

# THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO REGIONAL REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN



January-December 2021

## CREDITS

UNHCR wishes to acknowledge the contributions of partners and staff in the Southern Africa and Great Lakes regions in Africa and at Headquarters who have participated in the preparation of the narrative, financial and graphic components of this document.

### CONCEPT DESIGN

UNHCR, Office of the Bureau for Southern Africa in Pretoria, South Africa. The maps in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of UNHCR concerning the legal status of any country or territory or area, of its authorities, or the delimitation of borders or boundaries. All statistics are provisional and subject to change. Except where otherwise indicated, all population figures provided in this report are as of 31 December 2020.

### WEB PORTAL

For more information on the DRC situation go to: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/drc>

### PHOTOGRAPHS

#### FRONT PAGE :

A group of newly-arrived Congolese asylum-seekers sit exhausted in Zombo, near Uganda's border with the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ©UNHCR/ Rocco Nuri

#### REGIONAL OVERVIEW:

Refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo arrive at Rumonge port on the Burundi side of Lake Tanganyika, having fled militia violence. ©UNHCR/ Bernard Ntwari

#### ANGOLA CHAPTER:

Refugee children from the Kasai region of the DRC, celebrating their relocation from Cacanda reception centre to the new settlement in Lovua, Lunda Norte. © UNHCR/Margarida Loureiro

A Congolese refugee shops for shoes at Lovua market in Angola. © UNHCR/Omotola Akindipe

#### BURUNDI CHAPTER:

Congolese schoolchildren in Musasa camp, Ngozi, Burundi, take a break from class as UN High Commissioner for refugees Filippo Grandi pays a visit. © UNHCR/Georgina Goodwin

Congolese refugees gather at Musasa camp in Ngozi, Burundi, for the arrival of UN High Commissioner for refugees, Filippo Grandi. © UNHCR/Georgina Goodwin

#### REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO CHAPTER:

Daily hot meals are provided to the most vulnerable refugees from the DRC in Bouemba settlement, Republic of the Congo ©UNHCR / Guy Fernand Mouneyi

A refugee boy from the DRC with a handmade truck in Bouemba settlement, Republic of the Congo. Children are given space and opportunity to play and express their talent and creativity © UNHCR / Guy Fernand Mouneyi

#### RWANDA CHAPTER:

A refugee girl from the DRC attends class in Kigeme Camp, Rwanda © UNHCR/EAC/Paddy Dowling

A refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo is pleased with her harvest in the Misizi Marshland project, which supports food security project for both refugees and Rwanda farmers. ©UNHCR/ Eugene Sibomana

#### UGANDA CHAPTER:

Some of the refugee women mentored by Nansen Refugee Award Regional Winner for Africa, Sabuni Francoise Chikunda, have founded the Heriyetu Foundation at Nakivale settlement in Uganda – a group that has launched a wine-making business, pharmacy and savings and loans programme. © UNHCR/Esther Ruth Mbabazi

A Congolese torture survivor finds healing in empowering others. Once a broken woman, she has emerged as a successful entrepreneur and an inspiration for fellow refugees. She checks on her newly set-up fish breeding pond in Kyangwali Refugee settlement, in mid-western Uganda. ©UNHCR/ Duniya Aslam Khan

#### UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA CHAPTER:

An elderly Congolese refugee lives alone in a Refugee Housing Unit (RHU) given to refugees with special needs, at Nyarugusu camp in Tanzania. © UNHCR/Georgina Goodwin

A market in Tanzania where Congolese and Burundian refugees interact with their Tanzanian hosts. © UNHCR/Georgina Goodwin

#### ZAMBIA CHAPTER:

Congolese refugees draw water at a water distribution point in Kenani transit centre. © UNHCR/Kelvin Shimo

A Zambian trader from the nearby village of Kampampi regularly comes to Mantapala refugee settlement to sell fish. She is saving up the money she makes for her education. © UNHCR/Enoch Kavindele Jr

#### ANNEXURE:

A young refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo performs in a play at Mantapala refugee settlement in Zambia. ©UNHCR/ Will Swanson

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# Foreword



The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is one of the most complex and long-standing humanitarian crises in Africa. By the end of 2020, some 940,421 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers were hosted across the African continent. Ongoing conflicts in eastern DRC, as well as intercommunal violence, continue to cause forced displacement within the DRC and into neighbouring countries, along with tragic loss of human life and destruction of communities. Moving into 2021, we can expect that new Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers will require protection and basic assistance, while those in protracted situations – many for over a decade – will still require ongoing support.

2020 has presented the unique challenge and threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. Countries of asylum implemented COVID-19 prevention measures that, while necessary to curb the spread of the virus, resulted in heightened protection risks and assistance needs, including for people with specific needs and people with disabilities. Partners have had to adapt and reformulate their programmes to ensure continuity of services, while scaling up activities that respond to COVID-19.

Given the evolving and growing needs, along with increasing strain on resources in countries of asylum, the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for the DRC Situation remains the essential tool to rally financial support, coordinate humanitarian assistance and provide a strategic direction towards medium and long-term solutions for Congolese refugees in Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia. UNHCR values the partnership of those engaged in the 2021 DRC RRRP, and together we have developed interventions through close consultations with the affected populations and host governments to improve protection space for Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers, and ensure there is preparedness in the event of new influxes. Response to COVID-19 has also been mainstreamed into sectoral responses.

A key factor to mitigate dependence on humanitarian assistance is to strengthen self-reliance through education, skills training and supporting livelihood opportunities. Mainstreaming access for Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers to government services will also ensure much-needed resources are not devoted to creating parallel systems. Rather, services and programmes are strengthened for the benefit of everyone, adding to improved development and a shared social wellbeing. UNHCR and RRRP partners urge States to provide favourable conditions towards local integration. At the same time, UNHCR is also ready to support repatriation where returns are voluntary and informed, and can be conducted in a safe and dignified manner. Resettlement must also remain an option for the most vulnerable, and we continue to seek support of the international community to provide solutions for these special cases.

Throughout the RRRP process, we placed great importance on data and analysis to clearly articulate evidence-based needs and on aligning our responses with the Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals. This RRRP also follows pledges made during the first ever Global Refugee Forum (GRF) held in December 2019, providing an opportunity to bring on board non-traditional partners as well as regional actors to strengthen the commitment to the DRC situation and to spark new pledges.

In closing, I would like to thank all the donors who have supported our inter-agency response for Congolese refugees by contributing to past RRRPs. Through this 2021 RRRP, let us renew our commitment to continue to work together in the pursuit of comprehensive solutions for Congolese refugees.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Valentin Tapsoba'.

Valentin Tapsoba  
Director, UNHCR Regional Bureau for Southern Africa

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

1,108,420

REFUGEES  
TARGETED

842,960

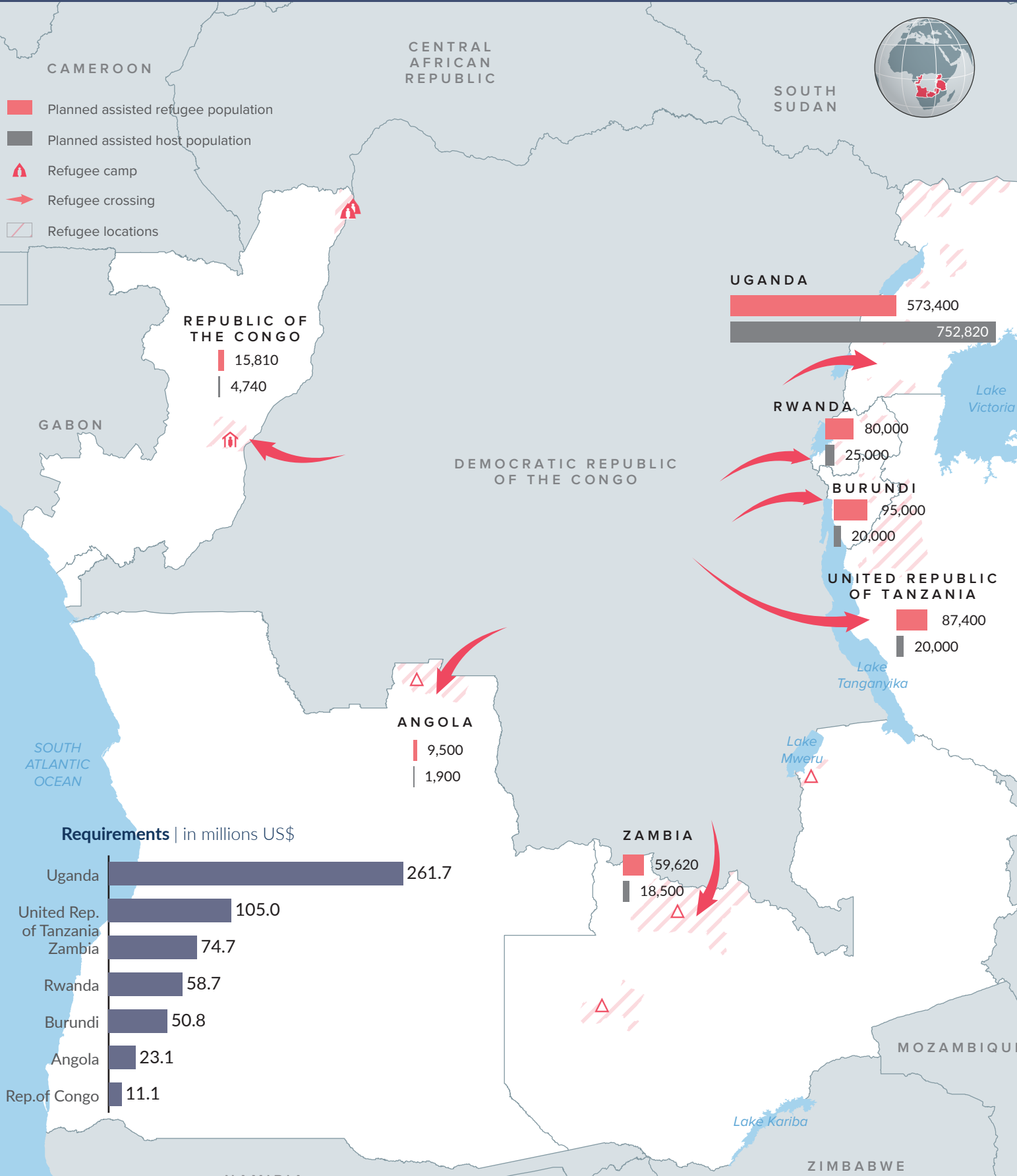
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

US\$ 585M

REQUIREMENTS

66

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED



# Regional Overview

## Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Although a peaceful transition of power followed the December 2018 presidential elections in the DRC, at the end of 2020, the overall security situation remained complex, with continued inter-ethnic conflicts and armed attacks, particularly in the eastern provinces of the country. Since 2019 and throughout 2020, increased violence has resulted in the continued internal forced displacement of more than 5.2 million people, according to the 2021 DRC Humanitarian Response Plan. This includes approximately 2.9 million people displaced in 2020 in the eastern provinces (mainly in Ituri, North and South Kivu and Tanganyika). This is the largest IDP situation in Africa and one of the most acute and longstanding humanitarian crises in the world. The country also hosts about half a million refugees, fleeing unrest and persecution in neighbouring countries.

The situation in the DRC was aggravated in 2020 by the COVID-19 pandemic, while the DRC also continues to

fight against successive outbreaks of the Ebola Virus Disease and a measles outbreak. Additionally, in October 2020, OCHA estimated that 15.6 million people are severely food insecure, of which some 4.7 million suffer from severe malnutrition.

Although the rate of outflows from the DRC was lower in 2020 than in previous years, tens of thousands of people still fled across borders and have joined refugees from previous waves of violence and insecurity. Refugees continued to flee mostly from eastern areas of North and South Kivu and Ituri Provinces to Uganda, as well as from Haut Katanga and Tanganyika Provinces to Zambia and other countries in Southern Africa. At the same time, some countries reported a net reduction in the Congolese refugee population attributed to spontaneous returns to the DRC, suggesting a general stability in some areas of origin.

## Beneficiary Population

COUNTRIES	TOTAL ASSISTED REFUGEE POPULATION BY THE END OF 2020	PLANNED ASSISTED REFUGEE POPULATION BY THE END OF 2021	PLANNED ASSISTED HOST POPULATION BY THE END OF 2021
Angola	23,436	9,500	1,900
Burundi	79,406	95,000	20,000
Republic of the Congo	20,830	15,810	4,743
Rwanda	74,491	80,003	25,000
Uganda	421,563	573,406	752,820
United Republic of Tanzania	78,075	87,402	20,000
Zambia	57,445	59,625	18,500
Southern Africa*	117,606	119,924	-
Other Countries**	67,569	67,752	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>940,421</b>	<b>1,108,422</b>	<b>842,963</b>

COUNTRIES	PLANNED ASSISTED REFUGEE POPULATION BY THE END OF 2021										
	0-4 YEARS MALE	0-4 YEARS FEMALE	5-11 YEARS MALE	5-11 YEARS FEMALE	12-17 YEARS MALE	12-17 YEARS FEMALE	18-59 YEARS MALE	18-59 YEARS FEMALE	60+ YEARS MALE	60+ YEARS FEMALE	INDIVI- DUALS WITH DISABILITY
Angola	862	847	1,085	1,131	619	682	1,932	2,016	217	109	2
Burundi	7,493	7,304	11,146	10,940	8,429	8,239	18,690	20,633	957	1,170	2,045
Republic of the Congo	1,729	1,837	1,699	1,726	1,085	1,136	3,176	2,977	228	218	202
Rwanda	6,099	6,025	8,137	8,120	6,752	6,773	13,890	20,510	1,571	2,125	3,298
Uganda	53,673	53,857	67,482	67,230	41,308	40,113	111,038	123,667	6,605	8,433	12,004
United Republic of Tanzania	8,486	8,483	9,110	9,146	6,735	6,801	16,990	18,685	1,297	1,669	1,230
Zambia	4,341	4,366	6,279	6,309	4,747	4,587	15,074	12,576	704	645	27
Southern Africa*	5,445	5,419	9,826	9,642	7,022	6,593	46,308	27,584	1,215	870	374
Other Countries**	3,836	3,642	6,450	6,200	5,255	5,304	18,691	16,633	761	980	1,130
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>91,964</b>	<b>91,779</b>	<b>121,212</b>	<b>120,444</b>	<b>81,950</b>	<b>80,228</b>	<b>245,788</b>	<b>245,281</b>	<b>13,556</b>	<b>16,219</b>	<b>20,312</b>

\*Southern Africa includes Botswana, the Kingdom of eSwatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

\*\*Other countries include Central African Republic, Chad, Kenya and South Sudan.  
Updated population figures are available at: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/drc>

## Regional Protection and Solutions Context

The 2021 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRRP) for the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) Situation details the inter-agency response for Congolese refugees in neighbouring countries of asylum: Angola, Burundi, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. Most countries in the region have demonstrated commitment to maintaining open borders for asylum-seekers, and Congolese have benefitted from safe access to asylum and international protection. However in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, governments implemented precautionary measures including border closures, which affected access to asylum. This trend may continue into 2021 and RRRP partners are committed to engaging with governments to ensure those seeking asylum still have safe access to territory. Furthermore, Congolese refugees, particularly those living in camps and settlements, often face restrictions on their freedom of movement; right to work; housing, land and property

rights; and access to education and justice. This situation was worsened in 2020 as a result of COVID-19 lockdowns and movement restrictions, which negatively impacted economic activity and resulted in loss of income and increased vulnerability for Congolese refugees and their families.

At the same time, refugee settlements and camps in many host countries have reached or exceeded capacity, and the available basic services are stretched to their limit. RRRP partners continue discussions to expand existing or establish new camps and settlements. While RRRP partners promote self-reliance with the aim of reducing dependence on humanitarian assistance, the reality is that this process is slow and often underfunded. Therefore, the majority of Congolese refugees are expected to continue to rely on assistance and services provided by RRRP partners and government. In 2021, it is expected that in addition to





protection services, there will be a need for RRRP partners to continue to deliver basic services and assistance programmes: supporting health and nutrition services; maintaining and expanding water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems; improving household shelter infrastructure; supporting access to education; and providing food assistance either in-kind or through cash and voucher modalities. At the same time, RRRP partners will continue to work with government at various levels to secure the inclusion of refugees where possible into national and local systems of basic services and explore ways to reinforce government-led services as a way of facilitating refugees' access.

There continue to be reports of incidents of discrimination and xenophobia in some refugee-hosting countries, and refugees are especially vulnerable, specifically women, children, and other persons with specific needs and disabilities. This highlights the need to intensify efforts towards social cohesion and peaceful

coexistence, by including local communities in decision-making and expanding service provision to support the most vulnerable in communities hosting refugees. In this evolving protection environment, it is important to strengthen partnerships and collaboration between governments, humanitarian, and development actors to provide adequate protection and ensure legal safeguards to create an environment conducive to local integration and social cohesion. Given that prospects for voluntary repatriation and resettlement remain limited, it is necessary to strengthen self-reliance and integration initiatives for refugees and the communities that host them. It also remains critical to promote and support livelihood opportunities and increase vocational and skills training. For those who do wish to return to their homes in the DRC, it is important to ensure that voluntary repatriation is carried out in safety and dignity, and that livelihood opportunities and land are made available to returnees, to ensure that the return is sustainable.

# Regional Response Strategy and Priorities

In 2021, partners in the DRC RRRP aim to address the immediate needs of new Congolese refugee arrivals in the region, and to provide protection and solutions to those in protracted situations. RRRP partners will also seek to assist impacted members of host communities. Particular attention will be paid to identifying and assisting children, youth, and women, as they are often the most vulnerable people in displacement settings, as well as people with specific needs including those with disabilities living in refugee sites and host communities.

While humanitarian assistance remains an essential component of the DRC RRRP, there will be an increased focus on developing sustainable livelihood opportunities in line with the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR), for both refugees and the host population, thereby fostering peaceful coexistence. There will be advocacy for the inclusion of refugees into national development plans and labour markets, while response activities will reflect the whole-of-society approach of the GCR, which encompasses the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) and the Agenda 2030 / SDGs. In countries where the application of the CRRF has not yet been initiated, a strong protection and solutions framework will be implemented in accordance with the objectives of the GCR.

Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020, partners involved in the DRC RRRP worked with governments to respond to the needs of refugees and their host communities, firstly by adapting programming to continue providing essential protection and other basic services, and secondly by rolling out additional activities to address the risks and impacts of COVID-19. This approach will continue in 2021, streamlining the COVID-19 response into regular programming.

Protection priorities in 2021 will include the prevention and response to GBV, strengthening child protection, and continued case management, monitoring and follow-up on cases of unaccompanied and separated children. There will also be facilitation of family tracing and reunification where possible. Provided conditions are conducive for a sustainable return, voluntary repatriation operations to the DRC will resume in 2021. Local integration will be supported for those who wish to remain, while UNHCR will continue processing cases of Congolese refugees in need of resettlement. Special attention and efforts will be made to ensure that individuals at heightened protection risk, including young children, women, the elderly, persons with specific needs and persons with disabilities will be supported, improving access to protection, assistance, and appropriate solutions.

**STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVE 1:**

**Maintain equal and unhindered access to asylum and international protection while promoting the full enjoyment of rights for refugees and asylum-seekers.**

- Advocate with governments to ensure safe access to territory for asylum-seekers and promote prima facie recognition of refugee status based on the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1969 Organization of African Unity (OAU) Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.
- Support governments in ensuring national law and policies are applied consistently and in line with international standards and regional frameworks. Advocate for lifting specific country reservations to articles of the 1951 Convention that restrict refugee and asylum-seekers' legal rights in the right to work, freedom of movement, right to access land, right to own a business and legal access to open a bank account.
- Work together with governments and national authorities to strengthen mechanisms for effective border and protection monitoring. Work with governments to find practical solutions that ensure they can implement necessary border restrictions to prevent COVID-19 while upholding the legal obligation to provide access to asylum and international protection.
- Improve and empower reception capacities, including by increasing the number of refugee status determination (RSD) facilities and strengthening capacity in RSD procedures.
- Improve the quality and integrity of registration, leveraging on commitments made by States during the Global Refugee Forum.
- Strengthen systematic issuance of birth certificates for new-borns, and strengthen specialized child protection systems and programmes. Promote issuance of refugee identity cards, to enable refugees to enjoy the right to free movement and access to quality services and livelihood opportunities.

**STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVE 2:**

**Achieve minimum standards in the provision of multi-sectoral assistance to refugees and host communities with a view to anchor the response in government systems, development plans, multi-year strategies and regional protection frameworks and policies – paying attention to the needs of children, youth, and women.**

- Ensure multisectoral assistance is provided to refugees and host communities, namely access to basic services including food, health, nutrition, shelter, WASH, and education. Work closely with government authorities to ensure that people of concern are included in national preparedness and response plans for COVID-19.
- Maintain and improve medical services, prioritizing construction and rehabilitation of health facilities in camps and the surrounding areas. Train health workers on the provision of quality standard care, including preventing and responding to COVID-19.
- Enhance the nutritional status of refugees and host populations, and above all children, and pregnant and lactating women.
- Enhance refugee contributions to their own food consumption and promote nutrition education and capacity building for food security to help to address food insecurity and support dietary diversity. Pursue in-kind distributions of unconditional and conditional food assistance, implementing a joint targeted approach to food assistance alongside livelihoods and self-reliance projects.
- Provide shelter assistance through cash transfers or in-kind assistance to strengthen shelter structures. Improving basic infrastructure in refugee settlements and refugee-hosting areas.
- Rehabilitate and construct water and sanitation facilities with emphasis on separated toilets for males and females, ensuring gender-sensitive WASH interventions and access for persons with specific needs. Roll out preventive campaigns against communicable and parasitic diseases.
- Ensure access to quality education for all school-aged refugee children and promote integration of education for refugees into national education systems, with priority on basic education. Improve the learning environment through construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure and provision of equipment and learning materials, using innovative forms of teaching with the use of technology where feasible. Ensure that school-aged children are able to recover schooling lost during COVID-19 lockdowns and closures.

**STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVE 3:**

**Foster economic self-reliance to reduce dependency on humanitarian aid and promote socio-economic growth in line with national development plans, at the same time promoting social cohesion and peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities through targeted self-reliance and resilience programmes and by promoting respect for the natural environment.**

- Foster the economic self-reliance of refugees through sustainable livelihood opportunities with a view to enabling long term solutions, and support refugees to contribute to the development of their host countries.

Promote socioeconomic local integration of refugees, aligned with national development plans, the “multi-stakeholder” approach embedded within the CRRF, and based on the commitments made by UN Member States at the GRF and in keeping with the SDGs.

- Support access to livelihoods through vocational training and business start-up support, in a way that enables refugees to live active, productive and dignified lives. Conduct training in sustainable farming, fishing, non-farming income generation, small-scale trading and enhanced agricultural productivity, in order to improve access to markets.
- Advocate for freedom of movement and the right to work as key elements that must be in place to strengthen access to livelihoods and enhance self-reliance, and to ensure that refugees enjoy their basic rights.
- Identify more opportunities to strengthen and increase the use of cash-based interventions (CBIs), to allow refugees to meet their purchasing needs in a dignified manner, thus, reducing dependency on humanitarian aid.
- Promote peacebuilding initiatives, alongside other humanitarian and development interventions, in refugee-hosting areas that encourage opportunities for refugees and local populations to engage in a positive way that also promotes their self-reliance and independence.
- Support public services and institutions with development and resilience initiatives, including better management of energy services and the environment.
- Increase awareness-raising and campaigns on environmental protection to prevent tensions and conflict between refugees and host communities related to the use of land and possible environmental degradation. Wherever possible, activities will include plant production, use of energy-saving stoves, solid waste recycling/re-use and distribution of alternatives to wood.

**STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVE 4:**

**Promote policies and conditions that facilitate durable solutions, through support to voluntary repatriation for an increasing number of refugees wishing to return home, and efforts to locally integrate persons who lack the prospect of return.**

- Support Governments in ensuring refugee returns are voluntary, safe, carried out in conditions of dignity, and based on well-informed decisions. Facilitated returns will be within the framework of tripartite agreements and respect the principle of non-refoulement.
- Advance opportunities for local integration through advocating for socioeconomic and legal inclusion, as well as enhancing education, self-reliance and livelihood programmes in cooperation with host governments and other relevant stakeholders. Advocate for increased opportunities of naturalisation in the country of asylum.
- Ensure documentation of legal identity through birth registration and issuance of nationality documents to those with entitlement to it. Identity and nationality documentation is instrumental to legal integration in the country of origin (in case of return) and country of asylum (for those who opt for local integration).

## PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS

1. Despite optimism following a peaceful political transition, concern remains over ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, the COVID 19 pandemic, the recurring Ebola outbreak, the measles epidemic, and the precarious humanitarian situation. Insecurity may become more widespread, affecting urban areas and leading to further displacement inside and outside the DRC.
2. The continued presence of various non-state actors in the eastern region of the DRC and intercommunal fighting presents a high risk of further population displacement within the DRC and further outflows of refugees to neighbouring countries.
3. Should the situation deteriorate in 2021, it is estimated that over 54,000 new refugees from the DRC could arrive in RRRP countries.
4. Resettlement will continue to be pursued as a durable solution. This, however, is a solution available to only a small percentage of refugees worldwide due to limited number of resettlement spaces. In 2021, it is expected that this option will remain available as a protection tool, especially for individuals with specific vulnerabilities and protection risks.
5. It is difficult to predict the number of possible returns of refugees due to ongoing political and socio-economic uncertainties, continued insecurity and health epidemics. Presently, voluntary repatriation to the DRC has received limited interest from Congolese refugees residing in the region but RRRP partners remain committed to facilitating voluntary and informed returns where it is desired.
6. It is expected that countries neighbouring the DRC will gradually reopen borders as the number of new COVID-19 cases decrease, and preventive health measures are put in place. This is expected to greatly improve access to asylum in these countries.

## PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Based on UNHCR registration data, approximately 1.8 per cent of refugees (18,133 individuals) who are targeted for assistance under the DRC RRRP are living with disabilities. This includes people with physical, intellectual, psychosocial, and sensory impairments, for whom existing barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others. These individuals are at particular risk because they are not always identifiable and because they face specific difficulties in participating actively in decisions that concern them, which makes it less likely that their essential protection and assistance needs will be met. The World Health Organization estimates that up to 15 per cent of the world's population are living with some form of disability, and therefore this figure could be higher among Congolese refugees. Partners will work together to identify and address these barriers to accessing assistance and solutions; and engage persons with disabilities as actors in the response.

## STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

In 2021, there is a need to strengthen livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions in countries involved in the DRC RRRP. As resources are limited, participants in livelihoods programmes may be prioritized and targeted based on specific criteria. This is especially important for people with specific needs such as child-headed households, female-headed households, people living with HIV/AIDS, older people and people with disabilities and mental disorders. This will contribute to strengthening self-reliance and resilience capacities of the refugees while rationalizing the use of humanitarian assistance.

To stabilize livelihoods and overcome the socio-economic empowerment disconnect of persons of concern, geographic and population differences need to be considered in the provision of livelihood support. When exploring different livelihood strategies, key factors linked to productive assets, knowledge, skills and aspirations need to further be considered as do market linkages and opportunities.

## Coordination

In accordance with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM), Governments have a lead role in the refugee response. UNHCR coordinates the Congolese refugee response in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of UN Country Teams, NGOs, and partners, including humanitarian and development partners, as well as civil society in the region.

As the Regional Refugee Coordinator, the Director of the Regional Bureau for Southern Africa will continue to ensure an overarching vision and coherent engagement for Congolese refugees in the seven countries involved in the regional response plan. There will also be continued liaison with neighbouring Regional Bureaus, and regular linkages with humanitarian and development partners in DRC and countries of asylum. This will ensure regular monitoring and sharing of analysis, that planning is based on strong data and analysis, and that responses are well targeted.

The 2021 DRC RRRP will continue to focus on building constructive interactions with regional bodies, including the African Union (AU), Southern African Development Community (SADC), International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR), Pan Africa Parliament, Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and other regional bodies. In countries piloting the CRRF approach, strategic partnerships are being established to include developments actors such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank, bilateral donors, and UN development agencies, as well as civil society and the private sector in the refugee response.

# Financial Requirements by Partners

APPEALING PARTNERS	ABBR	ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS (IN USD) FOR 2021
Action Africa Help International	AAH	1,150,000
Association for Aid and Relief, Japan	AAR-Japan	794,392
Action Against Hunger	ACF	1,418,800
Adventist Development and Relief Agency	ADRA	1,500,000
Alliance Forum for Development Uganda	AFOD-Uganda	250,000
Africa Humanitarian Action	AHA	100,000
American Refugee Committee	ALIGHT	3,190,000
African Women and Youth Action for Development	AWYAD	150,000
Building Resources Across Communities	BRAC	500,000
Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants	CAFOMI	1,350,612
CARE International	CARE	600,055
CARITAS	CARITAS	1,858,032
Caritas Uganda	Caritas-Uganda	25,000
Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid	CORDAID	1,575,807
Capacity Building Organization for Small and Medium Entrepreneurship and Skill Support Uganda	COSMESS-Uganda	107,000
DanChurchAid	DCA	1,060,039
Kwanza Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions	DIGNITY	512,491
Danish Refugee Council	DRC	5,713,136
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization	FAO	31,063,251
Finn Church Aid	FCA	3,400,000
Finnish Refugee Council	FRC	431,000
Gruppo di Volontariato Civile	GVC	530,000
Humanity and Inclusion	H&I	876,665
Hope Health Action East Africa	HHA	58,217
Humanity & Inclusion	HI	267,000
Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid	HIJRA	500,000
International Aid Services	IAS	60,669
International Organization for Migration	IOM	28,272,060
International Rescue Committee	IRC	7,211,349
Johanniter	Johanniter	950,000
Jesuit Refugee Service	JRS	3,027,226
Kabarole Research and Resource Centre	KRC	74,686
Lutheran World Federation	LWF	4,069,864
Mercy Corps Uganda	MCU	33,259

APPEALING PARTNERS	ABBR	ESTIMATED REQUIREMENTS (IN USD) FOR 2021
Medical Teams International	MTI	4,135,238
Norwegian Church Aid	NCA	1,528,994
Norwegian Refugee Council	NRC	4,500,000
Oxfam	Oxfam	4,038,255
Oneyouth Oneheart Initiative	OYOH	100,000
Practical Action	PA	1,847,390
Programme Against Malnutrition	PAM	280,000
Prison Fellowship Rwanda	PFR	700,000
Plan International	PI	1,675,000
People in Need	PIN	1,213,453
Right to Play	RtP	197,657
Save the Children International	SCI	3,332,983
Self Help Africa	SHA	1,655,901
Samaritan's Purse	SP	550,000
TPO Uganda	TPO-Uganda	280,000
Tanzania Red Cross Society	TRCS	800,000
Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation	TTR	180,306
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP	2,850,000
United Nations Population Fund	UNFPA	5,837,780
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	UNHCR	285,631,876
United Nations Children's Fund	UNICEF	16,823,460
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UNWOMEN	400,000
Uganda Red Cross Society	URCS	400,995
War Child Canada	WCC	1,664,141
War Child Holland	WCH	642,000
United Nations World Food Programme	WFP	128,514,314
United Nations World Health Organization	WHO	2,838,340
Windle International Uganda	WIU	1,447,666
Women's Legal Aid Centre	WLAC	120,000
World Vision international	WVI	5,578,409
Catholic Relief Services	CRS	1,355,000
HelpAge International UK	HAI-UK	1,315,350
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>585,115,119</b>



# ANGOLA REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

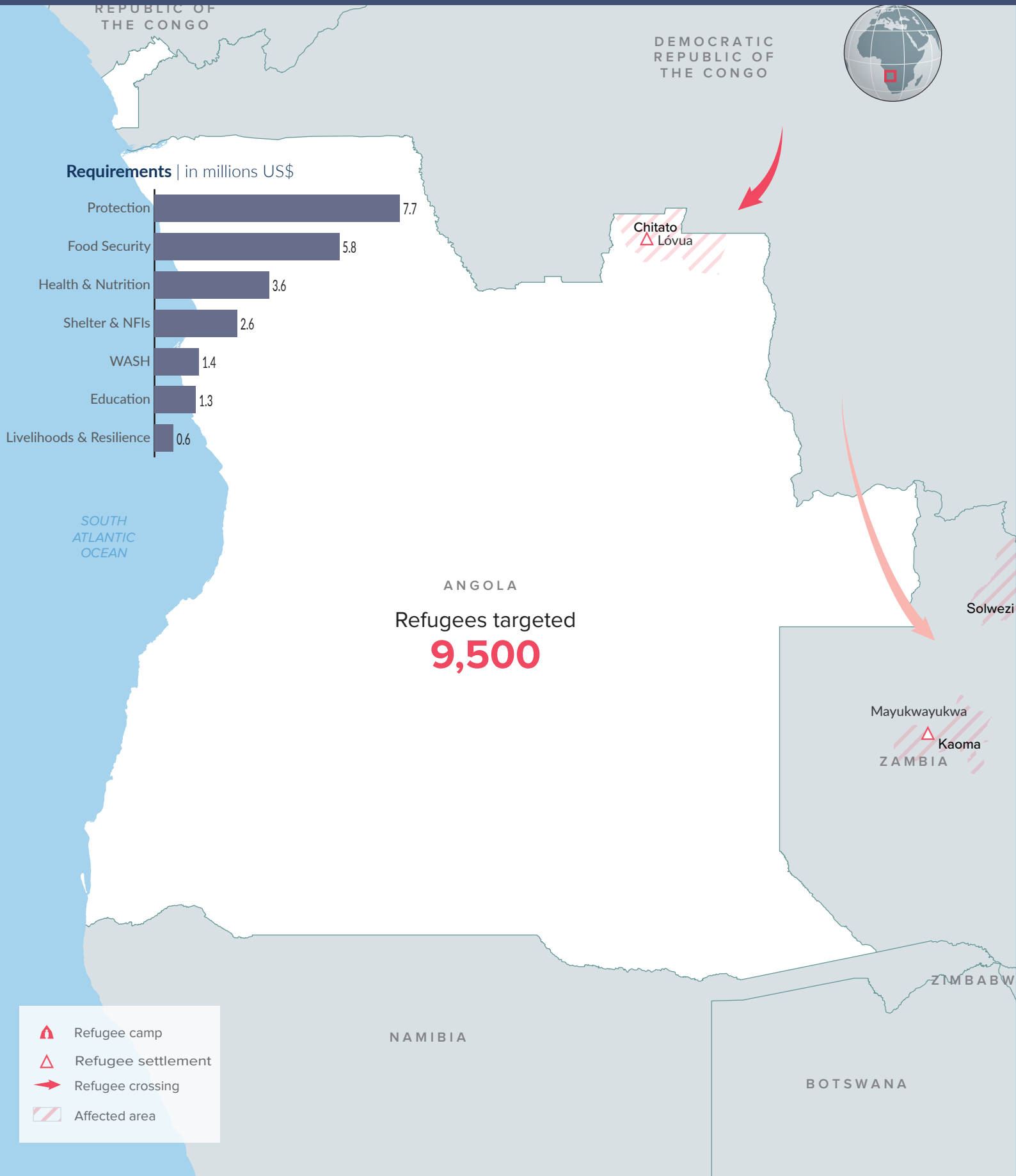
2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

**9,500**  
REFUGEES  
TARGETED

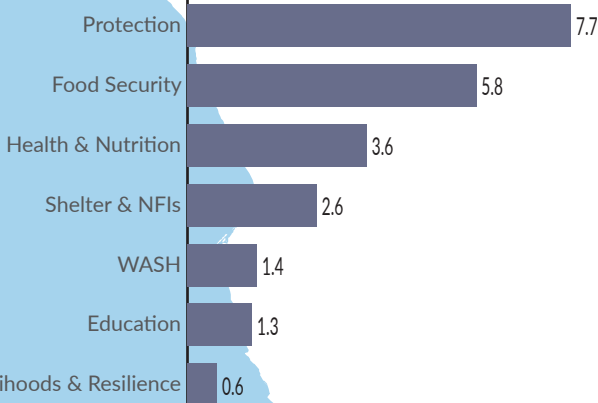
**1,900**  
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

**US\$ 23.1M**  
REQUIREMENTS

**5**  
PARTNERS  
INVOLVED



Requirements | in millions US\$



ANGOLA  
Refugees targeted  
**9,500**

- Refugee camp
- Refugee settlement
- Refugee crossing
- Affected area

# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

As of December 2020, Angola hosts 23,436 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC. An outbreak of violence in 2017 in the Kasai region of the DRC triggered displacement of more than 35,000 people to the province of Lunda Norte, Angola, settling in Lóvua settlement. From mid-2019, due to political changes in DRC, an estimated 17,000 refugees returned spontaneously and through organised voluntary repatriation) to the DRC. Voluntary repatriation was halted in early 2020 due to poor road conditions and the start of the rainy season and was further postponed due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is estimated that approximately 1,000 refugees may still be willing to return to DRC, while Lóvua settlement is expected to continue hosting approximately 6,600 individuals. The fluid political and security situation in Kasai requires RRRP partners to be in continuous emergency preparedness mode throughout 2021 due to this volatile and unpredictable environment.

In addition to those in Lóvua settlement, Angola hosts 13,854 unregistered Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers settled mainly in urban areas across the country, a majority of whom live in the capital city of Luanda. Most have lived in Angola for many decades, some for more than 35 years, having fled the DRC due to ethnic disputes and political turmoil in areas of origin. Most of them are not willing or not able to return home and remain largely interested in local integration opportunities. Despite living for decades in Angola, some with children and spouses born in Angola, they still face discrimination and challenges in accessing education, civil registration, healthcare, banking services and livelihoods opportunities (particularly in the formal market), due to the lack of continuous registration and renewal of documentation provided by the Government of Angola.

In Lóvua settlement, all refugees receive monthly food assistance and regular core relief item (CRI) and dignity kit distributions. Partners ensure primary healthcare to all, including programmes for HIV/AIDs, malnutrition, reproductive health, and also ensure WASH and education programmes as well as support to refugee families for shelter. Both the health clinic and the primary school serve the refugee population and the host community from the 7 villages surrounding Lóvua settlement. A protection hub was launched in the settlement where protection partners provide legal advice, counselling, assistance and information using a “one-stop-shop” approach.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to assistance provision for refugees in Lóvua settlement as many humanitarian organisations were obliged to adapt services and limit staff presence as part of general COVID-19 preventive measures. Additionally, the Angolan economy is heavily dependent on oil revenues, and with global prices declining the country has struggled with inflation and depreciation of the Angolan currency. This has led to an increase in the costs of living and meeting daily needs, and both refugees as well as locals often experience a lack of essential household supplies.



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In this overall context, RRRP partners have been working together to ensure protection, build resilience among refugee communities, promote preventive COVID-19 practices, promote dialogue between refugees and host communities as well as government; and support durable solutions for refugees.

For the response in 2021, the following will be prioritised:

- Continuation of development approaches;
- Strengthen community-based protection with a focus on resilience, age-gender-diversity and participatory approaches;
- Strengthen peaceful co-existence between refugees and host communities;
- Expand livelihoods activities and opportunities;
- Improve WASH interventions;
- Ensure support in basic shelter;
- Continued advocacy for refugees to access national institutions for education and health.

## Needs and Vulnerabilities

In 2021, the situation in the DRC, particularly in the Kasai region, is expected to remain unstable with continuous intra-communal conflicts and political disputes, requiring from RRRP partners continuous efforts on emergency preparedness. However, UNHCR does not foresee any major influx from DRC, although a small-scale but steady inflow of refugees will continue to cross into Angolan territory. According to the most recent intentions survey, only a minority of refugees – estimated approximately 1,000 – are willing to return voluntarily to DRC. Therefore, the Congolese refugee population in Lóvua settlement, as well as in other urban areas will remain largely unchanged, with Lóvua settlement hosting around 6,600 Congolese refugees throughout 2021. Discussions continue with the Government of Angola to relocate the refugee population from Lóvua settlement to a new location. If the Government does not proceed with the relocation, RRRP partners will continue to focus on improving infrastructure as a way of ensuring minimum standards are met, while also investing further in livelihoods, peaceful coexistence and expanding community self-management structures. This will contribute to boosting refugees' resilience.

There are challenges to asylum space for new arrivals and urban refugee groups in the country, especially in Lunda Norte. This has been exacerbated by the closure of borders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, during which time deportations have continued while no border movements have been allowed since March 2020. This presents a risk of asylum-seekers being denied access to territory and protection in Angola as well as a heightened risk of harassment, detentions and refoulement – particularly but not limited to areas close to the border in Lunda Norte.

The average family size in Lóvua settlement is 3.6, with 75 per cent of the population being women and children. Refugees in Lóvua are biometrically registered with UNHCR, and therefore benefit from a solid, continuous registration environment for protection and assistance purposes. However, Government registration of new arrivals has been halted since October 2017, including for those living in urban areas. Statistics for refugees living outside of Lóvua therefore remain largely outdated. The lack of registration has driven many refugees to negative coping mechanisms, as they are not able to access food distribution or receive other material assistance. Some refugees are therefore obliged to share food rations, shelter and other assistance, increasing protection risks and sometimes creating tensions. A data collection exercise is planned for early 2021 to ensure an updated protection dataset, demographics and information on specific needs that can be used for strengthening case management as well as evidence-based advocacy and programming.

## Response Strategy and Priorities

### OVERALL STRATEGY

The response plan will be guided by the following strategic objectives:

- Ensure that the Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers who wish to remain in the country, and particularly those born in Angola, are documented, and properly integrated into the health and education national systems.
- Guarantee food security through distribution of food as well as CRIs when available.

- Enhance and expand consultations with refugees and strengthen collaboration with refugee community leaders and community-based structures under an age-gender-diversity approach, ensuring diverse refugee representation structures, participatory approaches and information-sharing systems;
- Strengthen livelihoods interventions both in Lóvuá settlement and the host community to promote self-reliance;
- Promote sustainable shelter programmes through procurement and use of local materials;
- Improve access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene practices within the settlement and nearby host communities;
- Empower families and community members to enhance care and protection of children especially those at risk;
- Support the refugee community to live in peaceful coexistence with the host community, with priority given to preventing violence, exploitation, neglect and abuse of groups most at risk;
- Awareness-raising and capacity-building support for border guards, national police and Migration and Foreigners Service (SME) in bordering provinces;
- Build capacity and provide technical assistance to the Government to process the backlog of 30,000 pending asylum claims;
- Advocate and raise awareness among NGOs, churches, universities and local communities to ensure prevention of xenophobia and appropriate reception standards for new arrivals;
- Continued provision of COVID-19 related assistance and training for refugees and members of the host community on good hygiene practices;
- Strengthen collaborative work with regional and municipal governments so that the government is in a better position to integrate more refugees in the national system.

## STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

Land and natural resources remain the main source of livelihoods for both refugees and members of the host communities. Given the relatively small number of refugees in Lóvuá after the spontaneous and organized repatriations in 2019 and 2020, there is a need to increase the livelihood response and the following objectives have been identified for 2020 and 2021:

- Promote food security and self-employment through scaling up agriculture (cropping and livestock/fisheries), supporting modern farming technologies, providing labor-saving machines, constructing simple irrigation systems, and pursuing other farm inputs such as high-yield seeds and support to livestock and poultry farming.
- Support processing and packing of agricultural produce, as well as marketing through the formation of cooperatives/farmer groups.
- Maintain running of the market in Lóvuá that was constructed in 2020 and serves as the main market for the whole municipality, and strengthen promotion of collective economy gains for both the refugee and host communities.

- Assist refugees and members of the host community to attend training and learn innovative approaches to promote viable self-employment – including entrepreneurship training, technical vocational training, and provision of business kits for women and young people.

## HOST COMMUNITIES

Support for the host community has been scaled up significantly, especially in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Members of the host community benefit from access to the health clinic as well as markets in Lóvua settlement. Two boreholes were built in two villages and several villages have received contributions such as food baskets and soap. There is a need to increase this support in 2021 particularly due to national economic challenges aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to promote sustainable livelihoods. For example, despite the two boreholes, there is still water trucking in other villages and it will also be necessary to drill boreholes in these villages. Increased support will enable both refugee and host communities to continue to peacefully coexist, which has been positive in the Municipality of Lóvua.

## Partnership and Coordination

At the national level, UNHCR coordinates the Congolese refugee response closely with government, UN and NGO partners and holds coordination meetings enabling all stakeholders to be informed and to discuss challenges and solutions. At the field level, UNHCR leads the coordination of the response through a bi-monthly inter-agency coordination meeting with representatives of UN and NGO partners as well as the government. There are also regular sector coordination meetings including protection coordination and technical sector meetings. At the local level, RRRP partners meet regularly with refugee representation to discuss the refugee response. This level of coordination will continue as it enables refugees to be more involved in the structure and decision-making of the refugee response.

RRRP partners, led by UNHCR, coordinate and work closely with the Government of Angola, and will maintain this collaboration in 2021, namely with the Ministry of Interior, including SME; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Social Action, Women and Empowerment (MASFAMU). In addition, RRRP partners will continue to maintain close working relations with provincial and municipal authorities, including the Municipality of Lóvua. This approach is in line with the Government's plans to decentralize decision-making as well as with the GCR approach.

## RRP PARTNERS IN ANGOLA

- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Vision International (WVI)





# Planned Response for 2021

## PROTECTION

- 9,364 PoCs registered on an individual basis;
- 1,500 children under 12 months provided with birth certificates by the authorities;
- 2,000 PoCs receiving legal assistance;
- 60 UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed;
- 100 child cases of abuse, violence or exploitation receiving age and gender sensitive services;
- 150 identified GBV survivors who received psychosocial, legal and socio-economic support;
- 200 PoCs with specific needs receiving support (non-cash);
- 50 PoCs with disabilities who receive services for their specific needs;
- 25 % active female participants in leadership management structures at the end of the reporting period;
- 877 PoCs with intention to return who have returned voluntarily;
- 100 children and parents/caregivers provided with community-based psychosocial support (by age and sex);
- 50 UASC supported with case management and psycho-social support services (by age, gender);
- 70 children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse.

## EDUCATION

- 500 refugee children aged 3-5 enrolled in early childhood education;
- 1,300 refugee children enrolled in primary school;
- 200 refugee children enrolled in lower secondary school;
- 2,000 refugee children enrolled in national education systems.

## LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

- 1,000 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed;
- 1,500 PoCs received livelihood support, e.g. cash grant for livelihoods recovery, inputs/ tools/equipment for farming, livestock or business activity, small business development services, inclusion in/linkage to income opportunities, etc;
- 150 PoC provided with entrepreneurship/business training;
- 100 PoCs enrolled in vocational trainings and who graduated successfully.
- 100 poc who were enrolled in vocational trainings and who graduated successfully.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 1,612 households provided with energy saving equipment;
- 1,612 households using alternative and/or renewable energy (solar, ethanol, etc.);
- 1,612 refugee households (HHs) having energy saving stove and equipment.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- 6,500 PoC assessing health services;
- 1 health centre supported/equipped;
- 960 deliveries attended by trained health personnel;
- 960 deliveries;
- 65 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM);
- 30 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition(SAM);
- 70 persons who have received complementary food supplements
- 150 PoC receiving ART;


**SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)**

1,612 households living in adequate dwellings;

6,500 PoCs who received transitional shelter;

1,612 people of concern households reached with core relief items;

6,500 PoCs receiving >=450grams of soap/person per month;

2,000 women receiving sanitary materials.


**FOOD SECURITY**

6,500 refugees receiving 100% full food ration.


**WASH**

7,309 people provided with access to safe water (in refugee settlements and host communities);

30 litres of potable water available per person per day;

7,309 assisted population with access to a household latrine;;

1,010 refugee households with household latrines

1,612 refugee household sanitary facilities /latrines constructed;

8,000 people reached with messages on safe hygiene practices and COVID-19.

# 2021 Financial Requirements by Organization & Sector

ORGANISATION	PROTECTION	EDUCATION	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & ENVIRONMENT	SHELTER & NFI	WASH	GRAND TOTAL
JRS	1,309,159		32,891					1,342,050
NCA							781,484	781,484
UNHCR	6,356,680	1,342,485	4,850,000	3,555,637	643,217	2,395,413	649,54	19,792,977
WFP			707,700					707,700
WVI	81,010		210,551			183,925		707,700
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,746,849</b>	<b>1,342,485</b>	<b>5,801,142</b>	<b>3,555,637</b>	<b>643,217</b>	<b>2,579,338</b>	<b>1,431,029</b>	<b>23,099,697</b>

# BURUNDI REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

95,000

REFUGEES  
TARGETED

20,000

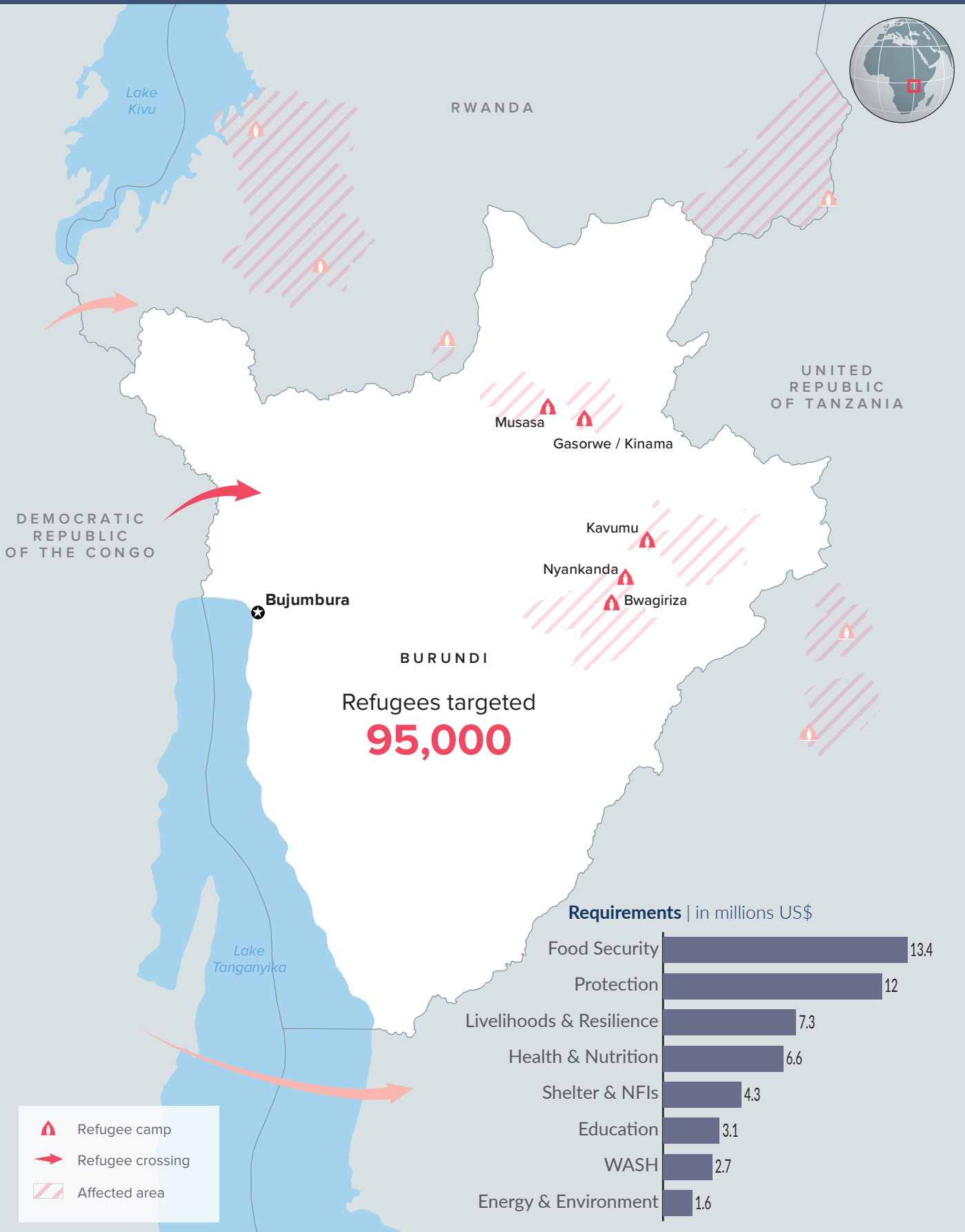
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

US\$50.8M

REQUIREMENTS

10

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED



# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

As of 31 December 2020, Burundi hosts 74,189 Congolese refugees (with approximately 30,400 residing in urban areas and the rest in Nyankanda, Bwagiriza, Kavumu, Kinama and Musasa camps) and 5,217 asylum-seekers. Burundi respects the 1951 Refugee Convention, offering refugees, including new arrivals from the DRC access to its territory and protection. People fleeing the DRC are generally granted prima facie refugee recognition through accelerated refugee status determination (RSD) procedures conducted by the Commission Consultative pour Étrangers et Réfugiés (Consultative Commission for Aliens and Refugees), while the Office National de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides (National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons) operates as the secretariat of the Commission. Burundi has ratified the main international refugee instruments. It has also enacted, in 2008, a new law on asylum that is largely consistent with international standards. However, Burundi's international borders were in March 2020, as a prevention measure for the global COVID-19 pandemic, and no asylum-seekers were able to enter the country. As of late 2020, discussions were ongoing with the relevant authorities to allow exceptional measures for asylum-seekers to enter Burundi and access international protection.

Humanitarian needs have steadily increased since early 2020, against the backdrop of the elections, compounded by the restrictions imposed in connection with the COVID-19 pandemic. The increase in needs is mainly linked to pre-existing vulnerabilities aggravated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were no cases of COVID-19 detected within the refugee camps in 2020. However, if COVID-19 was to spread further in Burundi, the consequences could be dire because of the high population density in refugee camps and the lack of adequate medical infrastructure. In addition, unusually heavy rainfalls in late 2019 and early 2020, displaced over 63,000 people and negatively impacted the harvest, increasing food insecurity across the country.

Most of the Burundian population lives in poverty, especially in rural areas. The economy is heavily reliant on agriculture despite the paucity of arable land used by 80 per cent of the population. In addition, the country still has the Lake Tanganyika as an opportunity to develop livelihood opportunities through fishing. Although Burundi integrates refugees into its public services system, Congolese refugees are unable to fully locally integrate as there are still many obstacles such as the lack of freedom of movement and inadequate access to paid employment, public education and health systems. RRRP partners provide assistance to Congolese refugees living in the camps and carry out other activities such as advocacy for greater social inclusion, legal assistance and detention monitoring.

A positive development in 2020 was the Government of Burundi fully implementing the tripartite agreements on voluntary repatriation on Burundians. As a result, the number of Burundian refugees returning from countries of asylum increased to about 2,500 per week since July 2020. However, in this context, the presence of Congolese refugees amidst the repatriation of Burundians – more than 120,000 individuals between September 2017 and December 2020 – continues to place significant pressure on already scarce resources.



## Needs and Vulnerabilities

Whereas risks of refugees being exposed to human rights violations have diminished since the largely peaceful outcome of the 20 May 2020 elections, the risks relating to limitations and restrictions to the refugees' right to work or freedom of movement have deteriorated. This is in part due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the events of November 2020, when certain groups of refugees had their businesses closed and were forced to return to the camps. The overall protection situation in Burundi remains a cause for concern, notably in light of the COVID-19 preventive measures that have resulted in restrictions to access to territory for asylum-seekers.

Refugees in Burundi are hosted in a context of underlying conditions of poverty. This includes food insecurity contributing to malnutrition, as well as the lack of access to adequate livelihood opportunities and basic services. In rural areas where the Congolese refugee camps are located, poverty levels of host communities are often higher than those of refugees. This could potentially raise tensions, especially if the socio-economic situation of the host population further deteriorates.

Refugees' full realization and enjoyment of rights is impeded by Burundi's fragile socio-economic situation, coupled with numerous political and security constraints. Burundi has also maintained its reservations concerning refugees' right to work and access to the labour market. These conditions, compounded by restrictions on freedom of movement, effectively reduces the possibility of self-reliance.

In 2021, RRRP partners will continue to focus on ensuring access to territory, identifying accommodation for all who seek international protection and providing protection and multi-sectoral assistance to the refugees, as well as vulnerable and needy members of host communities.

## Response Strategy and Priorities

### OVERALL STRATEGY

Taking into consideration UNHCR's Global Strategic Priorities and RSD procedures.

The response strategy in Burundi will focus on:

- Ensuring access to territory;
- identifying accommodation for new arrivals;
- Providing protection and multi-sectoral assistance to refugees in need;
- Identifying appropriate durable solutions for refugees in the country;
- Advocating to remove obstacles to freedom of movement and access to public services;
- Developing new strategic partnerships and resource mobilization.

Preserving both the civilian character of the camps and the urban refugee settlements will remain a key activity in 2021. UNHCR must find the appropriate balance between respecting the host countries security priorities against the backdrop of recent allegations of recruitments in the refugee camps, while also advocating for the continued international protection of refugees and an enhanced enjoyment of their basic rights, such as freedom of movement.

The 2021 response will focus on ensuring access to the territory, identifying accommodation for all influxes, and providing protection and multi-sectoral assistance to the refugees and host communities in need. In 2019-2020, the refugee population was registered with a biometric identification system, allowing for an improved understanding of refugee movements in the region, in addition to more effective planning and targeted protection and assistance of the refugee population. However, moving into 2021, this process has been halted due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Particular attention will be given to the protection of groups with specific needs, including people with disabilities. Prevention of and response to GBV and child protection issues will remain a priority. RRRP partners will extend the use of the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System for GBV cases. There will also be an emphasis placed on addressing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on specific vulnerable groups, including women and girls who are more vulnerable to adopting negative coping mechanisms. Child protection coordination with relevant actors will be a permanent focus, as will enhancement of cross-border family reunifications.

RRRP partners will also advocate for the inclusion of the Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers in the existing national strategy, as well as in the UNSDCF so that humanitarian and development assistance can target the refugee and host communities, promoting peaceful coexistence. RRRP partners will continue to advocate with key authorities for the provision of spaces for the establishment of new camps in line with minimum standards in terms of WASH, putting in place appropriate coordination mechanisms/structures with the authorities.

There will be continued capacity strengthening of the national bodies responsible for registration and RSD and efforts will be invested to adjust and integrate services for refugees and asylum seekers into the national thematic strategies for education, child protection, healthcare and GBV prevention and response.

While RRRP partners will continue to seek opportunities for alternatives to camps, in the current political and socio-economic environment this will not be promoted as a comprehensive solution. Instead, efforts will be made to strengthen RSD procedures, provide legal aid, increase monitoring of detention centres and advocate for solutions to chronic overcrowding in the Cishemere Transit Centre. In working towards the implementation of the CRRF, UNHCR will continue to advocate with the Burundian government to review its expressed reservations on certain provisions of the 1951 refugee Convention, in order to promote refugees' self-sufficiency and comprehensive integration.

## **STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE**

RRRP partners will seek opportunities to enhance livelihoods, reduce vulnerability, increase self-reliance and build conditions for peaceful co-existence between the refugee and host populations. Some of the main actions proposed for youth and adult refugees are vocational training and internships in local enterprises, training and financial support of income generating activities, and support in agriculture techniques and materials. Innovative actions are proposed to develop a new business ecosystem that will address the needs of refugees in camps, such as soft skills trainings, upshift methodologies and business labs.

Partners will seek alternative and innovative solutions to assist refugees, improve their livelihoods and reduce dependence and idleness in the camps. Assessments will be carried out to identify sectors with potential and provide real economic opportunities. In addition, the unrealized economic potential and underutilized natural resources (lowlands, marshes, waste etc.) can be used to help refugees and host communities achieve their self-reliance through improvements in enterprises and market access (international and regional markets), food security, energy production, and environmental conservation. Strengthening resilience requires a multisector approach,



where risk-informed social protection interventions, including cash transfers, can become a critical component. Strategic capacity building, training, investments and broader strategic partnerships with UN agencies, NGOs as well as the government are needed to support livelihoods programmes focused on refugees needs.

### HOST COMMUNITIES

In 2021, RRRP partners will foster peaceful cohabitation between refugee and host communities through several projects focusing on social cohesion, livelihoods, health and energy. In order to support livelihood activities under larger-scale projects, partners will strengthen the mixed committees, map potential conflicts and implement mediation mechanisms as well as common recreational activities. The camps' health centres already cater to host community members, but this will be expanded by installing echograph facilities available to both communities. Finally, an energy project will electrify surrounding schools and health centres as well as finance several income-generating activities that will associate refugees and host communities.

## Partnership & Coordination

The Government of Burundi works closely with UNHCR and other UN agencies present in the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), particularly UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP, as well as the World Bank, in aiding and responding to the needs of Congolese refugees and other people of concern in Burundi, including returnees. The Government of Burundi has maintained an open-door policy towards refugees and people seeking asylum. It plays an important role in the set-up and operation of camps as well as RSD and refugee registration processes. International NGOs such as IRC, JRS, GVC and World Vision are strongly engaged in the refugee response. Special emphasis will be placed on the development of new strategic partnerships and resource mobilization with the assistance of humanitarian and development actors in the region.



**RRP PARTNERS IN BURUNDI**

- Gruppo di Volontariato Civile (GVC)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Vision international (WVI)
- World Food Programme (WFP)

# Planned Response for 2021

## PROTECTION

- 15,000 PoCs registered on an individual basis;
- 2,500 children under 12 months provided with birth certificates by the authorities;
- 700 PoCs receiving legal assistance;
- 1,000 UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed;
- 500 child cases of abuse, violence or exploitation receiving age and gender sensitive services;
- 6,000 identified GBV survivors who received psychosocial, legal and socio-economic support;
- 2,200 PoCs with specific needs receiving support (non-cash);
- 110 PoCs with disabilities who receive services for their specific needs;
- 632 active women participants out of 1,048 PoCs representatives in leadership management structures at the end of the reporting period.

## EDUCATION

- 4,700 refugee children aged 3-5 enrolled in early childhood education;
- 13,400 refugee children enrolled in primary school;
- 3,700 refugee children enrolled in lower secondary school;
- 2,300 refugee children enrolled in upper secondary school;
- 3,000 refugee children enrolled in national education systems;
- 200 refugees enrolled in tertiary education (higher education, connected learning programmes, scholarships);

## WASH

- 19 litres of potable water available per person per day;
- 43,868 assisted population with access to a household latrine;
- 9,416 refugee households with household latrines;
- 59 refugee household sanitary facilities /latrines constructed.;

## FOOD SECURITY

- 60,000 refugees benefitting from food assistance (in kind/ CBI);
- Post distribution-monitoring;
- Supplementary nutrition.

## LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

- 2,000 PoCs (18-59 yrs) who were targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed;
- 2,000 PoCs who have received livelihood support, e.g. cash grant for livelihoods recovery, inputs/ tools/equipment for farming, livestock or business activity, small business development services, inclusion in/linkage to income opportunities, etc;
- 1,000 PoCs provided with entrepreneurship/business training;
- 300 PoCs who were enrolled in vocational trainings and who graduated successfully.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- 61,000 PoCs assessing health services
- 6 health centres supported/equipped;
- 2,184 deliveries attended by trained health personnel;
- 850 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM);
- 200 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM);
- 1,050 persons who have received complementary food supplements;
- 464 PoCs receiving ART.


**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

10,684 households using alternative and/or renewable energy (solar, ethanol, etc.);

Protection and distribution of improved stoves;

Production and distribution of Carbonized Biomass Briquettes;

Prevention of environmental degradation in the camps;

Planting of trees in the vicinity of camps;

Classify existing forests as protected natural areas for their protection;

Awareness-raising among refugees on the impact of deforestation.


**SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)**

10,684 households living in adequate dwellings;

61,000 PoCs received long-term/permanent shelters;

7,000 PoC households reached with core relief items;

61,000 PoCs receiving  $\geq 450$  grams of soap/person per month;

16,544 women receiving sanitary materials.

# 2021 Financial Requirements by Organization & Sector

ORGANISATION	PROTECTION	EDUCATION	ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE	SHELTER & NFIS	WASH	GRAND TOTAL
GVC					530,000				530,000
IOM	1,660,000				2,763,360	2,072,000	2,290,000		8,785,360
IRC	395,000	80,000							475,000
JRS		436,628				380,228			816,856
UNDP						2,500,000			2,500,000
UNFPA					600,000				600,000
UNHCR	9,691,252	2,062,100	1,559,500	401,500	2,411,500	1,799,000	1,983,700	1,480,227	21,388,779
UNICEF	200,000	500,000			200,000			600,000	1,500,000
WFP				12,951,448	48,552				13,000,000
WVI	50,000					500,000		650,000	1,200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,996,252</b>	<b>3,078,728</b>	<b>1,559,500</b>	<b>13,352,948</b>	<b>6,553,412</b>	<b>7,251,228</b>	<b>4,273,700</b>	<b>2,730,176</b>	<b>50,795,995</b>

# REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

15,810

REFUGEES  
TARGETED

4,740

HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

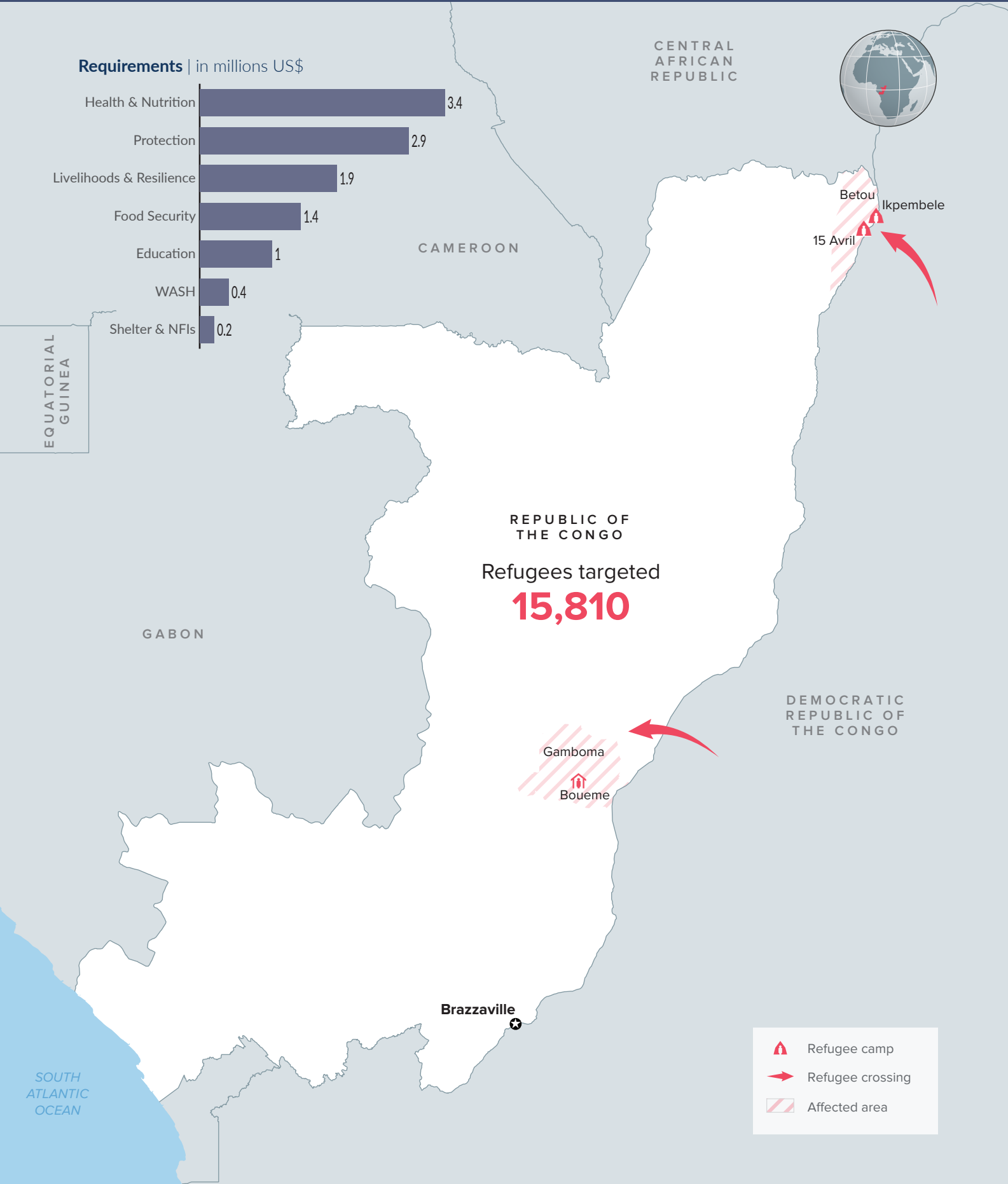
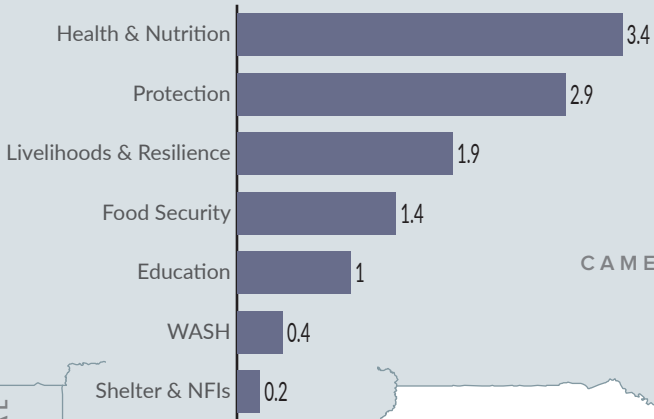
US\$ 11.1M

REQUIREMENTS

5

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED

Requirements | in millions US\$



- Refugee camp
- Refugee crossing
- Affected area

# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

The Republic of the Congo (RoC) hosts 20,830 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC, as of 31 December 2020. Following ethnic clashes in Yumbi and the influx of new arrivals from the DRC in December 2018, asylum-seekers were hosted in the Makotimpoko District. The Government and humanitarian actors identified a site in Bouemba that UNHCR developed with its partners, and despite initial reluctance of many refugees to be relocated to Bouemba, voluntary movement of asylum-seekers from Makotimpoko to Bouemba has started to move forward. 2,632 people have relocated as of December 2020 to the developed site, in a process that began in April 2019. Many others are expected to make the move considering flooding that has affected the country since October 2020, especially in the north and in Makotimpoko area. Makotimpoko hosts the largest number of recent arrivals from the DRC and is situated in an area prone to flooding. Moreover, access in Makotimpoko is difficult, with the World Food programme only able to conduct distributions by use of a boat on the Congo river.

UN Agencies and the Government work together to provide protection and assistance to meet the basic needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, with a focus on livelihoods activities, which is a priority in 2021 to further empower the DRC refugee population. RRRP partners ensure that refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC have access to education, healthcare, nutrition, shelter, CRIs as well as water, sanitation and hygiene in line with the strategy of inclusion of humanitarian response into the national system services. Through various needs assessment in 2020, partners identified and assisted 2,726 people with specific needs and 49 survivors of GBV. Partners have also identified and provided adequate response and follow-up to separated and unaccompanied children. As part of the livelihoods programme, 103 young and adult refugees were enrolled in vocational training in Betou and Brazzaville (via the Safe from the Start project) and 187 people benefited from the support of income-generating activities. Additionally, 86 people received onetime assistance related to COVID-19. Even though the situation in DRC remains volatile, some asylum-seekers have expressed their intention to return to the DRC, numbering approximately 1,500 in Bouemba and 3,500 in Betou.

In 2021, RRRP partners will continue to ensure the following:

- Protection and essential services;
- Refugee empowerment to reduce their dependency on humanitarian assistance; and
- Access to durable solutions.

These components of the strategy are informed by the participatory assessments conducted with refugees and by the overall protection assessment conducted in the Republic of the Congo. RRRP partners will continue efforts to respond to the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers, with a particular focus on including them into national health and education systems, while exploring opportunities in the livelihood sector to promote empowerment of refugees through vocational training, income-generating activities, literacy and agricultural as well as market gardening

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activities. This approach will strengthen the local integration of refugees and promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and the host population. UN agencies and partners will monitor security developments in the DRC and will facilitate the voluntary repatriation of some families who have expressed the desire and intention to return to their places of origin.

The Government of the Republic of Congo declared the first positive case of COVID-19 in the capital city - Brazzaville, in March 2020, which led the Government to take a series of preventive measures. UNHCR, in collaboration with other UN agencies and NGOs provided support to the Congolese Government in the prevention and response measures of the COVID-19 pandemic. 2021 detailed planning will take in to account the current pandemic situation response, that will include refugees and host population.

## Needs and Vulnerabilities

The situation in the DRC is expected to remain stable in the areas of origin of the DRC refugees hosted in the Republic of the Congo. This will allow for a VolRep of up to 5,000 refugees in 2021, and an anticipated reduction in



arrivals. However, the COVID-19 pandemic may slow down the process, and the repatriation is conditional upon funds made available for this purpose. If the VolRep goes ahead, the DRC refugee population is expected to decrease to just under 16,000 by the end of 2021.

Priorities in 2021 will continue to include provision of dedicated assistance to people with specific needs, including women at risk, elderly people, single parents, separated and unaccompanied children, people with disabilities, survivors of sexual and gender-based violence as well as people with chronic medical conditions. In addition, care for people living with mental disabilities remains a challenge due to the lack of structures and specialized staff. Contact tracing for COVID-19 among refugees and asylum-seekers will also remain a priority in 2021.

The number of children at risk in the DRC refugee community is very high and requires continuous action. GBV is among the most common reported risks, including early marriage, rape, physical abuse, sexual assault, psychological abuse, denial of resources and family abandonment. Case identification and reporting on GBV remains a challenge due to cultural barriers and the lack of judicial sanctions for perpetrators who, in most cases, benefit from out-of-court settlements or the victims' refusal to prosecute. The legal response to GBV remains a huge challenge. Partners have initiated discussions with local judicial authorities and the police to set up a complaint mechanism, but the biggest challenge is that most victims do not lodge complaints or lay charges against the perpetrators, often due to fear of repercussions from within the refugee community.

## Response Strategy and Priorities

### OVERALL STRATEGY

The response plan will be guided by the following strategic objectives:

#### Protection and essential services (including COVID-19 related needs)

- Continue supporting the Government to issue ID cards of the refugees and grant temporary residence permits to asylum-seekers, as well as work with districts to facilitate registration and issuance of birth certificate to refugee children born in the Republic of the Congo.
- Maintain reliable data on the refugee populations and their potential vulnerabilities through registration of arrivals, departures and spontaneous returns, births and deaths.
- Work with NGOs and the community to identify, monitor and identify sustainable solutions for people with specific needs and people living with disabilities. Develop standard operating procedures for assistance to these refugees and set up a targeted assistance allocation committee in partnership with other stakeholders.
- Work to increase access to health care and health coverage; seek to reduce the rate of morbidity and the occurrence of epidemic diseases by activating an epidemic surveillance system; provide adequate and

quality equipment to the health and pre/post-natal centres; strengthen capacities of health workers; employ an adequate number of qualified health professionals; provide quality medicines and facilitate access to medicines; and ensure robust COVID-19 case tracing.

- Establish a further 500 refugee housing units in the Bouemba site, increase latrines and boreholes for potable water to accommodate the growing number of asylum-seekers and ensure proper hygiene amongst the asylum-seekers. Organize awareness-raising campaigns on the promotion of hygiene and latrines maintenance.
- Continue covering tuition fees for primary students. provide pupils with school kits at the beginning of the school year, and supplement/provide teachers' salaries in primary schools.
- Register GBV cases, support survivors and strengthen complaints mechanisms with the police services for survivors who wish to file complaints. Organize awareness-raising on GBV on a quarterly basis for multisectoral prevention and response.

### Refugee empowerment to reduce dependence on humanitarian assistance

- Continue supporting host communities through support to health centres, construction of boreholes in Betou and Gambona, and payment of teachers' salaries to promote peaceful coexistence between refugees and host population.
- Organize seminars on peaceful coexistence in the urban and rural areas and local authorities, together with representatives of the host and refugee population.
- Continue to support capacity building for business start-up as well as vocational training programmes for youth and adults including support for networking in search of internship and employment opportunities.
- Support roll-out of a literacy programme at the request of refugees, linked to support programmes for income-generating activities and vocational training.
- Strengthen advocacy with local authorities for granting additional farmland to refugees undertaking agricultural projects.

### Refugee access to durable solutions

- Organize a voluntary repatriation process for the 5,000 DRC refugees and asylum-seekers who have expressed the intention to voluntarily return to their country of origin. UNHCR will continue receiving and processing vulnerable cases of DRC refugees in need of resettlement.
- Support local integration solutions for those DRC refugees and asylum-seekers who wish to remain in the Republic of the Congo.

## STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

In 2021, partners plan to increase awareness and support for local integration of DRC refugees who wish to remain in the Republic of the Congo. Emphasis will be placed on support for income-generating projects that enable self-

reliance. DRC refugees wishing to locally integrate will be supported mostly in groups to ensure the reduction of dependency on food distribution. Agencies will also fund income generating activities for mixed groups (host population and refugees/asylum-seekers) in order to promote peaceful coexistence between the two populations. Partners will continue to organize capacity building workshops to provide guidance in the processes of business start-up and management.

The existence of a community mechanism between refugees and local population makes it possible to maintain a continuous dialogue between the two populations and to prevent conflicts. This mechanism deserves to be strengthened to resolve certain conflicts between communities and to promote a culture of peace in refugee hosting areas. In addition, stronger engagement with development actors will continue to be pursued in order to open opportunities for refugees to be included in development programming that would also support their local integration.

## HOST COMMUNITIES

The majority of DRC refugees and asylum-seekers in the Republic of the Congo are in Likouala and Plateaux Departments. The Makotimpoko district is host to approximately 6,000 refugees, which is about equal to the population of the host community. The two Departments are flood prone and Makotimpoko is only accessible by boat from the Congo River. There are insufficient resources available to support the increased number of inhabitants in this area. In Likouala Department, humanitarian aid was provided for a period of time, mainly for refugees, however, the host population also struggles to meet the same basic needs as the refugees. All these factors created frustration and a climate of tension between the refugees and the host communities in the past. To resolve this tension and promote peaceful coexistence, partners have identified interventions that address the needs of both communities. The local authorities have also been trained in conflict resolution and play an important role in fostering peaceful coexistence. .

## Partnership & Coordination

RRRP partners and the Government will organize joint assessment missions to monitor the situation and implementation of activities for DRC refugees and their host communities. The Government plays a major role in hosting the refugees and asylum-seekers, providing farmland for some refugees to accommodate agricultural activities, fishing, and recently provided land for the new Bouemba site. Registration of refugees and asylum-seekers is carried out by UNHCR in close collaboration with the Government through the National Commission for Assistance to Refugees.



#### RRP PARTNERS IN REPUBLIC OF CONGO

- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Food Programme (WFP)

# Planned Response for 2021

## PROTECTION

20,810 persons of concern registered on an individual basis;

87 UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed;

19 child cases of abuse, violence or exploitation receiving age and gender sensitive services;

99 identified GBV survivors who received psychosocial, legal and socio-economic support;

18 persons of concern with disabilities who receive services for their specific needs;

12 service providers trained in providing survivor-centred care to GBV survivors (disaggregated by type of response service and local/national service);

301 children and parents/caregivers provided with community-based psychosocial support (by age and sex);

87 UASC supported with case management and psycho-social support services (by age, gender).

## EDUCATION

714 refugee children aged 3-5 enrolled in early childhood education;

2,608 refugee children enrolled in primary school;

887 refugee children enrolled in lower secondary school;

439 refugee children enrolled in upper secondary school;

3,934 refugee children enrolled in national education systems.

## SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

808 households living in adequate dwellings;

2,828 PoC who received emergency shelter;

2,828 PoC who received transitional shelter;

3,750 people of concern households reached with core relief items;

987 people of concern households who received cash grants.

## WASH

2,828 people provided with access to safe water (in refugee settlements and host communities);

average of 19 litres of potable water available per person per day;

640 assisted population with access to a household latrine;

758 refugee households with household latrines;

20,810 people reached with messages on safe hygiene practices and COVID-19.

## LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

1,125 PoCs (18-59 yrs) who were assisted with livelihoods interventions to support self-employment, achieve self-employment/ become a business owner;

333 PoCs who have received livelihood support, e.g. cash grant for livelihoods recovery, inputs/ tools/equipment for farming, livestock or business activity, small business development services, inclusion in/linkage to income opportunities, etc;

35 PoCs who were enrolled in vocational trainings and who graduated successfully.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

20,810 PoC assessing health services;

17 health centres supported/equipped;

119 infant deliveries;

741 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM);

106 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM);

87 persons who have received complementary food supplements.

## FOOD SECURITY

2,828 refugees benefitting from food assistance (in kind/ CBI);

2,828 refugees receiving 100%- full food ration.

# 2021 Financial Requirements by Organization & Sector

ORGANISATION	PROTECTION	EDUCATION	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE	SHELTER & NFIS	WASH	GRAND TOTAL
UNDP					350,000			350,000
UNFPA	350,000			400,000				750,000
UNHCR	2,472,099	650,000		2,957,982	1,500,000	187,000	357,000	8,124,081
UNICEF	120,000	350,000						470,000
WFP			1,385,762					1,385,762
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,942,099</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>1,385,762</b>	<b>3,357,982</b>	<b>1,850,000</b>	<b>187,000</b>	<b>357,000</b>	<b>11,079,843</b>

# RWANDA REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

80,000

REFUGEES  
TARGETED

25,000

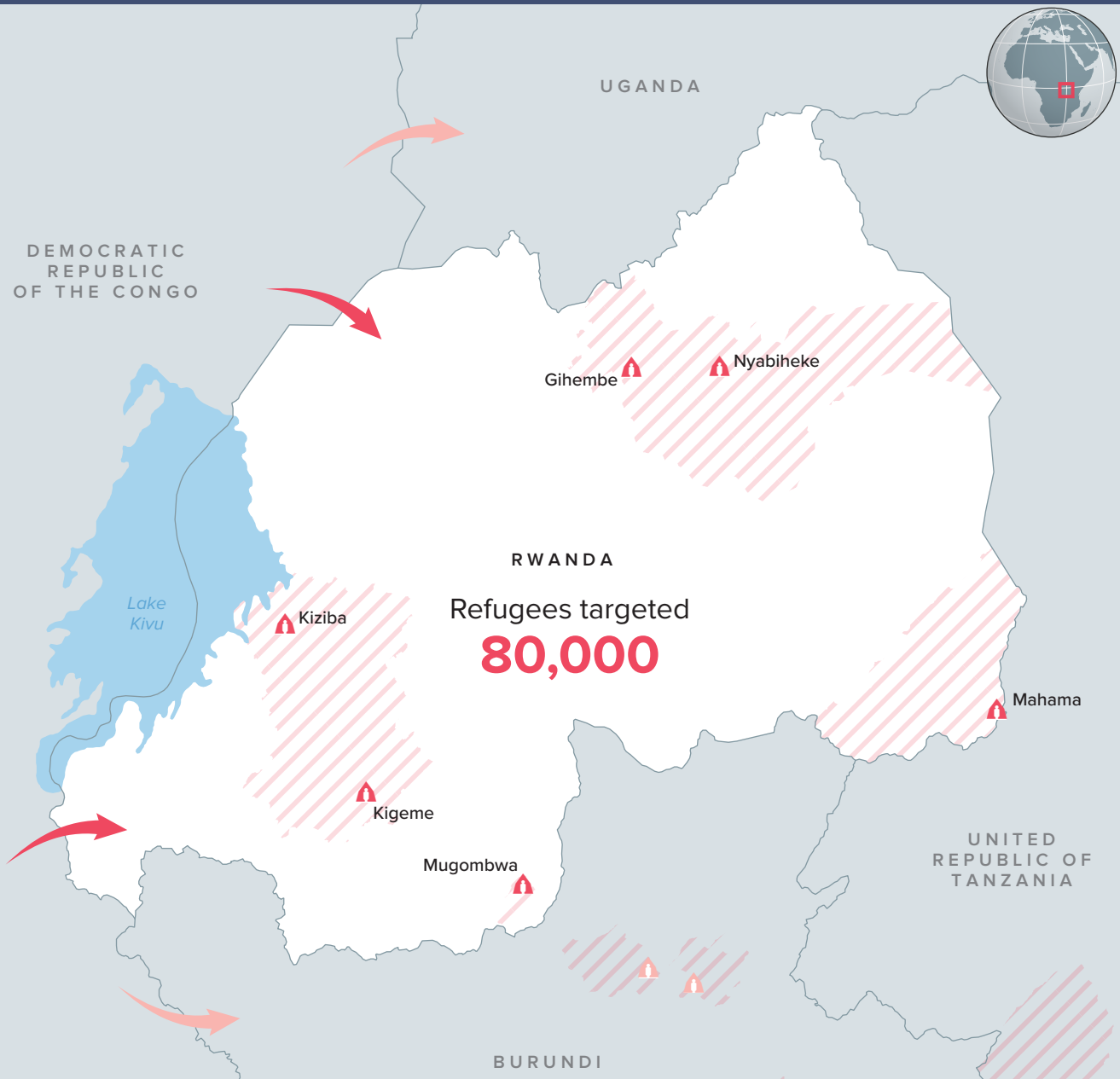
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

US\$ 58.7M

REQUIREMENTS

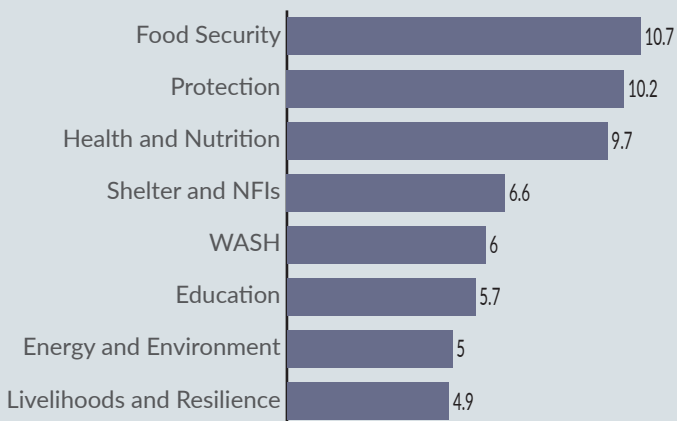
14

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED



Refugees targeted  
**80,000**

Requirements | in millions US\$



- Refugee camp
- Refugee crossing
- Affected area



# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

Rwanda has hosted refugees from the DRC for almost 24 years. Among the 74,491 Congolese refugees currently in the country as of 31 December 2020, 52 per cent are children and the vast majority of the population (98.8 per cent) lives in the five refugee camps, Gihembe, Kigeme, Kiziba, Mugombwa and Nyabiheke. At the same time, a reported 905 refugees live in urban areas, representing 1.2 per cent of the Congolese refugee population.

In 2020, RRRP partners in Rwanda ensured continuity of protection services and humanitarian assistance for the existing refugee population in the country, with a particular focus on prevention and response to COVID-19. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, RRRP partners deployed all necessary efforts to adapt programming and maintain a favourable protection environment for Congolese refugees and continued advocating for their access to all essential services. Targeted support was provided for the most vulnerable and those with specific needs.

Response partners continue to provide health services to those in need with prioritized attention to the most vulnerable, including children, pregnant and lactating women, people with chronic illness and the elderly. In the camps, water supply remains below standard in Nyabiheke, Kigeme and Gihembe camps and continued advocacy as well as investments are needed to improve the reliability of water supply systems. Access to electricity remains very low and only a minority of households own solar lanterns or solar systems. In addition, some shelters in Congolese camps are old and congested, with insufficient space for access roads, while other shelters are situated in areas at high risk of landslides and need to be relocated to safer zones. In 2020, the World Food Programme faced recurrent challenges to maintain the food pipeline due in large part to funding gaps. With funding shortfalls projected to continue into 2021, rations risk being reduced by half or more. This may trigger tensions among refugees and increase vulnerabilities and negative coping mechanisms.

Campaigns promoting schooling resulted in a slight increase in enrolment, and 23,000 Congolese refugee students were integrated into national primary and secondary schools alongside the host community. This is an increase from 18,000 in 2019. However, most of the schools have insufficient teachers and supplies, and lack infrastructure such as classrooms, libraries and laboratories which impacts upon the quality of education being delivered to students.

Care arrangements for unaccompanied children, family reunification, friendly spaces for children and youth at risk remain limited. Furthermore, with COVID-19 and the subsequent suspension of education activities, child-friendly spaces and community awareness, there is an increase in child neglect cases and drug abuse among youth. GBV is one of the biggest protection concerns for refugee women and children. COVID-19 lockdown measures severely affected refugees, who could no longer carry out the limited income generating activities available to them. Refugees registered in camp locations risk arrest and detention if they move outside the camp without the requisite ID documents. There is need for legal assistance and detention monitoring, as well as continued advocacy for a greater freedom of movement of camp-based refugees.



In 2021, RRRP partners will focus on access to core protection services such as registration, legal assistance, community-based protection, prevention of and response to GBV, child protection issues, and support to people with specific needs, including those with disabilities. Durable solutions will remain a priority, and existing tripartite agreements with Rwanda and the DRC will be re-activated to support the eventual safe, dignified, and voluntary return of those who wish to go home. Humanitarian agencies plan to profile the refugee population, to eventually shift from blanket assistance to a targeted approach, while those who are self-reliant would graduate from dependency on humanitarian aid. Livelihoods interventions will focus on further socio-economic inclusion of refugees in national systems such as access to joint livelihood opportunities; greater openings in higher education including in vocational training institutes linking courses to market needs.

## Needs and Vulnerabilities

### POPULATION PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS 2021:

- With the closure of borders due to COVID-19, no new arrivals were received in 2020 from March onwards. This trend is expected to continue in 2021.

- There is a 3.6% population growth rate, which is expected to continue in 2021.
- As border remain closed, it is anticipated that no onward movers will be received in 2021 from first countries of asylum aside from the “In-situ” category.
- 1,000 individuals are expected to depart of resettlement in 2021
- 500 individuals are projected to voluntarily return to the DRC and be deregistered.
- Based on the above planning assumptions, it is projected that the population of refugees from the DRC in Rwanda will reach 80,403 by the end of 2021.

The Government of Rwanda coordinates the refugee response with UNHCR and RRRP partners while also making significant contributions such as providing land to establish refugee camps and ensuring camp management and security. While refugees enjoy a generally favourable protection environment, there is a high dependency on humanitarian assistance due to limited livelihood opportunities. Refugees in Rwanda have limited access to livelihood opportunities due to inadequate farming land (both access and availability), limited trade exchanges between the camp population and the host communities, challenges in obtaining documentation, access to financial services and start-up capital, poor infrastructure (including access to electrical power, market structure), weak market linkage, low coverage of existing livelihoods interventions, lack of skills and chronic dependency on humanitarian assistance. The current livelihoods support only reaches a small portion of the refugee and host communities because of resource constraints. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically affected the economic situation of refugees due to prolonged lockdown periods.

Using a prioritized targeting approach, in 2021, there is need to strengthen livelihoods and economic inclusion interventions particularly for the 19.7 per cent of the registered refugee population who have specific needs, such as child-headed households, female-headed households, people living with HIV/AIDS, older people, people with disabilities, and people with mental illness. This will contribute to strengthening self-reliance and resilience capacities of refugees while rationalizing the use of limited funding.

Refugee children represent approximately 52 per cent of the total refugee population and are exposed to various types of risks. Unaccompanied and separated children represent a slightly less than 2.5 per cent of refugee children and they are most at-risk of abuse and exploitation. Neglect is among the highest identified risks, affecting an estimated 20 per cent of children in 2020. However, it was observed that the COVID-19 restriction measures, particularly the suspension of child protection community awareness, child friendly spaces and sports activities, led to an increase in child neglect, and adolescent engagement in negative coping mechanisms. In this context, refugee children are particularly vulnerable to school dropout, child labour, child marriage and domestic violence. Challenges and concerns remain regarding children at risk, care arrangements for unaccompanied children, family reunification, and limited friendly spaces for children and youth.

Underreporting of GBV due to the culture of silence, beliefs about intimate partner violence (that are seen as normal family matters) and fear of being exposed and discriminated against by their community, contribute to impunity and further protection issues. Late reporting, especially for girls among the GBV survivors, results in unwanted

pregnancies, drop out from school, punishment, rejection and stigmatization by the families and communities, that further put them at risk of being exposed to negative coping mechanisms like survival sex and begging. In addition, programmatic gaps and challenges in other sectors like overcrowding of shelters, lack of safe energy and livelihood interventions contribute to a heightened risk of GBV.

## Response Strategy and Priorities

### OVERALL STRATEGY

The response strategy for the situation of protracted Congolese refugees in Rwanda focuses on their inclusion in national systems and scaling up livelihoods to develop their self-reliance, reduce dependency on humanitarian assistance and contribute to the local economy.

Key strategic areas for the 2021 refugee responses are:

- Continue to ensure reception, protection, and assistance (WASH, energy, education, health, food etc.) for all refugees and asylum-seekers, including new arrivals, with targeted assistance for vulnerable persons with specific needs and people living with disabilities and a community-based approach.
- Continue with documentation (national ID cards, birth and marriage registration) for all refugees.
- Advocate and develop strategic partnerships for socio-economic inclusion of all refugees into national systems, particularly health, education and livelihoods in line with Government policy.
- Increase refugee livelihood opportunities through targeted assistance based on needs, vulnerabilities and capacities.
- Increase access to and quality of education in refugee hosting areas.
- Continue seeking for the implementation of durable solutions.

In order to avoid a protracted encampment situation and a culture of dependency on humanitarian assistance, a key focus in 2021 will be promoting socio-economic growth and access to livelihoods opportunities for urban and camp-based refugees and strengthening partnerships with the private sector. Assistance will be targeted based on the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of refugees, rather than provided as blanket assistance. A key avenue to provide refugees with greater choice in meeting their self-identified needs will be shifting to cash-based interventions for food assistance. Cash transfers will be expanded when suitable and appropriate to address the basic needs of refugees, through sectoral or multipurpose assistance. This will be based on feasibility studies and response analysis, with the objective of making gains in efficiency, effectiveness and refugee self-reliance, while assessing the impact on local markets and communities and mitigating protection risks.

In line with the Government policy of integrating refugees into national systems, a key priority will be to ensure integration of services for refugees within the host community, especially at the district level. Interventions will be designed to avoid parallel systems and respond to the needs of the host community and refugees. The Government will be supported in their plan to domesticate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through advocacy on the inclusion of refugees in national systems in alignment with the concept of “Leave No One Behind” of the SDGs. Messaging and awareness-raising activities will be carried out to ensure that people in Rwanda and Government institutions are aware of the key principle of refugee inclusion in the national development agenda, in alignment with the SDGs. Focus will be given to conducting research analysis, policy dialogues, capacity building activities and awareness raising activities on SDGs.

### STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

A key priority will be strengthening livelihoods and self-reliance of the refugees and their host communities by scaling up more sustainable and cost-effective interventions, such as an integrated graduation approach. Response partners together with the Government will implement the Joint Economic Inclusion Strategy (2021-2025). This will focus on implementing market-based livelihoods interventions in the areas of farming and business as well as creating increased wage employment, graduating refugees out of extreme poverty through integrated medium support, strengthening partnerships with the private sector and enhancing refugee’s work opportunities through advocacy and policy efforts.

Although access to agricultural land and farming is still limited for refugees, support for agriculture activities for refugees and host community has been fruitful. The Government is willing to expand such interventions in different districts hosting refugee camps, following their renewed commitments made at the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) to implement the Global Compact on Refugees. There is also a move to strengthen joint UN programming under ‘Delivering as One’ in Rwanda by partnering with other UN development agencies following the joint economic inclusion strategy.

### HOST COMMUNITIES

Refugees have freedom of movement within their host District to seek livelihoods opportunities. They also have the same access to health services as the local population and are integrated in the national school systems. Host communities benefit from opportunities emerging from the refugee response and have access to water and health services from within camp infrastructure. Some livelihoods initiatives, for example the marshland projects (Misizi, Mushishito and Nyabicwamba) also target both refugee and host communities.

In 2021, the Misizi marshland project will be replicated in two other locations benefitting both refugees and members of the host community. This joint project brings together UN agencies, government partners and other stakeholders in support of refugee and local community farmers. This improves their livelihoods and food security and enhances peaceful coexistence and the integration of refugees in hosting areas. In addition, it has developed the resilience of both communities to better cope with the economic challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Partnership & Coordination

The Refugee Coordination Model in Rwanda is co-coordinated by the Government (MINEMA) and UNHCR. It includes a range of UN Agencies, NGOs, operational and development partners. UNHCR coordinates sector working groups. UNHCR also coordinates the refugee response appeals such as the Country Refugee Response Plan (CRRP), Rwanda chapters in the RRRPs for the Burundi and the Congolese (DRC) situations, CERF appeals, COVID-19 emergency appeal, among others to ensure complementarity and to avoid duplication. The CRRP and RRRP chapter incorporates the results of the participatory needs assessment and other interagency assessments. UNHCR in Rwanda will also continue liaising with the Government, donors, and other partners on the 17 pledges made by the Government of Rwanda at the GRF and High-Level Segment on Statelessness in October 2019. This will be an opportunity to develop new partnerships to fulfil the pledges made.

Refugee Coordination Meetings are held every second month as well as regular field coordination meetings to follow up on sectoral activities. RRRP partners also work closely with refugee leaders and refugee community groups, and conduct regular protection monitoring through focus group discussions and household visits. This ensures that humanitarian assistance is planned and delivered in a safe, accessible, accountable, and participatory manner. In 2021, the relationship with district authorities in areas hosting refugees will be strengthened in line with a Strategic Document on Refugees' Inclusion in Rwanda, validated in 2019 by the interagency task force.



### RRP PARTNERS IN RWANDA

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
- Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA)
- American Refugee Committee (ALIGHT)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Humanity and Inclusion (H&I)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Practical Action (PA)
- Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR)
- Plan International (PI)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- UNWOMEN
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Vision international (WVI)

# Planned Response for 2021

## PROTECTION

- 80,003 PoCs registered on an individual basis;
- 2,700 children under 12 months provided with birth certificates by authorities;
- 1,500 PoCs receiving legal assistance;
- 550 UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed;
- 130 child cases of abuse, violence or exploitation receiving age and gender sensitive services;
- 350 identified GBV survivors who received psychosocial, legal and socio economic support;
- 1,800 PoCs with specific needs receiving support (non-cash);
- 4,500 PoCs with disabilities who receive services for their specific needs;
- 309 active women participants out of 790 PoC representatives in leadership management structures at the end of the reporting period;
- 500 PoCs with intention to return who have returned voluntarily.

## EDUCATION

- 5,000 refugee children aged 3-5 enrolled in early childhood education;
- 15,500 refugee children enrolled in primary school;
- 6,000 refugee children enrolled lower in secondary school;
- 4,000 refugee children enrolled in upper secondary school;
- 19,000 refugee children enrolled in national education systems;
- 340 refugees enrolled in tertiary education (higher education, connected learning programmes, scholarships).

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- 80,003 PoCs accessing health services;
- 5 health centres supported/equipped;
- 1,582 deliveries attended by trained health personnel;
- 1,582 deliveries;
- 1,000 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition;
- 60 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition;
- 5,950 persons who have received complementary food supplements;
- 724 PoCs receiving ART.

## LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

- 5,816 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed for more than the past 12 months;
- 753 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed;
- 773 PoCs received livelihood support, e.g. cash grant for livelihoods recovery, inputs/ tools/equipment for farming, livestock or business activity, small business development services, inclusion in/linkage to income opportunities, etc;
- 5,903 PoCs provided with entrepreneurship/business training;
- 773 PoCs who were enrolled in vocational trainings and who graduated successfully.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 21,571 households provided with energy saving equipment;
- 21,571 households using alternative and/or renewable energy (solar, ethanol);
- 21,571 refugee HH having energy saving stove and equipment.



 **FOOD SECURITY**

80,003 refugees benefitting from food assistance (in kind/ CBI)

80,003 refugees receiving 100% full food ration.

 **WASH**

20 litres of potable water available per person per day;

80,003 assisted population with access to a household latrine;

21,571 ugee households with household latrines;

20 refugee household sanitary facilities /latrines constructed.

 **SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)**

11,650 households living in adequate dwellings;

3,300 PoCs who received transitional shelter;

250 PoCs who received long-term/permanent shelters;

21,571 people of concern households reached with core relief items;

21,571 people of concern households who received cash grants;

79,576 persons of concern receiving >=450grams of soap/ person per month;

25,441 women receiving sanitary materials

# 2021 Financial Requirements by Organization & Sector

ORG.	PROTECTION	EDUCATION	ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & RESILIENCE	SHELTER & NFIS	WASH	GRAND TOTAL
ADRA		400,000							400,000
AHA					100,000				100,000
ALIGHT	500,000				800,000				1,300,000
FAO						735,000			735,000
H&I	876,665								876,665
IOM					1,000,000	1,000,000			2,000,000
PA			1,847,390						1,847,390
PFR	700,000								700,000
PI	100,000					35,000			135,000
UNFPA	340,000				600,000				940,000
UNHCR	7,429,577	3,539,662	3,186,620		5,938,015	1,325,733	6,567,829	4,790,903	32,778,339
UNWOMEN	250,000					100,000			350,000
WFP		414,275		10,666,900	1,291,232	1,674,186			14,046,593
WVI		1,316,833						1,183,167	2,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,196,242</b>	<b>5,670,770</b>	<b>5,034,010</b>	<b>10,666,900</b>	<b>9,729,247</b>	<b>4,869,919</b>	<b>6,567,829</b>	<b>5,974,070</b>	<b>58,708,987</b>

# UGANDA REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

**573,400**

REFUGEES  
TARGETED\*

**752,820**

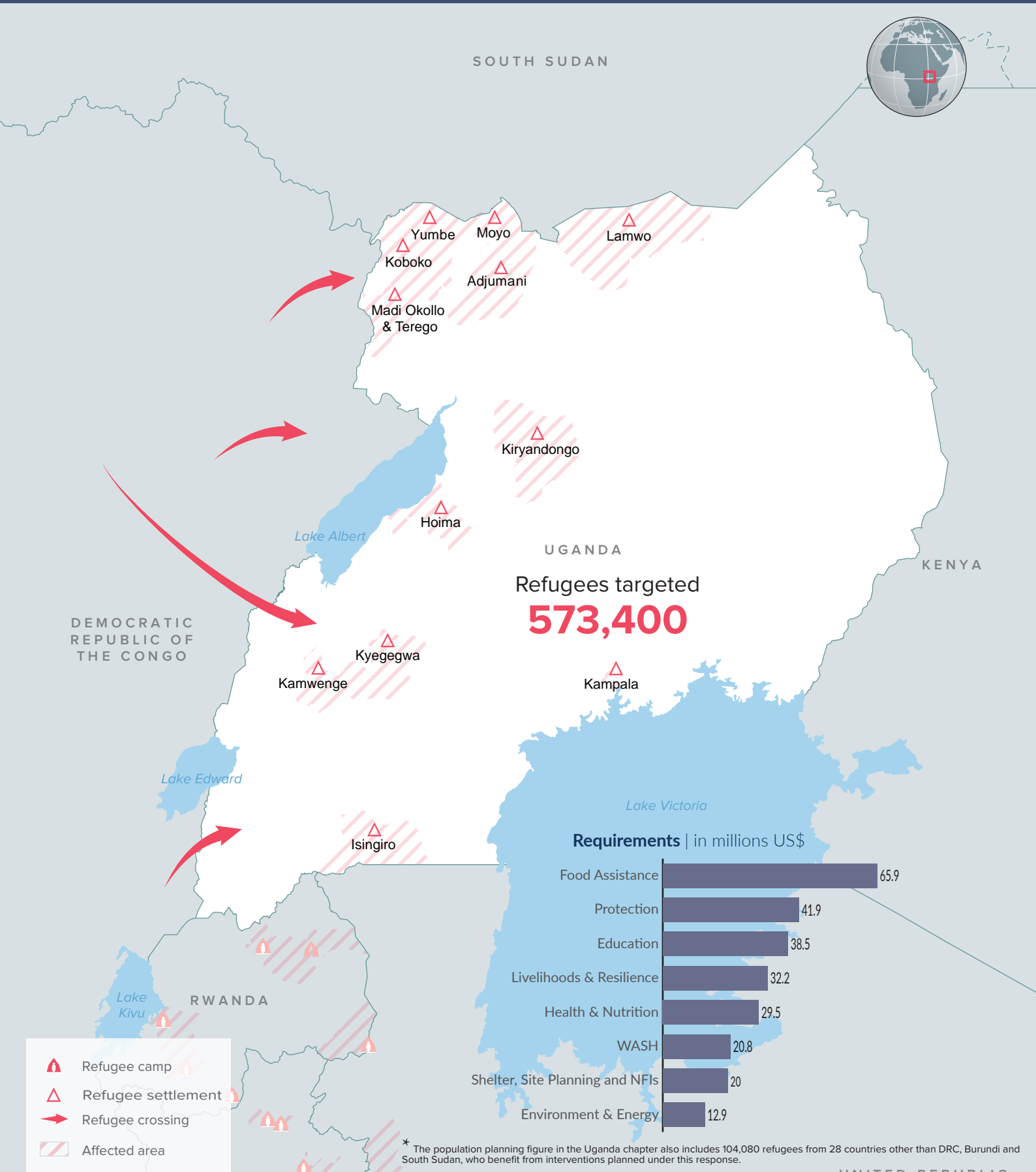
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

**US\$261.7M**

REQUIREMENTS

**47**

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED



\* The population planning figure in the Uganda chapter also includes 104,080 refugees from 28 countries other than DRC, Burundi and South Sudan, who benefit from interventions planned under this response.

# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

Uganda hosts more than 1.4 million refugees and asylum-seekers and has the largest refugee population in Africa. As of 31 December 2020, 421,563 refugees from the DRC reside in Uganda. Thirteen of Uganda's 134 districts host most of the refugees. The vast majority (94 per cent) live in settlements alongside the local communities, including 57 per cent in northern Uganda or West Nile (Adjumani, Yumbe, Madi Okollo, Terego, Obongi, Lamwo and Koboko), 24 per cent in southwestern Uganda or South West (Kyegegwa, Kamwenge and Isingiro) and 13 per cent in central Uganda or Mid-West (Kiryandongo and Kikuube). The rest of the refugee population reside in the urban areas, namely in Kampala.

With continuing insecurity and ethnic violence in the DRC, in areas bordering Uganda, refugee influxes are expected to continue throughout 2021, with Uganda projected to host about 469,326 Congolese refugees and 104,080 refugees from other countries by the end of 2021.\* These figures also factor in approximately 10,000 returns to the DRC over the same period. Host populations across all refugee hosting sub counties, including sub-counties where refugees from the DRC are residing, are likely to rise to 2,509,400 by the end of 2021.

Uganda's favourable protection environment for refugees is grounded in the 2006 Refugee Act and the 2010 Refugee Regulations. These legislations allow refugees freedom of movement, the right to work, establish a business, own property and access national services, including primary and secondary education and health care. Through its Settlement Transformative Agenda (STA), Uganda pursues a non-encampment policy for refugee protection and assistance. Refugees are provided with a plot of land for housing and cultivation and can settle alongside their host communities. In the Mid-West and South-West, the lands belong to the Government while in the North and West Nile they belong to the communities.

The Government of Uganda has been implementing the CRRF since March 2017 and the 2018 GCR to address the needs of refugee and host communities. Application of the CRRF in Uganda places a strong focus on self-reliance of refugees and host communities and strengthening local service delivery for both. The "National Plan of Action to implement the GCR and its CRRF 2018-2020" is the guiding document to provide for the direction and milestones for implementation and the revised 2-year plan will be launched in 2021.

Over the past 3 years, to align the humanitarian response to Government sector priorities and policies, the Government of Uganda has developed comprehensive refugee response plans. The Education Response Plan for Refugees and Host Communities (ERP), the Health Sector Integrated Refugee Response Plan (HSIRRP), the Water and Environment Sector Refugee Response Plan (WESRRP) and the Jobs and Livelihoods Integrated Response Plan (JLIRP) are in place, whereas the Sustainable Energy Response Plan (SERP) is under development. With its National Development Plan III (2020/21 - 2024/25), the Government of Uganda has fully included refugees in national planning and statistics.

\*Other refugees include those from 28 different countries other than DRC, Burundi and South Sudan that benefit from interventions planned under this response.



## Needs and Vulnerabilities

Despite Uganda's favourable protection environment, refugees are faced with numerous protection challenges due to the magnitude of displacement and growing vulnerabilities, compounded by diminishing resources and strained basic social services in refugee-hosting districts. Recent food cuts and COVID-19 measures have presented additional challenges to refugees in terms of their livelihoods and food security.

In the first half of 2020, RRRP partners provided targeted support to 51,490 Congolese refugees with special needs and engaged 28,422 Congolese children in community-based support activities. Limited police presence, the drastic reduction of mobile court sessions and legal representation hindered access to justice for refugees and asylum-seekers. The limited number of case workers to conduct timely identification and monitoring of interventions for children-at-risk and survivors of GBV affected the response. Further, lack of funding for programs for adolescents and out-of-school youth and limited psychosocial support for the refugees remained a concern. Several asylum-seekers applications were not assessed in a timely manner and led to a backlog. Although refugee children completed their primary education, the majority were unable to proceed to secondary education.

Minimum standards in public health, nutrition, WASH, shelter, site planning, environment and energy were not achieved mainly because of resource constraints given the large numbers of the refugee and host community

populations. Critical unmet needs comprise support to health service delivery, investment in infrastructure improvement and development, provision of domestic energy and overall environment conservation efforts. Despite significant investments for self-reliance by humanitarian and development actors, more remains to be carried out.

The COVID-19 pandemic presented an extraordinary challenge for the international protection of refugees, following the temporary suspension of admission of new asylum-seekers into the country and registration. The movement restrictions limited the availability of essential care and support to refugees as well as disrupted existing learning systems, social networks, and support mechanisms.

With only 38 per cent of funding received for the DRC situation by the end of 2020, RRP partners continued to face enormous challenges in stabilizing existing programmes and meeting the minimum standards of service provision. This affected the possibility of long-term investments and more sustainable interventions. Notably, severe underfunding compromised the quality of child protection and education, and the capacity to fully provide mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and prevention and response to GBV.

## Response Strategy and Priorities

### OVERALL STRATEGY

The Uganda 2020-2021 RRP serves as the joint strategy setting, needs assessment and resource mobilisation tool for all UN and NGO partners of the refugee response. It builds on the 2019-2020 RRP to include the reality of COVID-19 and related response interventions, as well as to extend the plan until the end of 2021. The Uganda RRP is consistent with the following national and international frameworks:

- The Constitution of Uganda;
- The Uganda Refugee Act and Regulations;
- The 1951 Refugee Convention, and the 1969 OAU Refugee Convention;
- IGAD regional declarations on refugee matters;
- The Global Compact on Refugees and its Comprehensive Refugee Response Plan (CRRF).

The five main objectives are:

1. Uganda's asylum space is maintained, equal and unhindered access to territory is preserved and the government's emergency preparedness and response capacity is progressively strengthened.
2. The Government of Uganda owns protection processes that promote the full enjoyment of rights, and international protection standards throughout the displacement cycle are efficient and fair.
3. The refugee response paradigm in Uganda has progressively shifted from care and maintenance to inclusion and self-reliance through development of individual and community capacities and the promotion of a conducive environment for livelihoods opportunities.
4. Refugees progressively benefit from provision of inclusive basic social services, including health, education, child protection, water and sanitation, provided by national authorities in refugee hosting districts.

5. Refugees are well on their path to access durable solutions. They are either able to return voluntarily to their countries of origin, or have found third country solutions, or start attaining socio-economic opportunities similar to hosting communities in Uganda, including ability to exercise their full range of rights.

The Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) approach is central to the Ugandan refugee response and requires that all actors in the response consider the distinct needs and views of women, men, girls and boys of diverse backgrounds, including persons with disabilities, persons with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities and ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities or indigenous groups, in assessment, planning, implementation and monitoring processes.

Forced displacement affects people differently, depending on age, gender and diversity. Understanding and analysing the impact of intersecting personal characteristics on people's experiences of forced displacement are necessary for an effective response. An effective and accountable humanitarian response therefore requires: (i) continuous and meaningful engagement with persons of concern; (ii) understanding their needs and protection risks; (iii) building on their capacities; and (iv) pursuing protection, assistance, and solutions that consider their perspectives and priorities.

The AGD approach requires that actors in the refugee response mainstream gender equality in all their activities, to ensure equal access to services for all. This goes beyond non-discrimination and requires targeted actions to advance the rights of women and girls for the advancement of gender equality.

Through the application of the AGD approach, RRP partners can ensure that all persons of concern can enjoy their rights on an equal footing and participate meaningfully in the decisions that affect their lives, families and communities, without discrimination and with respect to their rights.

## STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

Livelihoods interventions to increase resilience and self-reliance will focus on supporting refugees to transition from humanitarian livelihoods assistance to sustainable economic inclusion, long-term skill and enterprise development, aligned to National Development Plan III priorities (notably support to increasing commercial agriculture) and strengthening opportunities for public and private partnerships. This approach promotes strengthening partnerships through the inter-agency response between stakeholders to build on the comparative advantages and expertise to deliver complementary services (e.g. farming as a business and financial inclusion). A better use of the assets and resources that refugees and host communities currently have (e.g. land and natural resources, skills, services and governance structures) to engage in market-driven, sustainable livelihood opportunities and aligned to national and district development plans will increase agriculture productivity, on- and off-farm business and employment opportunities and capacity for value addition.

Emergency livelihood support will continue targeting new refugee arrivals and vulnerable long-term refugees to mitigate COVID19 impacts; with a focus on labour intensive activities, access to productive assets to stimulate

agriculture production and other income generating activities. At the same time, an increased focus on development assistance that supports the integration with host community markets is pursued to support a shift from short-term to sustainable livelihood opportunities e.g. job creation aligned to agricultural value chain development.

## HOST COMMUNITIES

To support sustainability, inter-agency partners must consider the connections between sectors, notably Food Security, Education, Energy and Environment and Site Planning (under Shelter, Site Planning and Core Relief Items). As subsistence agriculture is the primary livelihood of more than 70 percent of host community populations, it is critical to appreciate the development challenges faced by host communities, including food production and food quality, skills and access to formal education, access to energy for production and value addition and land tenure, to transition to market-oriented and commercial production. Thus, the inter-connectedness between these sectors, and others, must be considered to achieve self-reliance.

## Partnership and Coordination

The refugee response in Uganda is led by the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) which provides the over-arching policy and coordination framework with the CRRF serving as a holistic approach to pursue and achieve an all-inclusive response. The coordination is at different levels:

- Leadership level: co-led by the Uganda Government (OPM), and UNHCR;
- Inter-agency, country level (UN and development partner operational focal points, NGO country directors): co-led by the Uganda Government (OPM and Ministry of Local Government (MoLG)) and UNHCR;
- Technical sector level: co-led by Government, UN and NGO partners for each sector;
- District/settlement level (inter-agency and sector structures): OPM, District Local Governments (DLGs), and UNHCR co-chair.

A Country Refugee Response Plan was developed for Uganda, laying out the inter-agency 2020-2021 assistance strategy for all refugees and returnees in the country, in support of the Government. Under the overall leadership of OPM, the role of Line Ministries and district authorities in the coordination of the refugee response has been further strengthened in 2020 with Sector Ministries having established multi-stakeholder Steering Committee to oversee the implementation of the comprehensive sector response plans.

The multi-stakeholder and whole-of-society refugee response comes together under the leadership of the CRRF Steering Group, which is co-led by the OPM and the Ministry of Local Government as a national arrangement to implement the GCR. This high-level Steering Group is the policy- and main decision-making body for CRRF implementation and is responsible for coordinating leadership amongst key line ministries as well as mobilizing resources from non-traditional actors in the refugee response to support the transition and integration of humanitarian-based services into Uganda's national service delivery system.





## RRP PARTNERS IN UGANDA

- Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR-Japan)
- Action Against Hunger (ACF)
- Alliance Forum for Development Uganda (AFOD-Uganda)
- American Refugee Committee (Alight)
- African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD)
- Building Resources Across Communities (BRAC)
- Care and Assistance For Forced Migrants (CAFOMI)
- CARE International (CARE)
- CARITAS
- Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID)
- Capacity Building Organization for Small and Medium Entrepreneurship and Skill Support Uganda (COSMESS-Uganda)
- Catholic Relief Services (CRS)
- Dan Church Aid (DCA)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- Finn Church Aid (FCA)
- Finnish Refugee Council (FRC)
- Hope Health Action East Africa (HHA)
- Humanity & Inclusion (HI)
- Humanitarian Initiative Just Relief Aid (HIJRA)
- International Aid Services (IAS)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Johanniter International
- Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS)
- Kabarole Research and Resource Centre (KRC)
- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
- Mercy Corps Uganda (MCU)
- Medical Teams International (MTI)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Oxfam
- Oneyouth Oneheart Initiative (OYOH)
- Right to Play (RtP)
- Save the Children International (SCI)
- Samaritan's Purse (SP)
- TPO-Uganda
- Tutapona Trauma Rehabilitation (TTR)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UNWOMEN)
- Uganda Red Cross Society (URCS)
- War Child Canada (WCC)
- War Child Holland (WCH)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Windle International Uganda (WIU)

# Planned Response for 2021

## PROTECTION

573,406 PoCs registered on an individual basis;
1,251 children under 12 months provided with birth certificates by the authorities;
20,000 PoCs receiving legal assistance;
6,300 UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed;
10,500 child cases of abuse, violence or exploitation receiving age and gender sensitive services;
2,100 identified GBV survivors who received psychosocial, legal and socio-economic support;
51,360 PoCs with specific needs receiving support (non-cash);
4,000 active women participants out of 9,600 representatives in leadership management structures at the end of the reporting period;
2,000 service providers trained in providing survivor-centred care to GBV survivors (disaggregated by type of response service and local/national service);
76,760 children and parents/caregivers provided with community-based psychosocial support (by age and sex);

## EDUCATION

15,000 refugee children aged 3-5 enrolled in early childhood education;
60,000 refugee children enrolled in primary school;
2,000 refugee children enrolled in lower secondary school;
6,000 refugees enrolled in tertiary education (higher education, connected learning programmes, scholarships).

## LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

173,648 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed for more than the past 12 months;
36,000 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed;
152,000 PoCs received livelihood support, e.g. cash grant for livelihoods recovery, inputs/ tools/equipment for farming, livestock or business activity, small business development services, inclusion in/linkage to income opportunities, etc;
12,000 PoC provided with entrepreneurship/business training;
3,000 People of concern who were enrolled in vocational trainings and who graduated successfully.

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

25,000 households provided with energy saving equipment;
13,000 households using alternative and/or renewable energy (solar, ethanol, etc.);
25,000 refugee HH having energy saving stove and equipment.
21,571 refugee HH having energy saving stove and equipment

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

28,000 PoC assessing health services;
1,400 health centres supported/equipped;
11,400 deliveries attended by trained health personnel;
12,000 deliveries;
3,500 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM);
800 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM);
1,950 PoC receiving ART.


**FOOD SECURITY**

431,663 refugees benefitting from food assistance (in kind/ CBI);


**SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)**

13,333 PoCs received emergency shelter;

5,490 PoCs received long-term/permanent shelters;

13,333 PoC households reached with core relief items;

13,333 PoC households received cash grants;

469,326 PoCs receiving  $\geq$ 450grams of soap/person per month;

220,000 women receiving sanitary materials.


**WASH**

469,326 people provided with access to safe water (in refugee settlements and host communities);

20 litres of potable water available per person per day;

120,000 assisted population with access to a household latrine;

35,000 refugee households with household latrines;

60,000 refugee household sanitary facilities /latrines constructed;

469,326 people reached with messages on safe hygiene practices and COVID-19.

# 2021 Financial Requirements by Organization & Sector

ORGANISATION	PROTECTION	EDUCATION	ENERGY & ENVIRO	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS	SHELTER & NFI	WASH	GRAND TOTAL
AAR Japan		794,392							794,392
ACF						1,350,450		68,350	1,418,800
AFOD				250,000					250,000
ALIGHT						960,000		930,000	1,890,000
AWYAD		150,000							150,000
BRAC						500,000			500,000
CAFOMI	1,112,000							238,612	1,350,612
CARE	206,650								206,650
CARITAS						25,000			25,000
CORDAID						850,000		725,807	1,575,807
COSMESS	15,000					92,000			107,000
CRS		500,000					455,000	400,000	1,355,000
DCA						1,060,039			1,060,039
DRC	1,500,000					500,000	2,449,136		4,449,136

FAO						7,378,251			7,378,251
FCA		3,400,000							3,400,000
FRC		355,000				76,000			431,000
HHA					58,217				58,217
HI	267,000								267,000
HIJRA	300,000							200,000	500,000
IAS		50,000					10,669		60,669
IOM	500,000		750,000		1,000,000	1,250,000	736,700	1,950,000	6,186,700
IRC	600,000	2,174,948							2,774,948
JOHANNITER						600,000		350,000	950,000
JRS	105,598	167,926		100,000	3,000	463,796	28,000		868,320
KRC	9,147		65,539						74,686
LWF	2,356,749		617,328			325,711	240,000	530,076	4,069,864
MCU						33,259			33,259
MTI					3,350,000				3,350,000
NRC	400,000	1,000,000		400,000			100,000	400,000	2,300,000
OXFAM	168,480		421,200			684,450		2,764,125	4,038,255
OYOH						100,000			100,000
RtP		197,657							197,657
SCI		1,200,000			70,000				1,270,000
SP	200,000					150,000		200,000	550,000
TPO	280,000								280,000
TTR	180,306								180,306
UNFPA	1,162,800				1,416,800				2,579,600
UNHCR	31,932,390	23,335,208	11,053,520		14,738,026	14,738,026	15,996,195	11,053,520	122,846,885
UNICEF	389,178	1,609,141			2,082,871			967,270	5,048,460
UNWOMEN					50,000				50,000
URCS						400,995			400,995
WCC		1,664,141							1,664,141
WCH	200,000	442,000							642,000
WFP				65,191,152	4,161,072	668,599			70,020,823
WHO					2,571,340				2,571,340
WIU		1,447,666							1,447,666
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41,885,298</b>	<b>38,488,079</b>	<b>12,907,587</b>	<b>65,941,152</b>	<b>29,501,326</b>	<b>32,206,576</b>	<b>20,015,700</b>	<b>20,777,760</b>	<b>261,723,478</b>

UNITED REPUBLIC OF  
TANZANIA  
REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

87,400

REFUGEES  
TARGETED

20,000

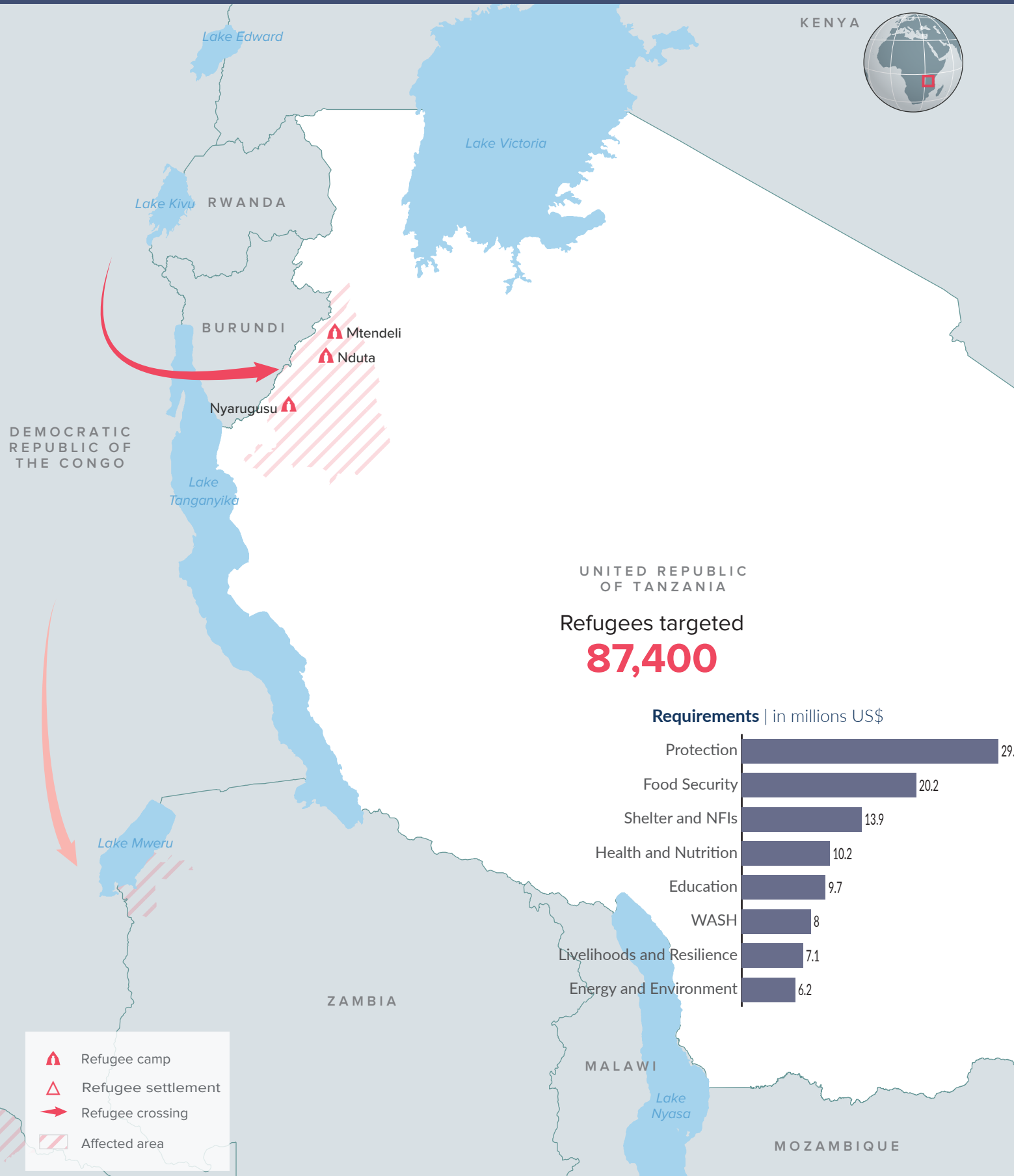
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

US\$105M

REQUIREMENTS

17

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED

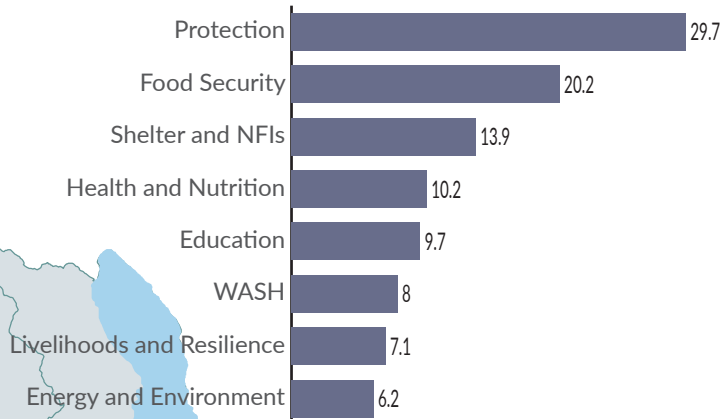


UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Refugees targeted

**87,400**

Requirements | in millions US\$



- Refugee camp
- Refugee settlement
- Refugee crossing
- Affected area

# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

As of the end of December 2020, the United Republic of Tanzania hosts 78,075 Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers, predominantly residing at the Nyarugusu refugee camp in the northwest part of the country. There are approximately 22,000 individual asylum-seekers pending RSD. The current national RSD process requires greater capacity and political will to ensure that persons of concern are able to access a credible and fair determination process. In addition to the pending asylum claims, there are about 5,886 Congolese nationals from the 2013/2014 post-verification status confirmation who qualify as *prima facie*, but their legal status is pending. There are indications from the Government that these are illegal immigrants and they therefore potentially run the risk of deportation / refoulement.

Closure of border entry points across north-western Tanzania could result in asylum-seekers from DRC crossing into Tanzania via Lake Tanganyika by boats. UNHCR estimates that 5,000 new Congolese asylum-seekers may arrive in 2021. The government had enhanced country-wide preparedness for Ebola in August 2018 with thermo scanners in all ports of entry, especially along its border with DRC. As Kigoma, Kagera and Mwanza were identified as high-risk regions for Ebola disease, health screening for all people entering Tanzania could further restrict access to territory for Congolese asylum-seekers. However, if the situation in eastern DRC stabilises there may be small-scale interest in voluntary repatriation. In addition, there will be resettlement departures of 1,100 refugees, through the group resettlement programme for Congolese refugees. Despite an unpredictable protection environment and limited capacity and resources to stabilize and strengthen existing programmes, RRRP partners continue to provide protection and assistance to refugees while also prioritising targeted interventions which address the humanitarian and development needs of the refugees and host communities in Tanzania, in collaboration with the Government.

In addition, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic with the first case reported in Tanzania on 16 March 2020, RRRP partners will continue coordination and close working relations with stakeholders under the umbrella of the Kigoma Contingency Plan (KCP), and in close cooperation with the Refugee Services Department within the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Regional Authorities for camp-level preparedness and response. In 2021, RRRP partners will continue to prioritize critical sectors of health and WASH while capacity building and risk communication and mitigation efforts will continue. RRRP partners will mainstream COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response measures in all sectors as per Government guidance.

## Needs and Vulnerabilities

As border entry points are closed, Congolese refugees and asylum-seekers in Tanzania is projected to increase by 6,000 individuals in 2021, owing to new arrivals and birth rate. The unstable situation in eastern DRC has meant that there is very limited interest in voluntary repatriation back to the DRC at this stage. In addition, with the recent



restrictions on the number of resettlement opportunities, not more than 1,100 Congolese refugees are expected to be submitted for resettlement in 2021. The continued lack of access to identity documents makes it difficult for refugees to access basic and essential services. However, a phased approach has started to clear out a backlog of 17,712 Congolese refugee children in need of birth certificates by end of 2021.

Congolese refugees are highly dependent on humanitarian assistance, and it is expected that this will persist in 2021, as a strict encampment policy limits livelihood opportunities for refugees. Funding shortfalls have led to prioritization of basic and essential services with overstretched health centres, overcrowded classrooms, dilapidated shelters and limited services for unaccompanied children and survivors of GBV. While major gaps in sanitation and hygiene continue, soap distribution will be prioritized and continued at 500g/person/month, along with provision of hygiene and dignity kits and upscaling implementation of COVID-19 measures. There is critical need for investments in alternative energy sources and prevention of environmental degradation in the camps and surrounding host communities. The government of Tanzania is keen on preservation of natural resources in the Kigoma region. With food ration reduced to 68 per cent by end of December 2020, compounded with limited food diversity and increased risks of deterioration of household and nutrition security, RRRP partners urgently seek to restore food rations to 100 per cent of the standard kilocalorie requirement for refugees in the camps.



Child protection needs persist with inadequate numbers of child-friendly spaces, lack of adequate resources to monitor and support children in foster care. This exposes them to risks of child labour, GBV such as forced early marriages, psychosocial distress, risks of neglect, exploitation and abuse of other vulnerable children at home, community and in schools. In the education sector, school dropout rates are high, and classrooms are overcrowded with a shortage of trained teachers. There is also a lack of MHM and educational kits to support school retention and effective learning.

Continued support will be provided to KCP's COVID-19 preparedness and response plan through operational and logistical interventions. Partners will continue with risk communication and community engagement activities, support capacity building for health workers and government staff, both in camps and district health centres and at points of entry. Isolation units and quarantine facilities will continue to be maintained in the camps in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, while sectoral interventions under the DRC RRRP will be mainstreamed with COVID-19 activities.

## Response Strategy and Priorities

### OVERALL STRATEGY

In 2021, RRRP partners will continue to seek innovative, cost-effective and sustainable ways to meet basic needs and deliver essential services and life-saving activities to Congolese refugees through a multi-layered response to the complex and constantly changing protection environment in Tanzania. Priority areas will include developing sustainable approaches that address the Government's concerns over the natural environment, security, health and the host community, as well as promoting fair and efficient national RSD procedures and self-reliance.

The focus will be on the following strategic objectives:

- Preserve equal and unhindered access to territorial asylum and protection, promote the full enjoyment of rights, and maintain the civilian character of asylum;
- Enable access to essential services according to minimum international standards;
- Ensure protection systems are strengthened, and refugees and returnees can enjoy their full rights, specifically with regards to safety and security, child protection, protection from GBV, access to RSD, community-based protection, and ensuring people with specific needs and people living with disabilities are given special attention;
- Enhance and promote peaceful co-existence and social cohesion between host communities and refugees, including through protection of the natural environment;
- Ensure refugees have access to comprehensive solutions;
- Support Kigoma Contingency Plan for COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response

## STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

Strengthening livelihoods and resilience requires an integrated approach that includes refugees and host communities. Increased restrictions on livelihoods and resilience activities has limited refugees the opportunity to be self-reliant and become less dependent on humanitarian assistance. In 2021, more focus will be skills building and knowledge transfer related to livelihood and IGA to prepare and equip them for other future opportunities.

The United Nations Kigoma Joint Programme is a step in the right direction, linking the UN's current humanitarian response to refugees and migrants with an increased focus on supporting host communities. Moving beyond quick impact projects to more long-term projects with broad-based benefits can help build resilience and shift the perception that refugees are a burden. Improving host community resilience can also potentially strengthen the refugee protection space by equipping them with tools to accommodate more refugees should a new influx occur. Developing partnerships with non-traditional actors from the private sector such as mobile network companies and financial institutions, would also open opportunities for both communities.

The majority of the population in Tanzania is largely dependent on wood-based fuel for cooking and lighting due to the lack of affordable and suitable alternatives or the high costs of alternatives. The country's energy profile for the past decade indicates that 90 per cent of the total energy supply was derived from biomass and consumed mainly in the form of wood energy. In Kigoma, livelihood activities related to energy provision will continue to be pursued. However, with the restriction of livelihood activities, more emphasis will be placed on skills training, business and financial management within Nyarugusu camp.

## HOST COMMUNITIES

RRRP partners will seek to reduce community friction through confidence building and dispute resolution measures. Noting that the Government has requested increased international support for areas hosting refugees in Tanzania, the host community will be supported with quick impact projects in the health, water and education sectors. RRRP partners will also facilitate coexistence interactions through quarterly and ad-hoc meetings, such as town hall meeting. There will also be a focus on promoting social interactions between communities via reforestation programmes and sports activities both in camps and in villages surrounding Nyarugusu.

# Partnership & Coordination

In line with the Refugee Coordination Model, UNHCR along with government counterpart MoHA will lead the overall coordination of the Congolese refugee response in Tanzania. MoHA and UNHCR co-chair the Refugee Operation Working Group at national level while inter-agency and inter-sector working groups meet regularly and are chaired by UN agencies and RRRP sectoral partners. Field-level coordination structures ensures that day-to-day progress

and challenges are shared and managed efficiently between partners. UNHCR will ensure effective participation and involvement of relevant stakeholders (local authorities, UN bodies, I/NGOs and representatives of host communities) for ensuring operational objectives.

Under the umbrella of KCP and coordination structure of Incident Management System of Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children (MoHCDCGEC), COVID-19 preparedness and response for refugee camps will be done. While the Regional Medical Officer coordinates regional level response, camp level coordination has been ongoing in close collaboration with Camp Commandants and District Medical Officers for camp-specific issues. The KCP has specified roles and responsibilities in the camps with referral pathways, linkages with government isolation facilities and details on COVID-19 task forces in the various camps. The coordination meetings with all the partners and government related to COVID -19 will continue once a month or as per need.



#### RRP PARTNERS IN UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

- Dignity Kwanza - Community Solutions (DIGNITY)
- Danish Refugee Council (DRC)
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- HelpAge International UK (HAI UK)
- International
- Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- Medical Teams International (MTI)
- Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
- Plan International (Plan International)
- Save the Children International (SCI)
- Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations
- Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- Water Mission (WM)
- Women's Legal Aid Centre (WLAC)

# Planned Response for 2021

## PROTECTION

- 87,402 PoCs registered on an individual basis;
- 17,712 children under 12 months provided with birth certificates by the authorities;
- 2,100 PoCs receiving legal assistance;
- 3,277 UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed;
- 1,000 child cases of abuse, violence or exploitation receiving age and gender sensitive services;
- 700 identified GBV survivors who received psychosocial, legal and socio-economic support;
- 16,662 PoCs with specific needs receiving support (non-cash);
- 829 PoCs with disabilities who receive services for their specific needs;
- 1,500 active women participants out of 3000 PoCs representatives in leadership management structures at the end of the reporting period.

## HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- 87,402 PoCs assessing health services;
- 17 health centres supported/equipped;
- 5,432 deliveries attended by trained health personnel;
- 5,600 deliveries;
- 850 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM);
- 182 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM);
- 200 persons who have received complementary food supplements;
- 8,925 persons receiving supplementary food (5,133 pregnant and lactating women; 3,747 children aged 6-23 months, and 45 malnourished PoCs under ART programme) to prevent chronic malnutrition (stunting);
- 4,910 children aged 24-59 months receiving micronutrient supplementation;
- 1,799 hospital inpatient receiving extra food rations to support early recovery;
- 382 PoCs receiving ART.

## EDUCATION

- 3,570 refugee children aged 3-5 enrolled in early childhood education;
- 16,794 refugee children enrolled in primary school;
- 207 refugees enrolled in tertiary education (higher education, connected learning programmes, scholarships).

## ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

- 3,050 households provided with energy saving equipment;
- 8,000 households using alternative and/or renewable energy (solar, ethanol, etc.);
- 14,500 refugee HH having energy saving stove and equipment.

## FOOD SECURITY

- 87,402 refugees benefitting from food assistance (in kind/ CBI);

## SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)

- 13,693 households living in adequate dwellings;;
- 125 PoCs who received emergency shelter; ;
- 4,400 PoCs who received transitional shelter;
- 87,402 PoCs households reached with core relief items;
- 87,402 PoCs receiving >=450grams of soap/person per month;
- 20,100 women receiving sanitary materials.


**LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE**

850 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed;

1,400 PoCs received livelihood support, e.g. cash grant for livelihoods recovery, inputs/ tools/equipment for farming, livestock or business activity, small business development services, inclusion in/linkage to income opportunities;

320 PoCs provided with entrepreneurship/business training;

120 PoCs enrolled in vocational training and graduated successfully.

# 2021 Financial Requirements by Organization & Sector

ORGANISATION	PROTECTION	EDUCATION	ENERGY & ENVIRO	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH & NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS	SHELTER & NFI	WASH	GRAND TOTAL
DIGNITY Kwanza	494,521	8,470				9,500			512,491
DRC	420,000					310,000	534,000		1,264,000
FAO						700,000			700,000
HAI UK	1,315,350								1,315,350
IOM	7,100,000								7,100,000
IRC	1,024,281	2,316,612			620,508				3,961,401
MTI					785,238				785,238
NRC							1,200,000	1,000,000	2,200,000
Plan	1,000,000								1,000,000
SCI	560,992	624,741							1,185,733
TRCS					800,000				800,000
UNFPA	200,000				400,000				600,000
UNHCR	17,355,265	6,697,836	6,200,685		6,127,675	6,110,995	12,145,845	6,933,026	61,571,327
UNICEF	100,000	100,000			155,000			50,000	405,000
WFP				20,176,436	1,062,000				21,238,436
WHO					267,000				267,000
WLAC	120,000								120,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29,690,409</b>	<b>9,747,659</b>	<b>6,200,685</b>	<b>20,176,436</b>	<b>10,217,421</b>	<b>7,130,495</b>	<b>13,879,845</b>	<b>7,983,026</b>	<b>105,025,976</b>

# ZAMBIA REFUGEE RESPONSE PLAN

2021 PLANNED RESPONSE

59,620

REFUGEES  
TARGETED

18,500

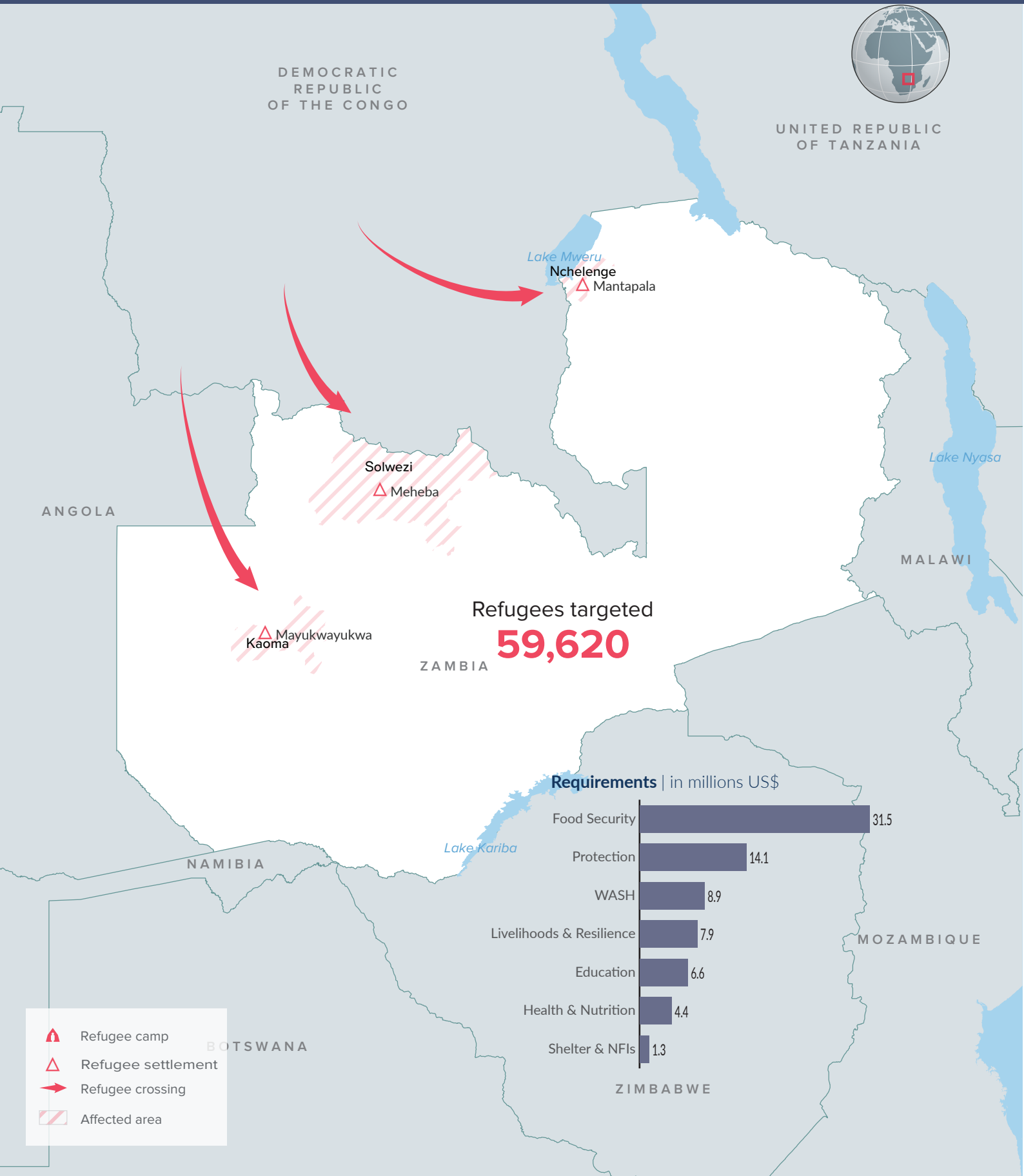
HOST POPULATION  
TARGETED

US\$ 74.7M

REQUIREMENTS

17

PARTNERS  
INVOLVED



# Country Overview

## Background and Achievements

Since Zambia's independence, the country has maintained an open border policy and hosted refugees from across the continent. As of December 2020, Zambia hosts 57,445 refugees and asylum-seekers from the DRC, about 7,000 of whom arrived in 2020, a monthly average of nearly 600. Most refugees live in three designated settlements, namely Mayukwayukwa, Meheba and Mantapala, while the remainder have self-settled across the country, as well as in urban areas including Lusaka and Ndola.

Zambia's refugee policy favours socio-economic integration. During the UN Leaders' Summit in 2016, Zambia pledged to further improve the conditions of refugees living in its territory and voted in favour of adopting the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR). As such, a Whole-of-Government approach is applied to include refugees in national and local development plans and to improve refugee governance. In 2019, the Government developed area-based action plans reflecting education and livelihoods priorities for refugees and their immediate host communities. Furthermore, a National Refugee Forum has been established to monitor the Government's progress towards its pledges and the GCR.

RRRP partners continue to improve educational services through providing classrooms and teacher housing, ensuring teachers are included on Government payroll and seeking to achieve an overall increase in enrolments and retention rates. To meet COVID-19 guidelines for re-opening schools set by the Government, partners across the three refugee settlements increased WASH facilities in schools and distributed supplies, including thermo scanners, masks and hand-washing stations.

The refugee population in Mantapala settlement have been receiving food assistance that is being progressively replaced by cash transfers. Simultaneously, a cash transfer program is ongoing in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa settlements to support the new refugee arrivals and people with specific needs. The private sector is supporting the cash transfer programme, rice and honey production as well as skill development in the field of gemstone jewellery production. A coalition of partners has also developed a 'Graduation Approach' proposal targeting 6,000 households over a 4-year period in all the locations. Furthermore, a rapid assessment was conducted to determine the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on refugees' livelihoods, leading to support provided for tailors within the host and refugee communities to produce reusable cloth face masks, as well as additional financial support to traders and cash transfers to households.

To limit the spread of the COVID-19 and its impact in and around the refugee settlements, partners have developed a Contingency Plan for COVID-19 preparedness, prevention and response; supported training of health workers and volunteers; built isolation centres; provided personal protective equipment to health workers, refugee and host communities as well as buckets and washbasins in all major community infrastructures; and launched risk communication, community engagement and hygiene-promotion activities. In addition, the individual monthly soap allocation has been doubled to 500 grams.



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In 2021, UNHCR and partners will complement the ongoing efforts to achieve a comprehensive refugee response, and support development partners, who despite continuous resource mobilization efforts, remain largely unfunded.

## Needs and Vulnerabilities

The humanitarian situation in Zambia has rapidly deteriorated since 2019 due to the devastating combination of prolonged and severe drought in the southern part of the country over the last two rainy seasons, floods in the north and the current outbreak of COVID-19. These events further exacerbate the existing humanitarian and development challenges faced by both refugee and host communities. School closures amid COVID-19 mitigation measures presented

challenges for many refugee students, as many did not have access to online learning platforms. This not only impacted negatively on their studies, but also increased their vulnerability and resulted in a rise in girls’ dropout rate. The COVID-19 outbreak has also hindered access to livelihoods opportunities and aggravated social protection challenges with many cases of GBV reported. More broadly, the impact of natural disasters and health crises on the already unpredictable humanitarian

situation in Zambia and its neighbouring countries calls for scaling-up preparedness and response plans to ensure uninterrupted protection and assistance.

Although Zambia maintains an open-door policy, allowing humanitarian access and protection to asylum-seekers, ongoing arrivals from DRC continue to challenge Zambia's reception capacity. Reception facilities do not meet minimum standards, burdened by overcrowding and the need for continuous maintenance and upgrading of basic services. In fact, Zambia's settlements are old and their infrastructure requires rehabilitation and further investment in order to host continuous new arrivals from the DRC. Furthermore, people with specific needs require more dedicated national responses. The increasing number of Congolese arrivals include largely single-headed households with children, elderly, and survivors of GBV. Additional comprehensive social protection is also required. To improve the GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response interventions, evidence-based analysis recommends that partners advocate for additional police posts and funding to strengthen prevention, risk mitigation and response interventions.

The humanitarian needs of new arrivals are similar to those of protracted populations, especially in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa where many vulnerable refugees in protracted situation are far from attaining self-reliance. This is attributed to prolonged dependency on

assistance and limited rights as well access to income-generating activities. Given the limited resources and institutional capacity to comprehensively address needs of vulnerable population groups, coupled with the lack of safety social nets that refugees could rely upon, serious protection challenges persist.

Zambia's encampment policy remains a major protection challenge. Restrictions on movement is a primary concern and source of discontentment among the refugee population, limiting their access to essential goods, sources of income, education options and social services. More than 12,000 refugees reside in urban areas without authorization, placing them at risk of arrest and detention. RRRP partners continue to advocate with the Government to fulfil the Presidential commitment made at the UN Leaders' Summit, to ease the encampment policy and expand access to livelihoods opportunities and wage employment beyond the limits of the refugee settlements. Additionally, UN development partners are supporting the Government to roll out the local integration process but these efforts hinge on improved infrastructure, provision of social services and diversified livelihood opportunities in resettlement areas. The level of funding for the refugee response in Zambia remains consistently below target over the years. The country is faced with a shortage of funding, impacting standards of protection, humanitarian assistance and livelihoods interventions.

## Response Strategy and Priorities

### OVERALL STRATEGY

The 2021 RRP for Zambia serves as the joint strategy, resource mobilisation and advocacy tool for the entire UN country team and NGO partners involved in the refugee response. In order to provide continued protection and assistance to refugees, as well as opportunities for durable solutions and self-reliance, partners have prioritized the following objectives:

- Ensure refugees, asylum-seekers and other persons of concern to UNHCR have access to international protection provided by the Government of Zambia;
- Respond to the immediate and life-saving humanitarian needs of refugees, while progressively transitioning towards Government-led responses mainly in the area of education, health, nutrition, WASH, social services, with special attention to people with specific needs;
- Transform the refugee settlements into integrated settlements that are included into national development programmes and Government-led services;
- Increase livelihoods opportunities for refugees and host communities that will strengthen their self-reliance and promote socio-economic inclusion;
- Search for durable solutions including local integration, voluntary repatriation, resettlement and complementary pathways for resettlement of individuals and groups;
- Ensure equitable access to quality, safe education and protection services for children in refugee settlements, including Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

The positive advances of the 2017 Refugee Act include steps to implement a settlement approach, grant refugees right to property and access to justice, and facilitate permanent residency or naturalization as alternative legal statuses. However, the Act retains restrictions in terms of access to livelihoods, wage employment and financial services, which curtail refugee self-reliance. RRRP partners will continue to support the Government to develop the policy that will guide the operationalization of 2017 Refugee Act and potentially alleviate some of these concerns. Furthermore, the Education and Livelihoods area-based action plan for refugee-hosting communities also provides an operational framework to engage line ministries, development and humanitarian partners, and contribute to national resource mobilization and advocacy.

In Meheba and Mayukwayukwa refugee settlements, where NGOs have a limited presence, all services available to refugees and host communities are provided by relevant government departments. As per the 2017 Refugee Act, the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees is responsible for the recognition of refugees and ensures that adequate facilities and services for the reception and care for refugees are in place. RRRP partners are also working to institutionalize, expand and systemize the use of multi-purpose cash-based interventions (CBIs) to address diverse needs, reduce protection risks and contribute to solutions through rights-based and community-based approaches. Partners are in the process of identifying areas of expansion of CBIs including food, core relief items, education and health needs. With an ongoing CBI mobile money project in Meheba and Mayukwayukwa for the most vulnerable and new arrivals, partners are progressively replacing food assistance with cash transfer in Mantapala and planning to expand CBIs to Lusaka as well. By combining cash transfer with new payment technologies, partners expect that financial inclusion will also be improved and may also link refugees and host communities to national social protection and safety nets programmes.

## STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

Inter-agency assessments and socio-economic surveys and studies highlight the potential for integrating refugee and host community economies. Although findings indicate that farming is the main livelihood activity, there is an issue of depleted land and refugees have expressed the desire to develop their skills in entrepreneurship, agricultural technologies as well as vocational and technical training. As such, priority will be given to supporting income generation-activities to strengthen the resilience of refugees in settlements as well as host communities, as well as livelihoods programmes urban areas such as Lusaka.

Sustained livelihoods are attained through multi-year support. In addition to extending current interventions in all refugee hosting areas, there are several areas which partners in the RRRP will also seek to address, namely:

1. Facilitating social behavioural change to enable self-reliance, especially for refugees in protracted situations and former refugees who have heavily relied on aid and in-kind assistance in the past.
2. Strengthening the economic resilience of women and youth through vocational skills training (including ICT), financial literacy, business skills development and modernized agriculture.
3. Scaling up multi-purpose CBIs with the potential to provide a more dignified form of assistance, giving refugees the ability to prioritise and choose what they need as well as boost the local economy.
4. Strengthening agriculture production and sustainable use of natural resources through provision of inputs for increased production, value addition and capacity building of extension services.
5. Providing minimum health and nutrition service packages for all refugees with an emphasis on preventive and promotive health; protect and promote diets, essential nutrition services and practices that support optimal nutrition, growth and development for all children, adolescents and women.

## HOST COMMUNITIES

Generally, the cohabitation between host and refugee communities in Zambia is peaceful. Host communities continue to generously welcome refugees, despite the acute poverty and vulnerability. In Mantapala, the host community acknowledged that, with the presence of refugees, education and health facilities have emerged along with livelihoods and an improved market. However, serious latent risks related to utilization of water, access to social services, deforestation and agricultural productivity threaten this harmony. It is critical to continue to expand the infrastructure and services to settlements and neighbouring communities while involving the traditional leadership in the area. The road networks in and around all settlements should be improved to provide additional mobility. Similarly, enhancing livelihood opportunities will require access to communication technology, connectivity, financial services and energy.

## Partnership and Coordination

A whole-of-Government approach is applied to the ongoing refugee response through linkages with national and provincial development plans. Line ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and the private sector complement the Government' response and ensure adequate staffing and measures are in place to respond to the growing humanitarian and development needs of refugees and the host communities.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Zambian Government took the lead in prevention and response to the virus across the country. UNHCR continues to advocate for the full inclusion of refugees and asylum-seekers in the national health surveillance, preparedness, and response plans for COVID-19. A COVID-19 response inter-agency coordination mechanism has been established at national and district levels and operates alongside the UN COVID-19 Crisis Management Committee and Inter-Agency Flash Appeal.



### RRP PARTNERS IN ZAMBIA

- African Humanitarian Agency (AHA)
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)
- CARE International
- CARITAS
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
- Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM)
- People in Need (PIN)
- Plan International Zambia (PIZ)
- Save the Children International (SCI)
- Self Help Africa (SHA)
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Vision international (WVI)

# Planned Response for 2021

## PROTECTION

- 62,994 PoCs registered on an individual basis;
- 2,000 children under 12 months provided with birth certificates by authorities;
- 700 identified GBV survivors received psychosocial, legal and socio-economic support;
- 13,000 PoCs with specific needs receiving support (non-cash);
- 500 PoCs with disabilities receive services for their specific needs;
- 250 active women participants in leadership management structures at the end of the reporting period;
- 100 PoCs with the intention to return who have returned voluntarily;
- 40 trained service providers trained in providing survivor-centred care to GBV survivors (disaggregated by type of response service and local/national service);
- 3,000 children and parents/caregivers provided with community-based psychosocial support (by age and sex);
- 100 UASC supported with case management and psycho-social support services (by age, gender);
- 15,231 children and adults that have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse;
- 250 UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed.

## FOOD SECURITY

- 4,000 refugees benefitting from food assistance (in kind/ CBI);
- Provide new arrivals in settlements with a standard food basket;
- Phase in unconditional cash-based assistance to refugees on a monthly basis;
- Support households with malnourished children with home gardens and backyard poultry and promotion of dietary diversity and food preservation;
- Enhance production of stoves and pellets from agricultural waste for use in cost efficient stoves;
- Provide renewable energy sources to enable business growth, environmental protection;
- Through partnerships, establish solar based kiosk programme to provide basic solar energy services.

## WASH

- 100,000 people provided with access to safe water (in refugee settlements and host communities);
- 24 litres of potable water available per person per day;
- 25,000 assisted population with access to a household latrine;
- 4,500 refugee households with household latrines;
- 4,500 refugee household sanitary facilities /latrines constructed;
- 100,000 people reached with messages on safe hygiene practices and COVID-19;
- Improve drainage and solid waste management systems;
- Conduct hygiene and sanitation promotion together with infection prevention and control messaging with special focus on COVID-19;
- Distribute critical WASH/Infection Prevention Control supplies (e.g. soap, disinfectants, handwashing stations, jerry cans).

 **EDUCATION**

- 12,199 refugee children enrolled in primary school;
- 3,000 refugee children enrolled in lower secondary school;
- 1,800 refugee children enrolled in upper secondary school;
- 80 additional classrooms constructed for early childhood education, primary and secondary education levels targeting at least 6,000 additional children between the ages of 4 and 18;
- 50:50 gender parity in enrolment of school age children and encourage girl child enrolment and attendance to school;
- Pilot accelerated education to support over-aged students;
- Promote technical and vocational education and training as an alternative education pathway;
- Enhance cooperation with higher learning institutions on refugee access to education and research;
- Teaching and learning materials provided, such stationary kits, ECD kits, reusable sanitary pads and supplies to schools for COVID - 19 prevention;
- Provide temporary learning spaces, open air spaces, and rehabilitate play areas;
- Support catch-up/remedial lessons to address learning loss so that learners can catch up with their learning

 **HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

- Provide refugees and host communities with basic integrated health services;
- 20,000 women of childbearing age, adolescents and young people receive integrated sexual and reproductive health services;
- Provide immunization, vitamin A, deworming and growth monitoring and promotion including promotion of Maternal, Adolescent, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MAIYCN) care and practices;
- Train frontline health workers and community-based volunteers on nutrition in emergencies including MAIYCN;
- 30 caregivers trained in community-based integrated management of acute malnutrition;
- Treatment and management of the moderately and severely malnourished children age 6-59 months;

 **LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE**

- 9,357 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed for more than the past 12 months;
- 1,500 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed;
- 4,000 PoCs received livelihood support, e.g. cash grant for livelihoods recovery, inputs/ tools/equipment for farming, livestock or business activity, small business development services, inclusion in/linkage to income opportunities, etc.;
- 1,650 PoC provided with entrepreneurship/business training;
- 400 PoCs enrolled in vocational trainings and graduated successfully;
- Strengthen partnerships with financial institutions to enhance access to financial services;
- Support access to vocational and technical skills building opportunities for youth;
- Scholarships for enrolment in local trades training centres (Solwezi, Kaoma and Mwense);
- Establish and develop short skills training opportunities in the settlements;
- Conduct advocacy for eased freedom of movement and right to work;
- Develop a youth and women empowerment project supporting development of cottage industry (artisanal skills), visual and vocal artistry in the settlements;
- Strengthen livelihoods opportunities through agro-based interventions and the promotion of a diversified production and value chain.

 **SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)**

- 6,000 PoCs received transitional shelter;
- 10,000 PoC households received cash grants;
- 4,000 new arrival households provided with shelter materials or housing units to families with vulnerabilities, including support for low-cost housing construction with community involvement for skills transfer and improved self-sufficiency;
- Develop a cash for shelter strategy for all refugee settlements;
- Provide CRIs (blanket, sleeping mats, jerrycans, solar lamps, mosquito nets, soap, bucket, kitchen sets) to new arrivals;
- 7,000 women receiving sanitary materials.



# 2021 Financial Requirements by Organization & Sector

ORGANISATION	PROTECTION	EDUCATION	FOOD SECURITY	HEALTH AND NUTRITION	LIVELIHOODS & ENVIRONMENT	SHELTER & NFI	WASH	GRAND TOTAL
AAH				1,150,000				1,150,000
ADRA			70,000		80,000		950,000	1,100,000
CARE	393,405							393,405
CARITAS		641,969			1,216,063			1,858,032
FAO			22,250,000					22,250,000
IOM	4,200,000							4,200,000
NCA							747,510	747,510
PAM			30,000		230,000		20,000	280,000
PIN		200,000			340,000			540,000
PIZ	519,630	407,227		141,366	145,230			1,213,453
SCI	350,000	250,000					277,250	877,250
SHA					1,655,901			1,655,901
UNFPA				368,180				368,180
UNHCR	6,893,005	2,853,281	1,000,000	1,500,000	4,279,921	1,250,000	1,353,281	19,129,488
UNICEF	450,000	2,200,000		1,250,000			5,500,000	9,400,000
WFP			8,115,000					8,115,000
WVI	1,312,923						90,000	1,402,923
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,118,963</b>	<b>6,552,477</b>	<b>31,465,000</b>	<b>4,409,546</b>	<b>7,947,115</b>	<b>1,250,000</b>	<b>8,938,041</b>	<b>74,681,142</b>

ANNEX

# Regional Planned Response for 2021

## PROTECTION

- 848,979 PoCs registered on an individual basis;
- 27,663 children under 12 months provided with birth certificates by the authorities;
- 11,524 UASC for whom a best interest process has been initiated or completed;
- 12,249 child cases of abuse, violence or exploitation receiving age and gender sensitive services;
- 10,099 identified GBV survivors received psychosocial, legal and socio-economic support;
- 85,222 PoCs with specific needs receiving support (non-cash);
- 1,477 PoCs with intention to return who have returned voluntarily;
- 80,161 children and parents/caregivers provided with community-based psychosocial support (by age and sex).

## EDUCATION

- 29,494 refugee children aged 3-5 enrolled in early childhood education;
- 121,801 refugee children enrolled in primary school;
- 18,080 refugee children enrolled in lower secondary school;
- 15,014 refugee children enrolled in upper secondary school;
- 27,934 refugee children enrolled in national education systems;
- 6,747 refugees enrolled in tertiary education (higher education, connected learning programmes, scholarships).

## LIVELIHOODS AND RESILIENCE

- 43,228 PoCs (18-59 yrs) targeted by livelihoods interventions aimed at self-employment with own business / self-employed;
- 162,006 PoCs received livelihood support, e.g. cash grant for livelihoods recovery, inputs/ tools/equipment for farming, livestock or business activity, small business development services, inclusion in/linkage to income opportunities, etc;
- 21,023 PoCs provided with entrepreneurship/business training;
- 4,728 PoCs enrolled in vocational trainings and who graduated successfully.


**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

51,233 households provided with energy saving equipment;

54,867 households using alternative and/or renewable energy (solar, ethanol, etc.);

62,683 refugee HH having energy saving stove and equipment.


**FOOD SECURITY**

672,396 refugees benefitting from food assistance (in kind/CBI).


**HEALTH AND NUTRITION**

283,715 PoC assessing health services;

21,558 deliveries attended by trained health personnel;

22,445 deliveries;

7,006 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM);

1,378 children 6-59 months screened, identified and admitted for treatment of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM).


**SHELTER AND CORE RELIEF ITEMS (CRIS)**

38,416 households living in adequate dwellings;

16,286 PoC who received emergency shelter;

23,028 PoCs who received transitional shelter;

66,740 PoC who received long-term/permanent shelters;

134,668 people of concern households reached with core relief items;

35,891 people of concern households who received cash grants;

703,804 persons of concern receiving  $\geq$ 450grams of soap/person per month;

298,537 women receiving sanitary materials.


**WASH**

579,463 people provided with access to safe water (in refugee settlements and host communities);

23 average # of litres of potable water available per person per day;

279,320 assisted population with access to a household latrine;

66,191 refugee household sanitary facilities /latrines constructed;

598,136 people reached with messages on safe hygiene practices and COVID-19.



