per cent) and 50,411 (37.45 per cent) people respectively. Most of that population lives in the five refugee camps of Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa, Nyabiheke and Mahama, and in the Nkamira transit centre, with only 9 per cent living in urban areas.

Since November 2022, Rwanda has experienced an influx of new asylum-seekers due to increased instability in Eastern DRC, with approximately 13,822 new arrivals recorded as of end December 2023. This upward trend is likely to continue in 2024.

Most of the refugee population from the DRC in Rwanda arrived during the 2012-2013 influx. Of these, 69 per cent have stayed in Rwanda for over 10 years, and 36 per cent were born in Rwanda.

Since August 2020, over 30,000 Burundian refugees have returned home. Despite this, there has been limited interest in return among the remaining population in 2022 and 2023. In 2024, RRP partners will move towards promoting returns in safety and dignity through organizing 'Go and See' and 'Come and Tell' visits as well as refining the reintegration package at a regional level.

In addition to its regular refugee response, Rwanda also hosts the Emergency Transit Mechanism (ETM) which was established in September 2019, by the Government of Rwanda, in collaboration with UNHCR, and the African Union (AU). Its aim is to temporarily host refugees and asylum-seekers who have undertaken voluntary evacuation from Libya while solutions are found. Over 2,000 people have been evacuated to the ETM to date, with 699 individuals remaining in Rwanda at the end of 2023. Throughout the coming year, partners will continue to respond to the needs of these evacuees and those arriving on future flights.

Rwanda provides a conducive protection environment for asylum-seekers and refugees. The law is progressive, granting refugees the right to access national services such as documentation, education, financial services, and making them eligible to work, own and sell property, and run businesses.

Refugee Response Plan (RRP) partners have established strong working relationships with key government ministries. In addition, in alignment with its [Vision 2050](#) and National Strategy for Transformation, Rwanda has solidified commitments to international frameworks such as the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In Rwanda, the Government and its relevant ministries are responsible for civil registration and issuing refugee ID cards to all refugees aged 16 and above as part of their inclusion in national systems efforts. While most refugees from the DRC and Burundi living in Rwanda were previously registered on a *prima facie* basis, since 2020, all new asylum-seekers, regardless of nationality, now undergo government-run refugee status determination.

In addition, all camps are grappling with environmental degradation. There is an increasing need to repair and maintain refugee shelter and infrastructure across the five refugee camps. An estimated 20 per cent of shelters in the camp are inadequate and need repair or rehabilitation. Community infrastructures and facilities also require upgrading. Most refugee households in Kigeme and Nyabiheke camps report little or no access to energy for lighting: 58 per cent

either have no lighting at night or use only basic sources such as candles and torches leading to a variety of protection risks. Water consumption in camps averages 21 liters per person per day and 23 people use one toilet on average.⁴

Partners ensure that refugees have access to life-saving and essential health care through camp-based primary health facilities for refugees and over 14,000 urban-based refugees and children in boarding schools are included in the national Community-Based Health Insurance (CBHI) scheme. In 2024, partners will work towards implementing the recent commitment of the Government of Rwanda to include camp-based refugees in CBHI which will reduce the UNHCR cost needed to pay for refugees' referrals to secondary and tertiary healthcare at national hospitals.

Currently, around 40 per cent of refugees are of school age (3-17 years). The gross refugee enrolment rate in primary and secondary school stands at 93 per cent while 9 per cent of refugees are enrolled in higher education.⁵ Despite this, refugee education enrolment is in line with the national rate and the policy allows for 100 per cent of refugees to access the national education system. In 2024, partners will focus on improving the quality and inclusion of education for refugees at all levels.

In Rwanda, refugees are currently categorized into three levels of vulnerability (high, moderate and low); 87 per cent of refugees are categorized as highly vulnerable.⁶ In 2023, this categorization determined the amount of cash assistance that refugee families received from WFP. In 2024, the delivery of cash assistance for non-food items and energy will also be distributed on a targeted basis by UNHCR. Further efforts to refine the targeting criteria and align it to national standards is envisioned for 2024.

Due to the protracted nature of the refugee situation, the response in Rwanda is expanding beyond a humanitarian approach and focusing on durable solutions with an emphasis on inclusion, sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion. This shift in focus has led to increased efforts to help refugees graduate out of poverty and become less reliant on humanitarian assistance.

Finding solutions for refugee populations through resettlement and complementary pathways such as labour mobility, educational scholarships, private sponsorship, and family reunification remains a priority. Almost 8,000 refugees departed for resettlement from Rwanda in 2023. In 2024 and beyond, partners working on the refugee response will expand efforts to find durable solutions for all refugees in Rwanda, including in the ETM.

⁴ Against the standard of 20 litres per person per day for post-emergency situations.

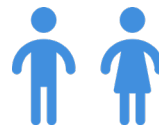
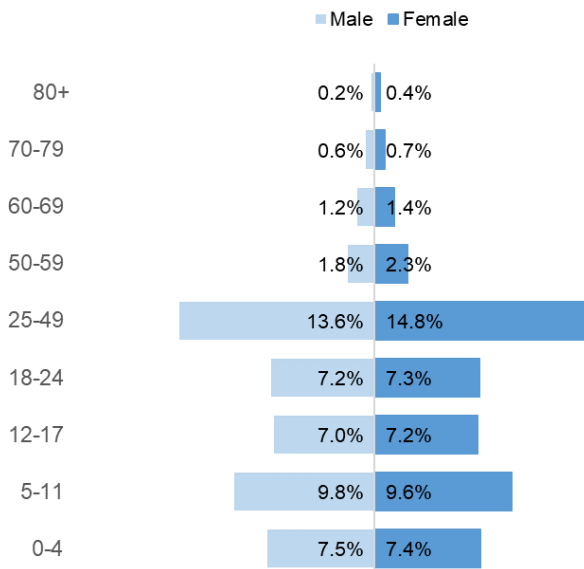
⁵ According to 2022/23 education data the gross enrolment ratio is 119 per cent for primary, 72 per cent for secondary and 9 per cent for higher education (including TVET). The denominator for higher education has been revised as 18-22 age bracket, in line with Rwanda education system.

⁶ This is as per criteria established by RRP partners UNHCR and WFP related to the targeting of assistance. In addition, 6 per cent of the population are classified as moderately vulnerable and 7 per cent as least vulnerable.

Population Planning Figures

Rwanda	Population as of end of 2023	Planned Population as of end of 2024
Refugees	115,648	130,246
Asylum-Seekers	12,660	638
Returned Refugees	325	2,500
Stateless	9,500	9,500
Others of Concern ⁷	6,285	6,810
Targeted Rwandan Host Population	11,972	11,972
Total	156,390	161,666

Age and Gender Breakdown



48.5%

Children



16% of total 152k

People with disabilities⁸



51%

Women and girls



49%

Men and boys

⁷ These are largely children born to one refugee and one Rwandan parent who live in refugee camps and partners continue to assist through their programmes.

Country risks and needs

In 2024, it is expected that most refugees in Rwanda will continue to live in refugee camps and remain highly dependent on humanitarian assistance to meet their basic needs. Most of the population are female 64,235 (51 per cent) and children 61,519 (49 per cent). In addition, 22,574 (18 per cent) of registered individuals are classified as having specific needs such as children at risk, people with disabilities, older people at risk, those with serious medical condition, single-headed households, women at-risk and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), meaning they will continue to require specialized assistance and protection services.

Since implementing targeted food assistance distribution in 2021, several assessments have indicated a rise in harmful coping mechanisms.⁹ This has included refugee families selling their productive assets, begging, risk of engaging in survival sex, child neglect, street connected children or accruing high levels of debt. Further, efforts to develop targeting criteria based on improved data are envisioned for 2024 to enhance efficiency amid financial constraints. However, this also poses a risk, as more households are expected to be removed from the assistance programme. Despite this livelihood and self-reliance programming will be enhanced to mitigate against this risk.

Although there have been improvements in child protection and prevention of gender-based violence (GBV) over the past few years, refugees continue to face risks of intimate partner violence, child sexual abuse and resulting teenage pregnancy, as well as other forms of GBV. GBV and child abuse incidents are underreported among the refugee population, largely due to stigma, fear of retaliation, and community norms that encourage survivors to keep silent. Intensive community engagement and specialized prevention activities are ongoing by RRP partners and need to be strengthened. RRP partners' case management services are overstretched due to shrinking resources, and while refugees have access to national services through the [Isange One Stop Centres](#), additional engagement and support to public service providers is needed to ensure that refugees know how to access these services.

Exposure to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by humanitarian workers also poses a risk in humanitarian settings among refugee communities and more investment is needed to boost community-based prevention efforts in this regard, while also ensuring robust capacity among partners to prevent and respond to SEA, including through strong human resources policies, training for staff, monitoring, functioning reporting channels, and quality investigation procedures, as well as capacity to rapidly refer survivors to GBV response services.

Unlike those in the camps, urban refugees receive minimal assistance and are generally more self-reliant. Despite this, many urban refugees grapple with escalating socioeconomic precarity due to inflation and RRP partners are often requested to provide emergency support. While eligible for community-based health insurance, urban refugees also often require support with the enrolment process and follow-up on specific health conditions.

Asylum-seekers and refugees evacuated from Libya and accommodated at the ETM also have significant protection needs due to detention, trauma and abuse suffered during their previous journeys to find safety. Of the 2,000 individuals who have passed through the ETM, over 80 per cent are categorized as having specific protection needs. As a result, the provision of psychosocial support, mental health and psychosocial support services and best-interest procedures for children are essential.

Climate change is posing an increased risk to refugee populations in Rwanda. More intense rainfall is resulting in floods, soil erosion, the formation of dangerous ravines and ultimately leading to the forced relocation of refugee populations from older refugee camps to safer environments. Climate change also poses a risk for food security and

⁹[Joint Post Distribution Monitoring Preliminary Report May 2022](#) indicated that 50 per cent of refugees living in the camps are adopting emergency and crisis coping mechanisms.

negatively affects agricultural production in Rwanda. This is notable considering refugees' reliance on agriculture and cultivation as a means of earning an income.

Rwanda Response and Solutions Strategy

A total of 31 RRP partners in Rwanda plan to assist 161,666 refugees, asylum-seekers, stateless, other displaced populations and their Rwandan host community by the end of 2024, of whom 51 per cent women and girls, 49 per cent men and boys, 48.5 per cent children, and 16 per cent people with disabilities.

RRP partners will continue to provide technical assistance to support the Government in ensuring fair, affordable, and efficient asylum procedures. While influxes from the DRC and Burundi were previously recognized as prima-facie refugees, all new arrivals since 2020 regardless of nationality, now undergo individual status determination by the Refugee Status Determination Committee (RSDC). Under its mandate, UNHCR, in collaboration with legal aid partners, will continue to offer technical assistance to support the Government in ensuring fair and efficient asylum procedures, including gender and child-friendly asylum procedures, are accessible to asylum-seekers in Rwanda and advocate for its observer role in the asylum processing mechanism. UNHCR will continue to conduct case processing for evacuees in ETM aiming at facilitating accelerated access to durable solutions, mainly resettlement.

Moreover, refugees and asylum-seekers will continue to have access to free legal assistance through RRP partners, although due to resource constraints, this assistance has been prioritized to focus on asylum access, criminal cases, and GBV incidences. Legal assistance for civil cases remains an unmet need. Emphasis will be put on enhancing information flow and legal counselling to asylum-seekers in languages that they understand as well as advocating for the inclusion of refugees into national legal aid system. Partners will also engage academia to further awareness of refugee law within higher education and Rwanda more widely.

Community centres across Rwanda will continue to serve as a safe space for refugees, asylum-seekers to access inclusive protection services. This will be achieved through expanding programmes to train refugees and asylum-seekers as community volunteers and mobilizers. Although Rwanda has become a leading country in refugee social inclusion, more advocacy is needed around the inclusion of refugee community mobilizers in the national child protection social workforce and refugee foster families in the national programme.

Addressing the key concerns highlighted by refugees during participatory assessments and reports will include tackling the increase in GBV risks, including domestic violence, as well as risk of engaging in survival sex, child protection issues and scarcity of food. It is expected that by working closely with refugee community leaders and volunteers as part of a strengthened community-based structure, refugee communities will feel more empowered to support themselves and take a step down the path of self-reliance.

Partners working on the refugee response will also strive to further integrate refugees in child protection and available GBV programming and services at the national level and improve access to national child protection systems. Participation in the national forums led by the Ministry of Gender and Family as well as engagement with GBV Isange One Stop Centres (IOSC) and the National Child Development Agency (NCDA) will support this aim. In particular, in 2024, NCDA systematic involvement in best interest procedures will be prioritized through the recently launched National Child Protection Case Management framework.

Recognizing the requirements of all refugees, including people with disabilities, older people, and those with other specific needs, will also be streamlined throughout all programmes, with material and psychosocial support to vulnerable groups being provided as necessary. To support this, partners will advocate to increase the accessibility of many communal facilities, services and information across refugee camps.

In general, improving the living conditions for refugees and asylum-seekers across Rwanda will be essential in ensuring their protection and well-being. The delivery of assistance through cash modalities will be mainstreamed where possible to increase flexibility, dignity, and choice in how they meet their most pressing needs. In addition, cash transfers will directly benefit the local economy and contribute to social cohesion with host communities. Given the

proposed further targeting of cash and food assistance, however, programmes will need to deal with the potential negative impact of these cuts on refugee families.

In sectors such as education, health and WASH, interventions will aim to align with national standards and benefit both refugees and the local Rwandan host communities. Maintaining and improving such facilities will also ensure their sustainability in the long term and, in the meantime, they are more likely to be taken on by relevant government entities and included in national systems.

Finding solutions for refugees from the DRC will be a core responsibility of RRP partners. Resettlement and complementary pathways for admission to third countries will increase, primarily through the US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP). Maintaining resettlement places for refugees accommodated in the ETM, however, will be a priority to ensure that their stay in Rwanda is temporary and that the objectives of the ETM to find onward solutions are being upheld.

In Rwanda local integration is possible for refugees who meet the criteria established within the laws governing Rwanda nationality, although there is little uptake among the refugee community. Partners working on the refugee response continue to work with the Government of Rwanda who is committed to supporting integration.

In addition, partners will explore expanding voluntary repatriation opportunities for refugees who express an interest in returning in safety and dignity. The promotion of Burundian refugee return will be expanded in 2024 where possible through cash reintegration packages. Especially with respect to the Congolese population, tripartite discussions between UNHCR, the Government of Rwanda and the Government of the DRC will continue to put in place a roadmap to facilitate refugee return.

Country strategic objectives

RRP Partners in Rwanda will prioritize interventions to achieve the following objectives:

SO1: Strengthen and maintain access to comprehensive and inclusive protection services.

RRP Partners will continue to ensure refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals, have access to inclusive protection services and advocate for continued access to territory and asylum, registration and documentation. By adopting a community-based approach, interventions will be strengthened at a local level and alignment with national structures achieved. Particular attention will be directed towards the participation and inclusion of women, girls, people with disabilities, older people, and other vulnerable groups, and the accessibility of services. Individual case management services, including specialized CP and GBV case management, will support people affected by violence and abuse, with psychosocial support and counselling provided accordingly. Specialized GBV prevention programming will also be prioritized as a life-saving activity. Inclusion into national CP/GBV response systems will be promoted.

SO2: Improve living conditions and dignified lives for refugees

Efforts will continue to centre on improving the overall living conditions, with a special focus on refugee camps. Old and deteriorating infrastructures including shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities, classrooms and community centres, will be upgraded, maintained, and made accessible to all in a safe and gender sensitive manner, while enhancing the overall environment of refugee camps in a climate-sensitive manner. RRP Partners will also work to increase the quality of education and overall service delivery. The most vulnerable refugee families will continue to receive cash assistance to meet their basic needs for food, energy, and non-food items.

SO3: Support the inclusion of refugees within national systems and increase self-reliance

Building on commitments made by the Government of Rwanda as part of the Global Refugee Forum (GRF), the response will continue to support the inclusion of refugees in national systems. In particular, partners will work to realize the pledge made by the Government of Rwanda to include camp-based refugees in CBHI. In addition, focus will be directed towards strengthening refugees and their host communities' livelihoods and self-reliance. Programmes will also target the large refugee youth population by providing technical and vocational skills training and supporting

access to higher education. Focus will also be placed on women economic empowerment initiatives that address gender barriers. In addition, support will be given to host community members in need, to ensure that no one is left behind.

SO4: Seek durable solutions for refugees

Helping refugee populations find longer-term solutions remains a priority. Resettlement opportunities will be offered to the most vulnerable refugees prioritized according to their individual protection needs. The ETM will continue to accommodate vulnerable asylum-seekers and refugees evacuated from Libya. Through case processing and resettlement, solutions will be sought to their cases and skills trainings provided while they remain in Rwanda. For the Burundian refugee population, the option to voluntarily repatriate to their country of origin will be promoted where possible through the provision of cash assistance and information sharing about the situation they will face when returning home. With the ongoing Tripartite discussions, partners will explore modalities and framework for possible voluntary return of refugees from DRC. Where possibilities for local integration exist, RRP Partners aim to support refugee populations on the path to obtaining Rwandan citizenship.

Cross-Cutting Response Priorities



Age, gender, and diversity (AGD)

In 2024, the refugee response will continue to employ participatory methodologies within multiple programmes and sectors, to ensure that refugee, asylum-seeker and host community voices are heard and opinions are incorporated into the response, reflect the diversity of all women, men, girls, boys, people with specific needs including those with disabilities and others that exist within the refugee population in Rwanda following policies on Age, Gender and Diversity and Operational Guidance on Accountability to Affected Populations.

Partners will be sensitized on the need for AGD-sensitive data collection to ensure that to a minimum data is disaggregated by Age, Gender, Disability status and nationality. Capacity of women, girls and boys will be enhanced through mentorship and livelihood initiatives to enable their meaningful participation in decision-making structures in the community. Women, youth, and people with disabilities-led organizations will be established/strengthened to enhance their engagement in the programme cycle in which they would ensure representation of the needs, preferences, views and capacities of vulnerable groups. Staff and partners will be sensitized on gender equality measures to monitor the gender with age marker that will inform our continued efforts in promoting gender equality in the operations management cycle.



Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP)

Two-way communication will occur through leveraging a variety of channels to ensure inclusion and accessibility for all groups. Consistent sharing of information about programmes and services available to refugee populations will also be prioritized. The information will be made available at places of interest, such as community centres, partner offices, border controls, and Immigration Offices, and will be shared via a multitude of channels, including SMS and social media. Feedback and response mechanisms will be established based on feedback from consultations with affected populations and will enhance interoperability with partners and centralization of all feedback data in the country operation. Harmonization with partner systems will ease reporting, learning and adaptation at inter-agency level. Regular feedback dialogue forums will be held either remotely or physically amongst partners and with the local communities to ensure that feedback loops are closed, and that trust is continually built with the affected populations.

In order to enhance transparent communication with the communities, digital platforms preferred by the people will be promoted, while enhancing locally trusted community-based mechanisms. Messages based on community feedback will be designed, agreed upon by partners and continuously shared to the people to manage misinformation and disinformation. Participatory assessment will be undertaken using accessible methodologies to consolidate community opinions that will inform decision making throughout the operation management cycle.



Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

Protection from and response to sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) by humanitarian workers remains a priority for all RRP Partners and is an integral and cross-cutting theme throughout all sectors. In 2024, RRP Partners will work to mitigate SEA risks through undertaking joint risk assessments, identifying gaps and areas where capacity building for staff and community members is needed, as well as ways to strengthen reporting accessibility and prompt referral of survivors to adequate GBV response services. Interagency coordination mechanisms will be strengthened, PSEA focal points within all RRP partners formalized, and standard operating procedures updated, with the goal of ensuring that adequate PSEA mechanisms are in place and that refugees and asylum-seekers feel safe and have trust in reporting and seeking help.



Climate Action

In 2024, RRP partners will bolster efforts to make their programming climate-smart and environmentally sound. To facilitate this, a robust analysis of climate and environmental risks and their implications for protection and solutions will take place, concurrently with the scaling-up of concrete actions that protect both people and the environment. Focus will be given to increased access to clean energy for cooking and electricity; environment recovery via activities such as tree planting, rehabilitation of ravines, construction of radical terracing, regenerative agriculture, and awareness-raising initiatives; risk-informed site planning; improved waste management and drainage networks; and conversion of water supply systems into solar-run systems.

In addition, partners will ensure the implementation of climate-smart agricultural interventions especially in the livelihoods and food security sectors. Insuring refugee farmers against loss due to climate risks will be an important mitigating factor. These measures will enhance the self-reliance and economic inclusion of displaced people while protecting the environment. All interventions are aligned with global and national goals and targets — SDGs, National Strategy for Transformation (NST1), Vision 2050, Nationally Determined Contributions, Energy Strategy, and the CRRF.

Data

Data about refugees in Rwanda is available through UNHCR's registration database. In addition, the annual joint post-distribution monitoring collects information about refugee households through a representative sample, painting a picture of the impact of assistance and the socioeconomic status and well-being of refugee populations. Refugees were also included in the Rwandan National Population and Housing Census in 2022. Despite these datasets, there are few statistics or surveys that summarize refugee socioeconomic status. To inform evidence-based programming, RRP Partners will seek to address this data gap in 2024.

Sectoral responses



PROTECTION

Protection priorities will include ensuring continued access to territory and asylum, registration and documentation, and social cohesion. These will be pursued through advocacy, protection monitoring, provision of tailored support, capacity-building, and continued strengthening of community-based protection and provision of legal aid.

Strengthening community-based structures, feedback mechanisms and expanding the capacity of community volunteers, will empower refugees and identify vulnerable individuals. Awareness-raising on inclusion of people with specific needs and gender equality will be conducted. Material support to people with specific needs, including those living with disabilities and older people, as well as other vulnerable individuals will continue.

Coordination mechanisms to support protection of refugees and host communities will be strengthened. In line with the spirit 'no one left behind', the protection response in Rwanda will continue to advocate for refugee inclusion into national systems. The Protection Sector will also work towards durable solutions of resettlement, return and integration.



Child Protection Sub-Sector

Partners will ensure that all children are protected from violence, neglect, abuse and exploitation, and have access to child-friendly and inclusive procedures and services. Identification of children at risk will be carried out by community support structures/networks and Child Protection (CP) Partners who will also initiate best interest procedures and CP case management. Interventions may include alternative care arrangements and liaising with UNHCR in advocating for appropriate durable solutions supported by Best Interests Procedures where required by the 2021 BIP Guidelines, such as resettlement, facilitated return and family reunification.

CP community-based structures will also facilitate awareness-raising sessions with the community on child rights and protection. Increased collaboration with national structures on the integration of refugee children and their access to services will be promoted.

Child- and youth-friendly spaces offering psychological first aid as well as mental health and psychosocial support will be upgraded, rehabilitated, and made more accessible to all at-risk children.

Partners will conduct capacity-building of available workforce to ensure quality CP case management with the engagement of the Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA), Directorate General of Immigration and Emigration (DGIE), Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion (MIGEPROF), and National Child Development Agency (NCDA).



Gender-Based Violence Sub-Sector

The CP/GBV Sub-Sector Working Group, co-chaired by MIGEPROF and UNHCR, will take the lead in ensuring that GBV partners enhance the implementation of the inter-agency GBV minimum standards and UNHCR's Global GBV Policy and its accompanying monitoring tools. Community engagement will focus on ensuring community members are aware of how survivors can access services, as well as on basic survivor-centred attitudes and approaches. Efforts will be placed on streamlining refugee GBV services within Rwandan national systems. Training for partner frontline staff on GBV safe disclosure and referral will be rolled out as a key component of GBV risk mitigation. Innovative prevention initiatives targeting youth, women, men, girls and boys will be prioritized from the

onset of the emergency to encourage the wider refugee community to take ownership of GBV prevention. GBV mainstreaming and risk mitigation across sectors has been one of the key components for the RRP partners and this will continue in 2024.

Standalone GBV specialized response services for survivors including medical, legal, psychosocial, in-kind & material, and livelihoods will be strengthened. Standard operating procedures on case management will be updated and strong referral pathways for quality and inclusive services implemented. Regular coordination among partners will be reinforced to ensure refugees' integration in national systems.



EDUCATION

To enhance sustainable inclusion of refugees in national education system, Education partners will continue to support the Ministry of Education to strengthen education for all children in Rwanda which improves learning conditions and outcomes. Partner interventions will also address challenges of out of school children, girls' education, teen pregnancy, and support to children with special education needs. Investment in improving the quality of education through expansion of school infrastructure, teachers' capacity development, connected learning, and ensuring access to teaching and learning materials will be a priority.

Partners will coordinate to develop a roadmap and common vision which addresses education needs of new arrivals during potential refugee influxes to ensure their access to language training, curriculum orientation, catch-up classes, educational resources, and ultimately the national education system.

Education response activities will also encompass identifying and supporting children and youth at-risk of dropping out of school; support to the national school feeding system in refugee hosting schools; provision of scholastic materials; and enhancing refugee access to tertiary and university-level education including technical and vocational education and training (TVET).



FOOD SECURITY

Ensuring food security for camp-based refugees will continue to be primarily dependent on cash transfers. Partners will continue to work closely together to further develop targeting criteria and ensure that the most vulnerable refugees are receiving food assistance with a particular attention paid to gender roles and responsibilities. Refugees and asylum-seekers accommodated in the ETM will also receive three meals a day.

For refugees living in urban settings, food assistance is not provided due to their assumed self-reliance and accessibility to the labour market. Despite this, RRP partners will provide cash assistance for food and accommodation for the most vulnerable families on a temporary and exceptional basis if required. New arrivals in reception and transit centres will receive in-kind food support upon arrival and a transition to cash assistance will happen upon formal registration as asylum seekers.

Further emphasis will be put on supporting sustainable livelihoods to supplement the monthly humanitarian food assistance and increase food security among refugee and Rwandan host community populations. Efforts to ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production will be geared towards zero hunger for all.



PUBLIC HEALTH & NUTRITION

Public health and nutrition programmes for refugees will focus on maintaining and improving existing services to make them more efficient, accessible, and responsive. This will include increasing preparedness for future health emergencies in collaboration with national authorities.

On a day-to-day basis, RRP partners will continue to deliver primary health care services for refugees in camps and facilitate referrals to hospitals prioritizing emergencies and life-saving interventions. Procurement of essential medicines and medical supplies will be in line with Rwanda Food and Drugs Authority. Eligible children will be vaccinated against vaccine preventable disease based on Rwanda Immunization plans.

Urban refugees will have access to CBHI and partners will work on implementing the GoR's pledge for the extension of CBHI to camp-based refugees. To this end, health infrastructures across refugee camps will be rehabilitated and maintained to meet the standards of the Ministry of Health. Health information systems will be enhanced, and the quality of data will be improved. Mental health and psychosocial support activities will be strengthened and available to communities.

The nutrition response for refugees will prioritize the prevention, screening, detection, referral, and treatment of acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies, to keep malnutrition rates in refugee camps low. Moreover, infant, and young child feeding counselling and promotion activities will be conducted to encourage breast feeding and appropriate young child feeding practices. Pregnant and lactating mothers will receive nutritional support, and awareness raising on good nutritional practices will be a continuous process. Nutrition information system will be reinforced to improve the quality of nutrition data sharing and reporting. Nutrition service providers will be supported through capacity building on Mother, Infant and Young child nutrition in humanitarian situation.



LIVELIHOODS & ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in 2024 will focus on the development of strategic partnerships with a variety of actors especially the private sector to enhance refugee self-reliance. Interventions will also ensure coordination between RRP partners to prevent duplication. All activities will be in line with the Government's "Graduation Strategy" which supports refugees, asylum-seekers and the host community to become self-reliant. Increased evidence-based advocacy for the inclusion of refugees in the national systems and programmes will be carried out by partners. This includes joint market assessments and information sharing on opportunities for refugee employment with a particular focus on supporting women to ensure equal access and benefits.

Supporting the reduction of non-legal barriers to employment will also be a focus, through changing the narrative about refugees' eligibility to work and turning inclusive policies into reality. Partners will also tackle gender barriers experienced by women and girls that require additional investment to ensure equity in access to livelihood opportunities. Efforts will also be made to align livelihood activities with the sectors Rwanda has identified for growth as part of its Vision 2050 strategy such as technology and agriculture. Scaling up of previous livelihood interventions such as climate-smart agriculture in marshlands areas will also remain priority.



SHELTER & NFIS (INCLUDING ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT)

Shelter partners will maintain shelter standards¹⁰ in refugee camps and transit centres through rehabilitation and repair of aging shelters, construction of new shelters and improvement of communal infrastructures. These interventions will improve refugee living conditions, protect refugees against harsh weather conditions and the impact of climate change, and lead to improved wellbeing among refugee populations.

Simultaneously, RRP Partners will provide liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)-powered clean cooking to refugee families in Mugombwa and Mahama camps on a targeting basis and 20% of reduction, as well as transit centres. In Kiziba, Nyabiheke, and Kigeme camps, refugee families will receive cash assistance for energy. Similarly, cash assistance for non-food items will be distributed on a periodic basis to help populations meet their basic needs. Such interventions will likely be delivered on a targeted basis to reach the most vulnerable.

RRP Partners will promote solarization and scale up renewable energy access. In addition, investment will be made in reforestation programmes, thereby mitigating the impact of climate change, including the rehabilitation of ravines, and preventing soil erosions.



WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE

Improving WASH for refugee communities will take a three-pronged approach: increasing access to facilities; ensuring facilities are operated and used effectively/efficiently; and raising awareness about safe hygiene practices among the refugee population. Innovative practices will also be ensured in the construction and maintenance of WASH facilities, including solarization where possible. These activities will include considerations of gender such as through distribution of female hygiene products and lighting to ensure safe access to communal WASH facilities as well as enabling access for people with specific needs, as per the Sphere standards.

Coordination between RRP Partners and Government agencies will seek to ensure refugee communities have an uninterrupted water supply and reduced water losses. Partners will also support water supply to the host communities who face similar water challenges. The overall aim is to mainstream refugee water supply into government services. In addition, partners will work to distribute soap and other critical supplies to refugee communities and ensure waste and garbage disposal.

Within the refugee communities, committees and individuals will be equipped with skills in operation and maintenance of WASH facilities. This will support the national community-based hygiene approach referred to as Community-Based Environmental Health Promotion Programme that fosters an environment where community identify problems and devise solutions whilst promoting local ownership and accountability.

Partnership and coordination

¹⁰ Sphere standards <https://spherestandards.org/handbook/>

The refugee response in Rwanda is co-coordinated by the Government's Ministry in charge of Emergency Management (MINEMA) and UNHCR. In 2024, it will involve 31 RRP Partners including UN Agencies, NGOs, academia, and development actors. A quarterly refugee coordination meeting is organized for all partners to share information and develop mechanisms to respond to challenges and define the way forward. RRP partners also have close working relationships with various relevant ministries across the Rwandan Government. In addition, RRP partners will collaborate closely on joint needs assessments, monitoring and evaluation efforts to assess the impact of programmes implemented as part of the RRP

In addition, the Rwanda Country Refugee Response Plan is tightly aligned to the [UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework \(UNSDCF\) 2018-2024](#) and the National Strategic Transformation (NST1) which provides thematic pillars for accelerated transformation in the areas of economy, social protection and governance, while emphasizing sustainability of results and inclusiveness of development for all. The development of NST2 will continue in 2024. Partners working on the refugee response will work to ensure that refugees are included within this new iteration of the national development strategy.

Rwanda is going through a gradual progression from a humanitarian response to a development response with emphasis on sustainable livelihoods and social cohesion, reflecting the global move towards humanitarian-peace-development nexus approach. Rwanda's involvement in the GCR and pledges made at the GRF have built up the move in this direction, creating space for RRP Partners to explore partnerships with new and strategic stakeholders to support refugees and host communities to face the challenges of socio-economic development together.

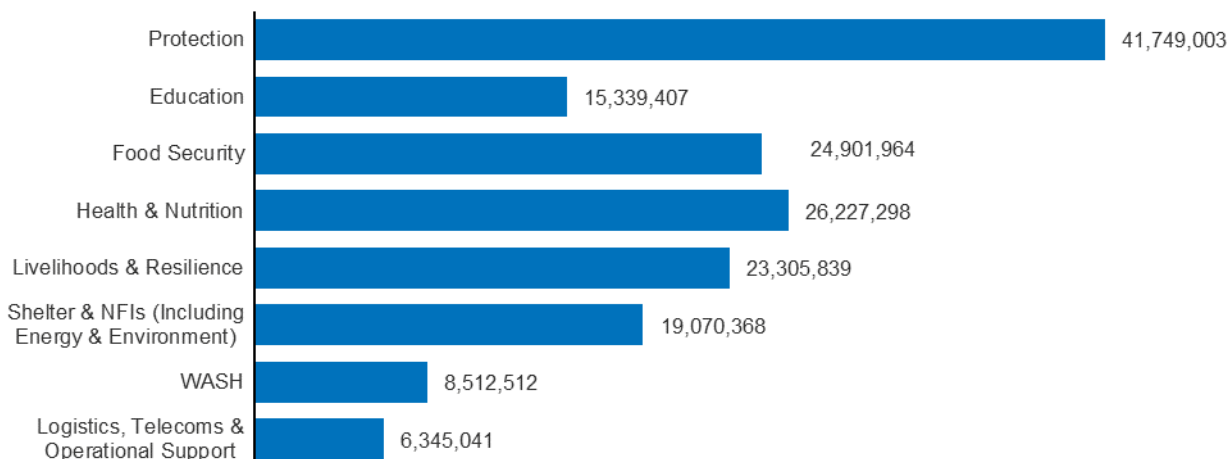
Inter-Agency Financial Requirements

Total Financial Requirements
In USD

\$ 165 million

Budget summary by sector

Million in USD



Total Protection requirements

\$ 41,749,003

Of which are for GBV

\$ 3,229,140

8% of total

Of which are for Child Protection

\$ 5,965,516

14% of total

Budget summary by partner type¹¹



¹¹ Notes: This list only includes appealing organizations under the RRP, many of which collaborate with implementing partners to carry out RRP activities. See 'Budget Summary by Partner' for partner breakdown per type.

Budget Summary by Partner



Partner	Acronym / Short Title	Requirements in US\$
UN Agencies		
Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	1,000,000
International Organization for Migration	IOM	870,000
International Trade Centre	ITC	300,000
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	2,521,577
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	91,723,733
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	400,000
World Food Programme	WFP	31,166,964
INGOs		
African Humanitarian Action	AHA	1,296,124
Adventist Development and Relief Agency Rwanda	ADRA	300,000
Alight		6,488,229
BRAC	BRAC	800,000
CARE		16,742
Give Directly		3,000,000
Humanity and Inclusion	HI	1,700,000
Plan International	PI	400,000
Practical Action	PA	2,143,800
Save the Children International	SCI	8,811,017
World Vision International	WVI	676,000
National NGOs		
Caritas Rwanda	Caritas	175,000
Food for the Hungry	FH	20,000
Impact Hope		1,002,377
Maison Shalom		1,977,194
Mondiant Initiative		84,445
Prison Fellowship Rwanda	PFR	61,000
Rwanda Men's Resource Centre	RWAMREC	269,760
World Relief		1,455,000
Academia		
Kepler		805,735
Regional organizations		
Inkomoko		2,000,000




Indego Africa		59,460
Development actors		
German Agency for International Cooperation	GIZ	3,850,170
Red Cross/Crescent Movement		
Rwanda Red Cross		77,104
		Total: \$ 165,451,431

Country Monitoring Results

Partners in the refugee response plan in Rwanda will be responsible for monitoring activities conducted as part of the response on a quarterly basis in 2024. A final report published by March 2025, will also ensure accountability to the stated aims and objectives. In addition, monitoring across the different sectors will be coordinated by the different sector working groups to make sure that everything is on track and allow for course correction throughout the year. Various methodologies will be utilized in this regard from field visits to surveys and focus group discussions including specific discussions with women, girls, people with disabilities, older people and other groups with specific needs.

Protection partners will, in addition, conduct regular monitoring through desk reviews of activities, reports of case management, data collected on UNHCR's progress database, participatory assessments and other such engagements with the people we serve and other stakeholders.

Sector	Indicator	Target		
	Protection	Number of people identified in need of assistance receiving psychosocial support	6,000	
		Number of people with disabilities who receive services for their specific needs	2,500	
		Number of refugees and asylum-seekers receiving legal assistance	2,700	
		Number of refugees who voluntarily returned in safety and dignity to their country of origin	4,000	
		Number of refugees submitted for resettlement	6,000	
	Child Protection	Number of individuals trained on child rights and child protection prevention and response, including mainstreaming	2,200	
		Number of children at high risk, including unaccompanied and separated children (UASC), with Best Interest Procedures (BIP) undertaken	900	
		Number of adolescents participating in child protection related programmes	18,500	
	GBV	Number of people who benefitted from specialized GBV programmes	1,200	
		Number of trained participants (partner workforce and government authorities) who increased their GBV knowledge and skills on prevention and response	160	
		Number of women and girls who participate in targeted empowerment activities as part of GBV prevention programs	9,000	
	1	Education	Proportion of refugee children (3-17 years) who are enrolled in school (gross enrollment)	90%
		Food Security	Number of persons receiving food assistance (in-kind or cash assistance)	116,989
	Public Health & Nutrition	Number of consultations provided for health care services	310,000	

		Number of children aged 9 months to 5 years who have received a measles containing vaccine	1,700
		Number of children 0-59 months with acute malnutrition (SAM and MAM) admitted for treatment	500
		Number of pregnant and lactating women admitted in Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP)	2,500
	Livelihoods & Resilience (and Socio-Economic Inclusion)	Number of refugees and host communities who received cash grants to start up or improve their income generating activities	2,316
		Number of refugees and host communities provided with entrepreneurship/business training	6,046
		Number of refugees and host communities provided with vocational skills/apprenticeship/on-the-job-training	2,747
	Shelter & NFIs	Number of refugee shelters rehabilitated or repaired	1,515
		Number of refugee shelters constructed	838
		Number of people who received non-food items (in kind and cash assistance)	124,083
		Number of individuals receiving assistance to cover energy supply (including for cooking purposes)	124,083
		Number of families purchase solar-home systems	4,500
		Number of tree seedlings planted	125,000
	WASH	Number of average litres of potable water available per person per day	20
		Number of refugees per latrine stance in camps	20