



DRC NEW INFLUX TO RWANDA: UPDATE # 10

24 March 2023

KEY STATISTICS

5,791 new asylum seekers arrived in Rwanda from DRC between November 2022 and 24 March 2023

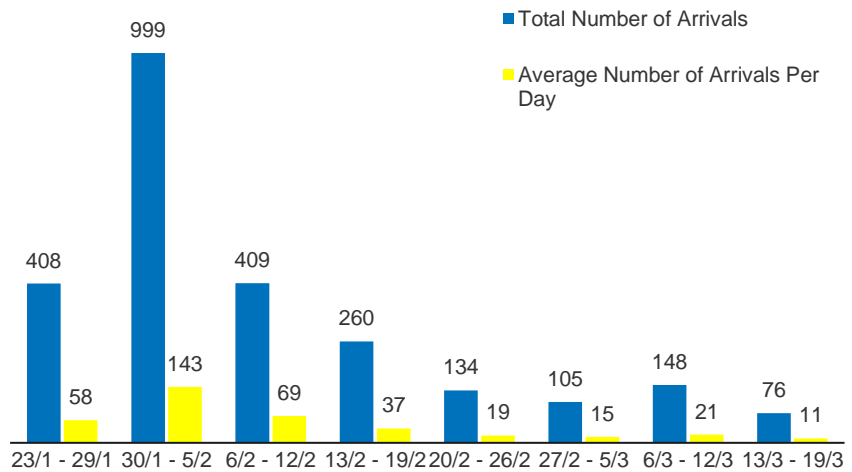
1,775 asylum seekers were relocated to Mahama camp up until 12th January

4,016 asylum seekers accommodated at Nkamira Transit Site

56% 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

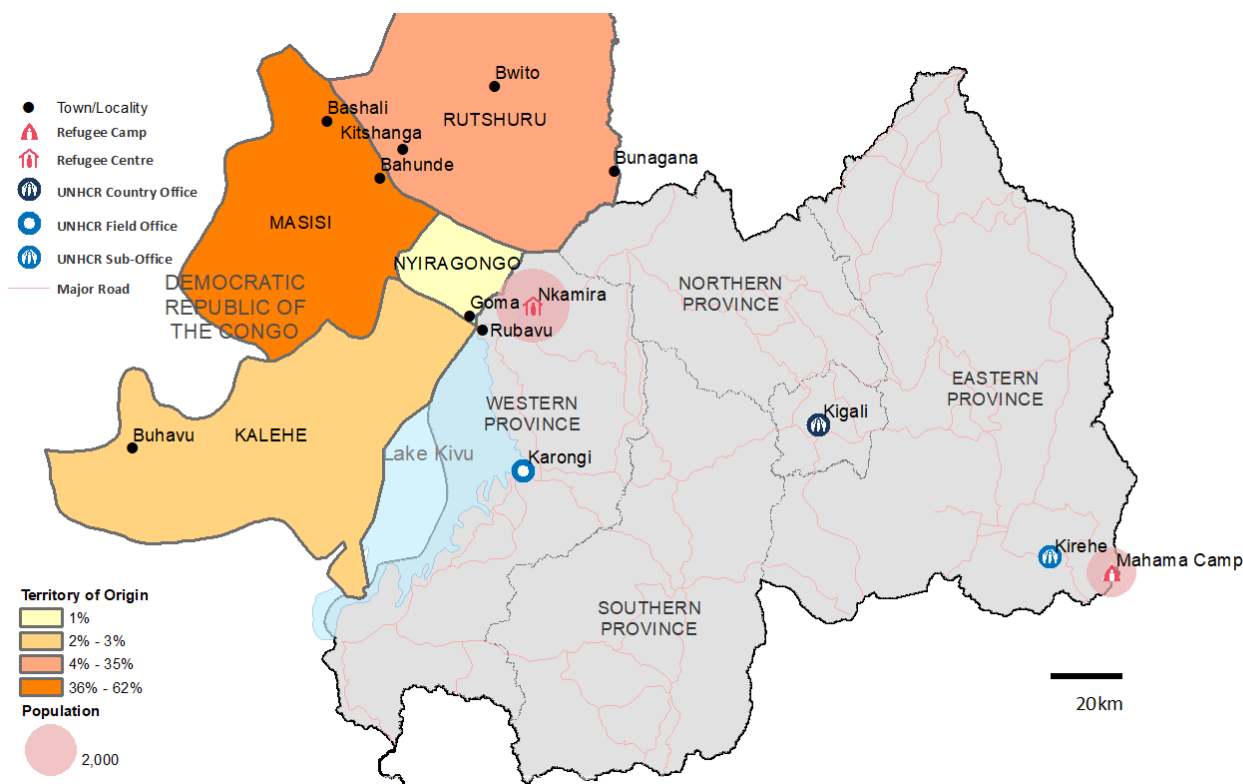
The escalation in fighting within Eastern DRC is resulting in an increase of new asylum seekers arriving in Rwanda. As of third week of March, over 5,790 individuals have arrived in Rwanda since mid-November 2022.

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.

Best Interest Assessments are being carried out for 190 unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and other children at risk. Child protection activities are ongoing with 21 UASC placed in foster care arrangements, and tracing has been done for 30 UASC. PFR has also begun a road safety campaign targeted to parents of young children in Nkamira and assigned three community policing volunteers at various locations to support with keeping children off the roads.

Community-based protection mechanisms continue to be strengthened at Nkamira. 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. UHCRR is working with partners to address the gap. Over the previous week, more than 12,177 children attended various activities at the child friendly space (CFS) and 60 adolescents participated in targeted programs such as knitting, modern and traditional dances. 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, 27 new births have been recorded in Nkamira and 19 new-borns have been issued with a birth certificate.

Health

Asylum seekers in both Nkamira and Mahama continue enjoying health and nutrition services delivered by Save The Children with the support of UNHCR, WFP, UNICEF, and district health authorities of Rubavu and Kirehe. A key component of the services provided over the reporting period has been the response to the measles cases identified. Cumulatively, 40 cases have been reported (14 cases in Nkamira and 26 in Mahama) including 16 cases among the preexisting persons of concern and one case in the host community. At the end of the period, only nine cases remained in isolation (three in Nkamira and six in Mahama). The rest are cured and have been discharged. As a result, a team from the Rwanda Biomedical Center conducted an investigation around measles cases in Mahama and a mass vaccination campaign is subsequently in preparation, to vaccinate all nine months to 15-year-old children in the Mahama. In Nkamira, following a vaccination campaign which happened during the first week of March, asylum seekers continue to be vaccinated against measles upon arrival.

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 (waiting for tarpaulin to complete the construction) to increase the capacity of the site and receive daily new arrivals, however, sufficient lighting inside the hangars is still lacking. Ground levelling to enable the construction of a child friendly space and education facility is in progress. The education facility is envisioned to have ten classrooms that will cater for educational activities.

Food and Nutrition

WFP in cooperation with ADRA continued to provide nutritious morning porridge as well as hot meals for lunch and dinner to all asylum seekers at the Nkamira Transit Centre and Mahama refugee camp. Since the previous week, fresh vegetables have been added to the hot meals, and this has been welcomed by the asylum seekers. Save the Children International is continuously following up on 17 cases of moderate and two cases of severe acute malnutrition (MAM / SAM) among children under five years of age at Nkamira, as well as the 25 cases of MAM and two cases of SAM among the asylum seekers hosted at Mahama camp. With no new contributions received, WFP would be forced to reduce in-kind food rations for all asylum seekers in the next months, severely impacting their food and nutrition security.

Education

Education in emergencies interventions have started at Nkamira involving the training of 57 education facilitators, who will implement the non-formal education to the new arrivals. Once up and running, education programs will provide non-formal transitional education for primary and secondary school children (6-17 years) who were attending school before arrival. Early Childhood Education / Development program will also be provided to young children (3-5 years) with the aim of supporting their eventual integration in the national school system should the population remain in Rwanda. Over the last week, the 57 education facilitators were trained in the utilization of educational materials that include reading books. From 20th - 24th March, World Vision in collaboration with the Refugee Executive Committee and the education facilitators/volunteers conducted a door-to-door visits and identified a total of 785 (392 male and 393 female) school-aged children in Nkamira Transit Centre.



Education facilitators in the Nkamira Transit Centre trained by World Vision Rwanda and supported by UNICEF



Mutesi Mammi, 12, her mother and five siblings arrived in Rwanda early January 2023 after fleeing violence in eastern DRC. At Nkamira transit centre, she joined her friends to learn crocheting. She has thus far been able to make scarves and bath gloves.

But for Mutesi, who was in primary five when they fled to safety in Rwanda, crocheting is more than just producing the items.

"It helps me forget what I went through back home in DRC," Mutesi says. "I could hear gun fighting on the way to school until we decided to flee. It was terrifying."

Mutesi is grateful that she and her peers have access to activities that keep them busy. However, life is still very far from ideal. "I wish to go back to school," she says.

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. Following the unfortunate collapse of one latrine block (ten stances), currently 63 latrine stances remain, serving 62 persons per drop hole (over UNHCR's emergency standards of 50 persons per drop hole). In response to the collapsing of the latrine block, reinforcement of existing latrines, including strengthening of latrine walls, was carried out to avoid future collapse as recommended during WASH joint assessment of facilities at the transit site.

Currently, there are 78 shower rooms serving 51 individuals per shower stance and 39 usable water taps within the site, serving 114 individuals per water tap. An average of 20.4 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. The installed water booster pump to the national water system is operational in addressing water pressure issues through distribution network.

Interagency Budget Needs

\$15.9 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 and WFP. FAO has completed an assessing for livelihood assistance including poultry and farming activities.

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	8,598,815	220,000	9,318,815
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	\$15,900,315