



DRC NEW INFLUX TO RWANDA: UPDATE # 11

06 April 2023

KEY STATISTICS

5,995 new asylum seekers arrived in Rwanda from DRC between November 2022 and 06 April 2023

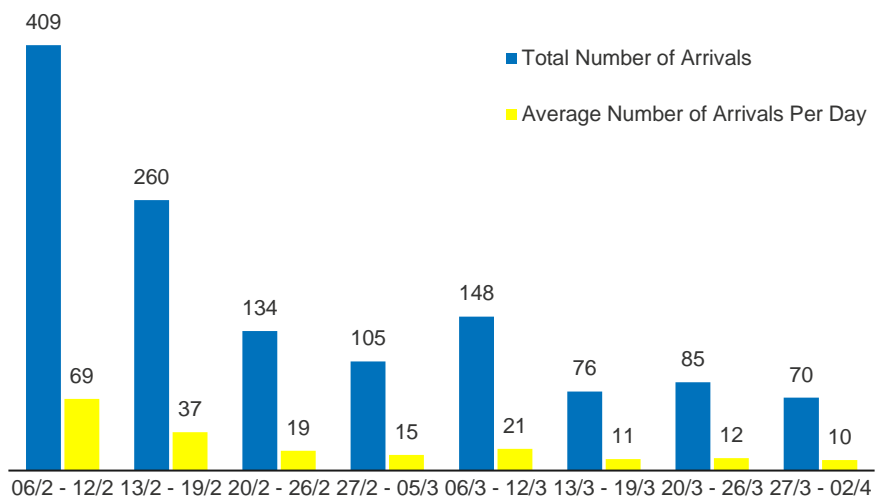
1,775 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama camp up until 12th January

4,220 asylum seekers accommodated at Nkamira Transit Site

55% of the new arrivals in Rwanda are children below 18

99% of arrivals originate from North Kivu specifically Masisi and Rutshuru

Number of New Arrivals from DRC to Rwanda



Source: © UNHCR, The UN Refugee Agency

OVERVIEW

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

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

On 8 February, Kijote Transit Centre was emptied, and all new arrivals are now directly transferred to Nkamira Transit Site. As of March 2023, UNHCR and partners continue to build the capacity of the site to accommodate the new flow of arrivals.

Sector Response

MINEMA and UNHCR are co-leading the response at Nkamira alongside ADRA, World Vision, Save the Children, Plan International, Prison Fellowship, Red Cross, WFP, and UNICEF. Weekly coordination meetings are happening at the field level and three high-level coordination meetings have also taken place in Kigali.



Nkamira Site

Nkamira is located around 127 kilometres from Kigali, on the main high-way connecting Kigali-Rubavu and just five kilometres from Kijote Transit Centre and approximately 20km from the border. The site is a private property obtained by MINEMA covering **five hectares of land**. The same site was previously used in 2012-2013 as reception centre for Congolese refugees. The capacity of the site is **10,000 persons**. There were eight existing accommodations available in the site (each comprising a living room, two bedrooms, a washroom and kitchen) which could be used for accommodation / offices / stores.

Protection

UNHCR protection staff continued to be present providing fundamental protection and assistance, alongside Plan International Rwanda (PIR), and Prison Fellowship Rwanda (PFR) in Nkamira. Child protection and Gender Based Violence (GBV) services are available through PIR, while legal assistance and community-based protection services, including assistance to people with specific needs are provided by PFR. Due to resource and capacity limitations, comprehensive assistance for people living with disabilities, including provision of assistive devices have yet to be provided. GBV response services are provided to survivors who experienced GBV incidents during flight and during their asylum. In the previous week, 453 unaccompanied children and 114 children at risk were supported with non-food related items. Child protection activities are ongoing with 27 Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC) placed in foster care arrangements, and tracing has been done for 30 UASC.

Community-based protection mechanisms continue to be strengthened at Nkamira, through various activities including Protection training offered to 75 community volunteers and foster parents to better understand protection concerns that can impact children, as well as the prevention and mitigation mechanisms to protect children under their care. There is, however, a gap in provision of psychosocial counselling as well as a communal spaces for the population especially women at risk and children. UNHCR is working with partners to address the gap. The Government of Rwanda (GoR) is leading the process of recording the new arrivals and conducting nationality assessments. UNHCR is also identifying alternatives to the standard registration procedures and discussions are ongoing as to how to register the status of the new arrivals if the population decides to remain in Rwanda. So far, 30 new births have been recorded in Nkamira and 26 new-borns have been issued with a birth certificate.

Health

In the previous week, a total of 609 consultations were conducted for asylum seekers hosted in Nkamira, including 139 (30.5%) consultation for children under five years of age, while eleven individuals were also referred for higher level of

medical care for further investigation and treatment. Pertinent issues identified in consultations remain to be respiratory tract infections, represented in 51.5% of the consultations. Additionally, three deliveries were also conducted. Measles vaccination coverage reached 98% this week, with no new cases identified and no active cases among the new asylum seekers in Nkamira.

Through the support of the Rwanda Biomedical Center, the district health authorities of Kirehe and Save the Children International, measles vaccination campaign was conducted in Mahama camp, targeting 26,009 children aged 6 months to 15 years. So far 19,423 children of the Mahama camp (74.6%) have been vaccinated. Through the agreement of UNICEF and Save The Children, UNICEF has committed to fund five healthcare staff, several health related activities for a period of five months, as well as support to the network of community health workers. During the period, IOM procured 150 mattresses, some of which could be used in health facilities. UNFPA has also fundraised to support some activities in the domain of sexual and reproductive health.

Shelter

Asylum seekers at Nkamira are currently being accommodated in 30 hangars which have been constructed since the site's opening. Men, women, and children are currently assigned separate living areas. Separate accommodation for older persons and women at risk has also been allocated utilizing existing structures. Construction of additional five hangars are in progress, to increase the capacity of the site and receive daily new arrivals, the construction is pending installation of walling tarpaulins, the tarpaulins were delivered to site and the work is expected to be completed by the end of the week. However, sufficient lighting inside the hangars is still lacking. Ground levelling to enable the construction of a child friendly space and education facility is complete. Construction of two blocks of ten temporary classrooms for an education centre is in progress, expected to be completed next week. The education facility is envisioned to provide a learning space for the school going children in the centre.

Food and Nutrition

WFP in collaboration with partner ADRA, continued to distribute nutritious morning porridge as well as two hot meals per day to all asylum seekers in Nkamira. WFP and ADRA conducted a joint monitoring exercise during which they also received complaints and feedback from the asylum seekers hosted at the Nkamira transit site about unequal food distributions. In consequence, measures were taken to improve the management of distributions with the heads of each accommodation block. Nutrition screening continued for new arrivals as well as existing cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and severe acute malnutrition (SAM), as well as screening for all pregnant and lactating women also began. At the Nkamira transit site, five children with MAM were successfully discharged, while 13 children with MAM and one child with SAM continued to receive nutrition assistance from Save the Children International. At the Mahama refugee camp, there are six children with MAM among the existing asylum seekers.

WFP urgently requires USD 8.8 million to cover its resource requirements until December 2023 for the life-saving food and nutrition assistance to the asylum seekers who have been received in Rwanda since November 2022.

Education

World Vision International (WVI) conducted a simple assessment of students to determine their 'appropriate' grade level pending the formal assessment and placement of students of by National Examination and School Inspection Authority (NESA). It was already noted that majority of the children do not possess education certificates or credentials. Community sensitization has been ongoing to ensure that parents are aware of planned student assessments and the importance of taking the assessment test. WVI also started data entry of student lists from paper to computer as reference for the students who have taken a test.



Nyantabara Chantal, 32, and her six children fled violence in South Kivu and arrived in Rwanda early January 2023.

“The situation was getting worse. Militias killed my brother-in-law, burned our house, and they looted all our 150 cows, goats and sheep. We had nothing left, so we decided to flee and seek safety. Even if we don't yet have basic materials such as mattresses, at least we are safe here.”

URGENT NEEDS



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



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



Construction communal hangars, urgent need for plastic sheeting



Construction of latrines (at least 128 drop holes is urgently needed)



Solar lighting for inside hangers and outside lighting for communal areas



Provision of Education in Emergencies

WASH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene services for asylum seekers at Nkamira Site is ensured through the provision of a range of basic services and facilities. 63 latrine stances exist serving 65 persons per drop hole (over UNHCR's emergency standards of 50 persons per drop hole). Maintaining the existing WASH facilities at operational level is a priority for UNHCR.

Currently, there are 78 shower rooms serving 53 individuals per shower stance, as well as 39 usable water taps within the site serving 118 individuals per water tap. An average of 20.1 litres of potable water is provided per person per day, above the minimum emergency standards of 15 litres of water per person per day. Water trucking is also serving as a backup to cover any interruptions in water services and access to enough water. Three public laundry areas (56 basins) have been completed and are in daily use by the community. UNHCR, UNICEF and World Vision continue providing hygiene items at the site and have put emphasis on redesigning the sanitation infrastructure and increasing sanitation coverage.

Interagency Budget Needs

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

To date, no additional funding has been received for the emergency response. UN agencies are currently repurposing funds from the existing refugee response.

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