



Ministry in Charge of Emergency Management

**Refugee Coordination Meeting**

26 March 2019

Venue: MINAFFET

Agenda	Discussion		Recommendation / Action Point
<p><b>Opening remarks</b></p>	<p><b>Minister MINEMA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 5 years’ strategic plan for refugee inclusion has been completed and is available</li> <li>• The development of the project on socio economic inclusion of refugees and host community is at completion stage, most of required documents have been submitted and approved by the World Bank and the project is expected to be approved by the end of April 2019 and will be effective from 1st July 2019</li> <li>• The verification exercise is ongoing in Kigeme and will be conducted next in Mahama</li> <li>• The delivery of refugee Ids and RCTDs continues</li> <li>• Commended UNHCR for actively finding alternative energy sources for cooking</li> </ul>	<p><b>UNHCR Representative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the 14th and 15 February 2019 UNHCR and the East Africa Community organized National Consultation Meeting on the development of the EAC Refugee Management Policy.</li> <li>• On 19 February, the UNHCR Representative accompanied the Honourable Minister of MINEMA to Gihembe refugee camp, to review the progress, meet with the refugee leaders and to appraise the challenges related to inadequate shelter and limited land space for camp expansion, as well as challenges of environmental degradation</li> <li>• On 15 March 2019, the UNHCR Representative attended the Celebration of the African Day of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINEMA invited DPs to join GoR to invest in CRRF projects to engage refugees in self-reliance</li> <li>• For the well-being of refugees and their host communities</li> <li>• UNHCR Representative called on the UN partners, Project Partners, Development Partners, the Donor Community and the Government of Rwanda to put their efforts together and join forces to fund raising and providing needed assistance.</li> </ul>



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In line with Regional consultations meetings on population displacement management in the great lakes Region the Government of Rwanda participated in the Ministerial Meeting on Displacement held in Kampala,Uganda on 7 March and officially opened by the president of Uganda</li> <li>• The Government of Rwanda attended the EAC national consultation meeting held in Kigali on 14 and 15 February 2019. The aim of this meeting was to develop a Regional Refugee Management Policy and its development process is ongoing</li> </ul>	<p>School Feeding at Paysannat L School in Mahama refugee camp, together with the WFP Country Director in Rwanda, the Minister of Education and a representative of MINEMA. This celebration demonstrated how partnership in action between the GoR and international organizations (WFP, UNHCR and its partners) can bring concrete solutions to raise awareness of good nutrition for all children regardless of their origin and circumstances</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In early March 2018, UNHCR also received the mission of the UNHCR Africa Bureau Chief Operations Manager, Mr Serge Ruso, who came to support the operation with the 2020-2021 country operation planning exercise and also visit the refugee camps</li> <li>• UNHCR in Rwanda has so far secured only 1.5 M USD of funding. This is 900,000 USD lower than the funding level in March last year. Despite our</li> </ul>	
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		<p>fundraising efforts the current funding shortfall stands around 98%</p>	
<p><b>Operational Update (UNHCR Deputy Representative) – incl. update on the CRRP and RRRPs</b></p>	<p><b>Update :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Statistics:</u> 149,602 refugees in Rwanda by the end of February (52% Congolese, 47% Burundians) with 254 new arrivals in February (20% decrease from January).</li> <li>• <u>Energy:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beginning of January, 100% of households in Kigeme camp have transitioned from firewood to a combination of pellets and briquettes</li> <li>- CBI for energy to 100 HHs in Gihembe and Kiziba /registration of HHs in Nyabiheke and Mugombwa for briquettes as of April</li> <li>- LPG supplier selected and roll out in Mahama as of April / / UNHCR has currently only 1M USD out of the 4.1M USD required for the shift from firewood to alternative energy sources for cooking</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>CBI:</u> Roll out of CBI in all camps:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Monetized the assistance in lieu Non-Food Items (such as of jerry cans, blankets and etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Education:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enrolment of refugees in the national education system ongoing</li> <li>- Uniforms and text books are provided with the support of partners WVI and ADRA</li> <li>- 32 classrooms currently under construction funded by UNHCR in Gihembe and Nyabiheke camps.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appeal for additional funding support from the donor community:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the construction of 150 additional classrooms for primary and secondary cycle</li> <li>- for textbooks (30,000 USD) and for school feeding (60,000 USD) in Kiziba;</li> <li>- for the school of excellence programme (150,000 USD)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNHCR plans to construct 32 additional classrooms in 2019 in Kigeme (16), Mugombwa (8) and in Mahama camp (8) but this will not be enough to reach national standards</li> <li>- The change in shift has not been applied in primary schools in Mahama, Kigeme and Mugombwa due to lack of classrooms</li> <li>- ECDs are overcrowded in Kiziba, Mahama and Kigeme with 400 additional births every month. UNICEF is constructing 18 ECD classrooms in Mahama</li> <li>- 238 top performing Burundian students were not registered in boarding schools outside Mahama camp through the school of excellence programme due to lack of funding.</li> <li>• <u>Protection and durable solutions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNHCR works with MINEMA on solution strategy for refugee inclusion</li> <li>- As part of the verification exercise information is collected on intention to return and breakdown on areas of return will be shared soon for the organization of go and see visits</li> <li>- When the UNHCR High Commissioner met the DRC President the possibility of facilitating refugee return was discussed and yesterday the DRC president met H.E. President Paul Kagame in parallel to the African CEO Forum in Kigali</li> <li>- Resettlement quota is 4,000 persons in 2019. In February, 31 cases (99 persons) have been submitted and 84 cases (239 persons) departed. UNHCR expects 2,800 individuals to depart by September this year and it will work closely with IOM and Immigration authorities to facilitate these departures</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>WASH:</u></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For the roll out of alternative energy solutions in all six camps (3.1M USD)</li> <li>• UNHCR is appealing to the support of MINEMA to continue advocacy for the accreditation of the school in Kiziba, as this would help resolve the issue of lack of textbooks which would fall under the remit of MINEDUC</li> <li>• UNHCR calls for the resumption of tripartite discussions DRC/Rwanda/UNHCR to facilitate the return in their country of origin of DRC refugees in Rwanda and Rwandan refugees in DRC.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reduction (from what level to what level?) in standards of average water supplied per person in Gihembe and Nyabiheke. Relying on boreholes and generators not consistent in Gihembe and Nyabiheke. Currently only one generator in Gihembe is operational as the other one has broken down. ARC is in discussion with WASAC for more consistent supply of water to the camp, a more sustainable solution would consist of connecting boreholes to WASAC grid. World Vision announced that the Government of Finland has pledged 500,000 Euro to sanitation activities in Kigeme camp.</li> <li>• <u>Health:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Refugees are not integrated in the National Hepatitis Care and Treatment Program. 250 refugees are infected by Hepatitis A or B, or infected with HIV/AIDS.</li> <li>- AHA noted that the referral cost for treatment of patients under dialysis is very high and difficult to sustain in the long term</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Return programme:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2018 saw a drastic reduction Rwandan returnee from DRC compared to 2017</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embassy of Japan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In 2018, GoJ donated \$300,000 to UNHCR, \$1M to WFP to support the refugee response. The Situation in Burundi is calm, why are the numbers of Burundian refugees still increasing? This might be because Burundian refugees in Tanzania were encouraged to repatriate but instead came to Rwanda, how does UNHCR deal with this issue of secondary movements? Reply: GoR recognizes Burundian refugees in “Prima Facie” basis. One of the main causes of Burundians fleeing the country is the political tensions</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy to government for the inclusion of refugees in the National Hepatitis Care and Treatment Program</li> <li>• Request for UNHCR to review the support provided for patient under dialysis treatment and to consider their case for resettlement</li> <li>• Request that MINEMA accelerates the registration of the returnees at the District level to enable UNHCR pay the cash grants.</li> </ul>
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	<p>in the country. Burundian refugees claim that they are requested to make contributions towards the elections and that failing to do so makes them perceived as enemies of the state and are persecuted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embassy of Netherlands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The number of urban refugees has decreased following the verification exercise. Where are they going? What happens to refugees with military background? Reply: The urban refugees who did not show up during the verification exercise believed to have returned spontaneously to their country of origin. Regarding Military background, the authorities do the follow up with UNHCR when Those refugees declare they are no longer pursuing military objectives, they have to put it writing to MINEMA, which in turn informs UNHCR.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• UNICEF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is no shortage of MNPs in the country, these are distributed through MoH programme. UNICEF ready to help with communication efforts around this to address perception of lack of MNPs and to provide support wherever needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Participants requested more details on the existing World Bank/GoR projects such as those on WASH.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINEMA will present on the World Bank/GoR ID18 project during the next RCM</li> </ul>
<p><b>Update on the Verification exercise update and plans (Gayira Yassin-MINEMA)</b></p>	<p><b>Update:</b> The verification was completed in Kigali, Huye, Gihembe, Nyabiheke, Kiziba, Mugombwa and is ongoing in Kigeme Camp. The pending site is Mahama camp which will follow Kigeme After verification in above mentioned sites, the number of refugee population decreased by 28%</p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Verification: where do refugees in urban areas (Kigali and Huye) go? Verification exercise showed that significant numbers have returned to Burundi.</li> </ul>	
<b>A joint presentation on the issue of land (MINEMA-UNHCR)</b>	<p><b>Update:</b> See attached joint presentation from UNHCR/MINEMA</p> <p><b>Comments:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MINEMA : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GoR is promoting constructing upwards: there is no space to continue current trends of building horizontally. This is also what GoR is doing in constructing settlements countrywide. Similar situation with space for refugee camps, need to pre-empt a situation of congestion since Rwanda is determined to maintain its open-doors policy to refugees since Rwandans know the pain and suffering of being a refugee, but planning needed to avoid a situation of congestion</li> <li>- Kirehe District is facing numerous natural disasters because of environmental degradation resulting from refugee settlements. If trees had been planted before, situation may have been avoided</li> </ul> </li> <li>• ARC is expecting an engineer to do a survey and suggest alternative solutions. ARC is also discussing with Rwanda Bamboo about finding solutions with constructions in bamboo, which could not only address the issue of land but could also provide an income-generating activity or source of employment for refugees</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The pocket space identified in Mahama must be used for the relocation of refugee living in highly congested refugee camps (in priority from Kigeme camp)</li> <li>• Due to space problem, no more horizontal shelter construction, MINEMA is asking partners to mobilize resources to build storey shelters for refugees</li> <li>• UNHCR is also requesting partners to support with expertise</li> </ul>
<b>Food pipeline situation (WFP)</b>	<p><b>Update:</b> WFP has received a contribution that allows to secure the food pipeline until July. After which the situation is not clear, however WFP continues to look for resources. For more information see attached joint presentation from WFP</p>	
<b>Comments, questions and answers</b>	<p><b>Closing remarks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarter of the year has already passed with persistent funding shortfall</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial and political support is urgently needed to find solutions for refugees in Rwanda</li> </ul>